

DECEMBER 2017

24-hour Emergency Fire Brigade 028 313 8000/8111
028 312 2400


Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



Mayoral Festive Greetings

I extend warm season's greetings, to our wider Overstrand community and all our visitors from near and far.

Thank you for choosing the Overstrand as your preferred festive holiday destination. We are truly proud and overjoyed to welcome you in our service area, and trust you will have an unforgettable stay.

2017 has flown by and as we take time to reflect on the highs and the lows, let us maintain a sense of hope. It is easy to get lost in our daily struggles, look back and relive the challenges, while there are beams of hope sprung from little miracles which move us forward every day.

Let us embark, this Christmas season, with peace in our hearts, goodwill towards our fellow man and love for our country.

May the message of hope portrayed in the celebration of the birth of our saviour, be reflected in our approach to the New Year. May we have faith in the unseen direction, trust the guidance from above and walk in a certain belief that the future holds prosperity and success.

As we take time with our nearest and dearest, family and friends, let us cherish life and celebrate responsibly. May those who choose to travel this festive season, adhere for calls to maintain a safe following distance, drive cautiously and "Arrive Alive".

On behalf of the Councillors and staff of the Overstrand Municipality, I wish you and your families a safe, joyful and blessed Christmas and a Prosperous 2018.



Executive Mayor:
Ald Rudolph Smith

NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED IN OVERSTRAND



Overstrand Municipality would like to advise residents and visitors that the discharge of fireworks from any area (including your own backyard) is not permitted at any time in the Overstrand and especially not on New Year's Eve!

During previous years, designated areas on beaches were approved where fireworks were permitted on New Year's Eve between 23:00 and 01:00. HOWEVER, due to the high fire risk and implementation of water restrictions within the jurisdiction, the stakes are simply too high.

We would also like to appeal to residents and visitors not to use so-called 'Chinese lanterns' as these pose a significant fire risk. The National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI)

also asks people not to use sky lanterns as they float out to sea and are often reported as emergency flares which in turn cause Sea Rescue hours of fruitless searching.

Despatch of any fire crackers or emergency flares for celebratory purposes are also prohibited in terms of the applicable by-laws of the Municipality.

Let us work together to make these festive season celebrations safe and happy for all.

• Any special requests for controlled and strictly supervised firework exhibition events and/or other enquiries must be directed to the Chief Fire Officer on 028 313 5014 during office hours 14 days prior to the event.

For the duration of the fire season, Bulletin will regularly remind its readers to be vigilant around fires and offer a couple of handy tips on how best to prevent loss of life and serious damage to your property in the event of a fire. To begin with, we quote this advice offered by the Western Cape Government:

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Landowners, and especially hospitality and tourism businesses operating in an area where wildfires are common, should pay particular attention to the protection and safety of their guests and employees.

Any fire strategy should include the following components:

• Awareness

It is estimated that as many as 90% of unwanted

unnatural fires are caused by people. It is important to know where and when these dangers occur and where the high-risk areas are.

• Prevention

Education and new management systems may be necessary to prevent fires.

• Preparedness

The best way to be prepared is to comply with the

provisions of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, creating and maintaining adequate fire breaks and to join or form a local Fire Prevention Association in your area.

Should you require assistance with devising a fire strategy, feel free to contact Overstrand's Fire Chief, Lester Smith, on 028 313 5041 or visit www.overstrand.gov.za

UNIFORMED OFFICIALS CELEBRATED AT THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On Sunday, 29 October 2017 a large crowd gathered at the Thusong Centre in Hawston to honour and celebrate the Overstrand's uniformed officials. There to pay homage and show their appreciation, were the Western Cape MEC of Environmental Development and Planning Anton Bredell and Overstrand Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith. Also in attendance were a host of Overstrand councillors, as well as contingents of senior clergymen, SAPS, SA Navy, government and municipal officials; as too the public at large.

A cavalcade comprised of the Hawston and Atlantis cadettes, Overstrand's Protection Services and SA Navy and SAPS squads were cheered on by local residents who joined in the march that coursed through the streets of Hawston. At the Thusong Centre, MEC Bredell, Mayor Smith and Municipal Manager Groenewald greeted the procession, followed by a ceremonial 'Inspection of the Troops'.

The occasion was then officially opened with a prayer by Minister Charlie Matinka and a warm welcome from Overstrand Ward 3 councillor, Kari Brice.

A common thread of gratitude and appreciation towards those who serve under the banner of the various protection agencies that affords the relative



The Hawston Cadette Squad stands to attention as MEC Anton Bredell (1st left), Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith (2nd left) and Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald (1st right) execute an "Inspection of the Troops", under the guidance of Overstrand Director of Protection Services, Neville Michaels (maroon suit). Seen with the cadettes are their managers and drill commanders, SA Navy W/O Noel Dreyer (white uniform, front), along with retired SA Army Rifleman Irvin Sauls.



Saluting in respect during the National Anthem being sung at the Thanksgiving Uniform Service held at the Thusong Centre in Hawston on Sunday, 29 October 2017, are members of the South African Police Services (left) and a contingent of councillors, Municipal Management and Government Officers. Included, were the Western Cape MEC of Environmental Development and Planning Anton Bredell, Overstrand Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith, Councillors Amie Africa, David Botha, Elnora Gillion, Christine May and Fanie Krige - amongst others."

safety and security enjoyed in the area, was evident in the many messages of goodwill conveyed by the host of speakers. Mayor Smith augmented these efforts by saying "Let us help our law enforcement staff who often put their own lives at risk by offering them the respect and necessary support; and not take for granted the protection they give us in the execution of their duties."

More testimony to this was found in the words of MEC Bredell who stated, "My deep gratitude is extended to the men and women in uniform who serve our communities so ably. Our duty and responsibility as a government is to make sure they are provided with the necessary support and training to enhance their efficacy." "But, let us not forget to give thanks to their families who make tremendous sacrifices so that we can sleep well at night. These officers go to such extraordinary lengths to safeguard us, so let's do all that we can to support them," encouraged the MEC.

With proceedings drawing to a close, the congregation singing out on "In the Shadow of your wings, I know I am safe" was perhaps the most fitting way to end what was by many accounts a glorious and heart-warming affair.

Overstrand keeps Sandbaai's ageing and overgrown vegetation in check with controlled block burning

On Thursday, 5 October 2017, Overstrand Fire and Disaster Management in cooperation with Overstrand Environmental Services, embarked on a programme to reduce aged and overgrown vegetation in the Sandbaai area. The aim was to better manage runaway veld fires and to improve the ecological biodiversity of the neighbourhood concerned.

The identified prescribed block burn was dependent on season and weather conditions, which are conducive for the burning of firebreaks or blocks. Fire safety is of utmost importance in incidents like this and, where necessary, the programme was adapted in order to maintain safe burning conditions. This means that the prescribed burn was carefully assessed by a committee, comprised of Overstrand Fire and Disaster, and Overstrand Environmental Services.

All resources were under the control of an Incident Commander. The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardised approach to the command, control and coordination of emergency response, providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.

Coastal fynbos is more succulent, which means that no big flames were expected. The Working on Fire (WOF) teams engaged were divided into two; with the one division initiating the burn from the east end into the wind in a westerly direction on the topline, and the other unit continuing the process on the lower side.

In events like these, all surrounding roads are treated as a controlled and restricted access area for the duration of the burn and for 48 hours thereafter, with access being contained to residents of the affected area only.



Beach Safety Tips



The recent **WARNING** of Large swarms of "Portuguese man o' war" / Blue Bottles that washed up on some of our beaches, described them as animals that can cause severely painful stings, even when dead. People walking barefoot and bathers should take caution, especially in the Hermanus area. Do you know the best way to treat a blue bottle sting? Or, what to do if you are caught in a rip? **Remember these 9 tips** to keep you and your family safe at the beach this summer.

1. Always swim between the red and yellow flags: Always swim or surf at places patrolled by lifesavers. The red and yellow flags show where a lifesaving service is on patrol, as well as the safest area of the beach for swimming.

2. Read safety signs: Before you go into the ocean read the safety signs first. This way, you will be aware of any warnings or dangers on the beach, such as dangerous currents and blue bottles.

3. Swim with a friend: To avoid getting in trouble in the water, always swim with a friend or family member so you can keep an eye out for each other. If you need a lifeguard's assistance, raise your arm in the air and wave it from side to side. Save your energy by floating on your back and staying calm.

4. Blue bottle stings: If stinging occurs, wash off the tentacles with water, or pick off with fingers. Place the affected area in hot water for 20 minutes. If you don't have access to hot water, a cold ice pack is also effective. Do not

rub sand, pour soft drinks or urinate over the sting - it doesn't work.

6. Rip currents: Spot a rip by looking for deeper darker water, fewer breaking waves and sometimes sandy-coloured water. If caught in a rip, stay calm, float and raise an arm for attention. While floating, rips can flow in a circle and return you to shore. Or you may escape a rip by swimming parallel to the beach, towards breaking waves. Don't struggle in a rip, or you will become exhausted.

7. Sunburn: Apply sunscreen at least 15 minutes before going into the sun and reapply regularly, particularly after swimming. Wear a shirt and hat for extra protection. If you get sunburned drink lots of fluids to avoid dehydration. If you have severe sunburn, with blistering and nausea, see a doctor.

8. Heat exhaustion: Heat exhaustion is relatively common with beachgoers, particularly the young and elderly. Physical activity and a lack of hydration can cause weakness, nausea, vomiting and light-headedness. To treat it, stop any activity and move to a cooler environment to rehydrate with water and sports drinks.

9. No alcohol: Don't ever swim in the ocean directly after a meal or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Alcohol and swimming don't mix well. Over summer, there will be a lot of security and police to ensure everyone's safety and they will be ready to fine anyone drinking in alcohol-free zones.



The viability of a Special Rating Area (SRA) for Onrus and Vermont is currently being investigated by a steering committee, which consists of members representing the neighbourhood watch, the ratepayers' associations, the estuary forum and other entities.

What is an SRA?

The SRA model is based on international best practice. It is aimed at preventing the degeneration of towns and the consequential urban decay, as well as facilitating their upliftment, economic growth and sustainable development. SRAs are a potential tool for assisting the municipality to fulfil its constitutional and statutory obligations, whilst also allows for property owners within a geographical area to improve and upgrade their area.

An SRA functions with the aid of the local municipality, which adds an additional calculated rate to the rates of members within the selected area, and who will then proceed to pay the non-profit company (NPC) in charge of the upkeep of that SRA.

The basic idea is that a group of property owners in a selected area can come together to discuss the lack of security and services; and agree to find a way to address these problems. They can then apply to the local municipality to incur special rates, payable by the owners within that area, to fund the needs of the area.

SRAs help to strengthen the relationship between local government and the community, in order to promote the well-being of the selected area.

Some of the issues surrounding the proposed SRA were addressed at a recent ward 13 committee meeting in Onrus. So far, the process has been adhered to, as set out in the by-law and policy regarding the establishment of an SRA.

This is the process that should be followed (currently finalising step 4):

Initiation:

1. A steering committee is created in the community.
2. The steering committee meets with the municipal CFO & legal department to discuss the parameters of the SRA.
3. The committee creates draft documents including a Memorandum of Intent, Business Plan, etc. to show the municipality what they believe is viable.
4. The steering committee also sets a perception survey, which is circulated in the community to determine how people feel about the current status of the area.
5. After the completion and analysis of the survey, the committee meets with the municipality again, following which the municipality evaluates the proposal to determine the rate which they believe would be affordable/feasible.

Official start:

6. A public meeting is planned to give the community full insight into the process and documentation.
7. The steering committee now officially applies to the municipality and submits the proposal and all relevant documentation.
8. More public meetings, etc. are held to ensure everyone is informed and has a chance to give inputs and raise objections.
9. A public vote is held by which 60% + 1 of property owners in the proposed area must vote in favour for the SRA to be approved.
10. Then the municipal council votes on the proposed SRA.

Implementation:

11. A Not-for-Profit Company (NPC) is created with a management committee elected from the community.
12. The levied extra rate is applied for five years and is paid over to the NPC to supply the agreed upon services.
13. The NPC can appoint people to deliver the services; or put it out to tender and award it to a professional company/companies to provide these services.
14. The NPC must be fully accountable to the community and municipality.
15. If deemed necessary, the project can be extended after a properly motivated request is sent to the municipality and approved.

For any queries regarding the proposed SRA, contact the steering committee at onrus.vermont.sra@gmail.com

Overstrand's newly elected 2017/18 Junior Town Council is inaugurated



Seen celebrating their internship as the Overstrand 2017/18 Junior Town Council (JTC), is the recently elected junior council along with Executive Mayor Rudolf Smith (front row, 2nd left), Speaker Anton Coetsee (front row, 1st left), and Executive Deputy Mayor Dudley Coetzee (front row, 3rd right). Also in the front row, is the new Junior Mayor Tumelo Mohaka of Qhayiya Secondary School (maroon scarf - centre), as well as his Deputy Mayors Odi Chadinha of Hermanus High and Lorenzo Geldenhuys of Gansbaai Academia. JTC manager, Unity Mtomile (second row, 1st left) of the Enlighten Education Trust was also there to join in the happy moment.

On Thursday, 19 October 2017, the Overstrand introduced its newly elected 2017/18 Junior Town Council (JTC), at a specially held inauguration ceremony that took place at the municipal auditorium in Hermanus.

Now in its 14th cycle, a complement of 35 junior council members comprising primarily of grade 10-12 learners from the six high schools in the area, took up their term of office under the stewardship of the new Junior Mayor, Tumelo Mohaka of Qhayiya Secondary School. The two Deputy Mayors who will serve along with him are, Odi Chachinha of Hermanus High and Lorenzo Geldenhuys of Gansbaai Academia.

Managed by the Enlighten Education Trust in partnership with the Overstrand Municipality, the initiative affords junior council members the opportunity to unlock their leadership potential, whilst being exposed to elements such as public affairs, the mechanisation of local government and participation in the delivery of various development projects, aimed at the general upliftment of the community and environment.

In his maiden speech, the new Junior Mayor, Tumelo Mohaka made an impactful statement, saying: "I look forward to working with my fellow junior councillors in coming up with fruitful ideas and ways to improve the community. As young South Africans, we can play a real and important role in the development of our country and we have an ideal chance here to be effective change agents. Let's make the 365 days that we serve count, in ways that matter."

On addressing the freshly appointed JTC, Overstrand Executive Mayor Rudolf Smith said, the words of Mohaka resonate strongly as it is against such background that the municipality puts great emphasis on youth developmental issues. "Whenever I am in the presence of young people like you, I'm encouraged by the vibrancy, energy and potential that exists. Sitting amongst you could very well be a future mayor, captain of industry, principal, or leader. I say this confidently as I believe in all of you is the potential for greatness," encouraged the Mayor.

Forming part of the evening's entertainment was a beautiful rendition of the Ed Sheeran song 'Photograph' by Hermanus High's Matthew Smith and Jordan Linehan. This was followed by a stirring poem that left many with room for thought, titled "What If" delivered by its composer, Qhayiya Secondary's Natasha Makhohlwana. Not to be missed, was the soulful performance of 'You Raise Me Up' by Nonqaba Futshane, also of Qhayiya Secondary, that had the crowd responding in rapturous appreciation.

The event concluded on the glorious note of Nonqaba leading the audience in the National Anthem before Unity Mtomile, JTC manager extended her thanks to the municipality, the Enlighten Education Trust, the community and all stakeholders for their on-going support of the mentorship programme.

Emergency Numbers:

24 Hour Emergency Control Room	028 313 8111
Overstrand Fire & Rescue	028 312 2400
Overstrand Law Enforcement	028 313 8980
Ambulance	10177
NSRI	028 312 3180
Marine & Coastal Management	028 313 2703
Hermanus Provincial Hospital	028 313 5200
Hermanus Private Hospital	028 313 0168
Hermanus Child Welfare	028 313 0831
Hermanus Animal Welfare	028 312 1281
Hermanus Police	028 313 5300
Gansbaai Police	028 384 0201
Stanford Police	028 341 0601
Kleinmond Police	028 271 8200

CLOSING OF OFFICES DURING HOLIDAYS

Municipal offices in the Overstrand area including libraries, but excluding other essential services, will be closed as from 13:00 on Friday, 22 December 2017 and Friday, 29 December 2017 and respectively reopen at 07:45 on Wednesday, 27 December 2017, and Wednesday, 3 January 2018.

However, during these times, the delivery of essential services will continue as normal. Remember, municipal accounts can be settled through the Easy Pay system at several chain stores and at the Post Office. In the case of any emergency, contact our 24-hour Control Room at 028 313 8111.

LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Water restrictions will be implemented only in the Greater Hermanus area, as from 1 November 2017. Water sources in the other areas of the municipality are still at satisfactory levels, but will be monitored closely.

Rainfall in Hermanus in 2017 until the end of September was only 398 mm, compared to the long-term average rainfall of 620 mm per year.

The level of the De Bos Dam is currently at 66.7% of capacity, compared to 98% at the same time last year. The De Bos Dam remains a very important source of water for the Hermanus area, despite a significant contribution from municipal boreholes. It was therefore decided to implement level 1 water restrictions from 1 November 2017, in order to reduce the water demand during the warm dry summer months and to make provision, should another dry winter be experienced in 2018.

In terms of the Overstrand Tariff Policy, water tariffs will only be increased to the level 1 restriction tariffs once the level of the De Bos Dam drops below 40%. By using water sparingly and by adhering to the water restrictions, consumers can contribute to delaying and hopefully avoiding the need for tariff increases.

Restrictions are implemented as follows and are applicable to all consumers:

- No watering of gardens, flower beds, sports fields, parks, lawns and other open spaces is allowed with municipal drinking water, except for:
 - One hour per day, before 09:00 or after 17:00, two days per week.
 - Even numbered street addresses ONLY on Wednesdays and Sundays.
 - Uneven numbered street addresses ONLY on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Washing of vehicles and watercrafts with hosepipes is only allowed if fitted with automatic self-closing devices.
- No washing or hosing down of hard-surfaced or paved areas with municipal drinking water is allowed.

Automatic exemptions

- Watering of plants in nurseries, etc. for commercial purposes, is exempted from the water restrictions.
- If alternative water sources are utilised, consumers must ensure that they display the appropriate signage to this effect, clearly visible from a public thoroughfare.

Water Tariffs

In accordance with Overstrand Municipality's Tariff Policy, water tariffs will only be increased to the 1st level of water restriction tariffs when the water level in the De Bos Dam drops below 40%.

Applications for Exemption

Customers who wish to apply for an exemption or relaxation of the restrictions can apply to the Deputy Director: Engineering Planning, by emailing a motivation to:

depdircomsec@overstrand.gov.za, or posting it to:

Deputy Director: Engineering Planning

Overstrand Municipality

PO Box 20

Hermanus

7200

Queries may be directed to Ms A Bayley on tel. 028 313 8972 or via e-mail to depdircomsec@overstrand.gov.za

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OF BUILDER'S RUBBLE

Increasingly, people seem to be dumping their builder's rubble illegally on commonages and open erven; this despite the fact that Overstrand Municipality has transfer stations, drop-off facilities and a dumping site available, where builder's rubble can be dumped. Each area has facilities within easy reach, yet some seemingly prefer to dump their builder's rubble on any open erven or commonages they can find. It is also illegal to take builder's rubble to residential areas, should you be requested to do so.

The Overstrand regards this unlawful behaviour in a very serious light and will take the necessary steps against offenders.

If builder's rubble is sorted, the disposal thereof will cost you no money. Builder's rubble is used for covering of waste at the landfill site. If it is not sorted, however, you will pay per ton disposed of.

Members of the public are kindly requested to report incidents of illegal dumping of builder's rubble immediately to Overstrand's 24-hour control room (Tel: 028 313 8111).

The problem with illegal dumping of builder's rubble

Illegal dumping destroys our beautiful environment, the plant and animal life, and can contaminate the soil and our limited water supplies. It further devalues property and drives tourists away, whilst at the same time lowers community pride.

Sometimes harmful material, i.e. chemicals, asbestos, sharp objects, etc. is dumped, which can cause injury and harm to people in the community.

Moreover, the municipality must spend a lot of money on clearing illegally dumped waste, that could have been spent on other more important priorities.

The following facilities exist within the four administrations:

Kleinmond Administration:

- Pringle Bay weekend drop-off for household refuse;
- Betty's Bay weekend drop-off for household refuse;
- Betty's Bay drop-off for general and garden refuse; and
- Kleinmond Transfer Station for household, general and garden refuse and small quantities of builder's rubble (bakkie builders) 0 to 1 ton.
- Karwyderskraal Landfill for all your builder's rubble of more than 1 ton.

Hermanus Administration:

- Hawston drop-off for garden and general refuse;
- Hermanus Transfer Station for household, general and garden refuse and small quantities of building rubble (bakkie builders) 0 to 1 ton.
- Voëlklip weekend drop-off for household refuse; and
- Voëlklip drop-off for garden refuse.
- Karwyderskraal Landfill for builder's rubble of more than one ton.

Stanford Administration:

- Stanford Transfer Station for general and garden refuse and small quantities of building rubble. More than one ton to be taken to Gansbaai Landfill.

Gansbaai Administration:

- Gansbaai dumping site for building rubble and general and garden refuse; and
- Pearly Beach drop-off for general and garden refuse and small quantities of building rubble (bakkie builders).

Overstrand Municipality does not tolerate any unlawful behaviour. Trespassers will face stiff penalties.

BAGS-OF-LOVE CAMPAIGN BRINGS EARLY CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE NEEDY

On Tuesday, 31 October the 2017 Bags-of-Love Campaign got off to a great start with a ceremonial stakeholders gathering in the office of Overstrand Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith, who has generously lent his support to the cause by becoming its Patron.

Now in its tenth year, the endeavour is aimed at distributing bags of essential grocery items to the most needy families in the area. Run by the Hermanus Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul, the program has drawn widespread support from Rotary, various church groups, Eastcliff Spar and a host of individual donors. Interest has grown steadily over the years to the point where more than 1000 bags were filled and distributed during the 2016 campaign. This year, the organisers aspire to increase this even more and have appealed to the public, business, churches and concerned parties to donate to this worthy drive. At the launch of the campaign, Cllr Gillion said, "I will donate 2 bags, and I challenge my fellow councillors and Overstrand officials to better that. I also urge all those who can, to contribute in whichever way possible. This way, we can meet the needs of even more families in dire straits and hopefully this Christmas won't be as bleak for them."

The bags are filled at a charge of R165-00 and donors, while shopping at Eastcliff Spar Hermanus, can simply ask the cashier to add this cost to their purchases. Alternatively, a monetary donation can be made directly into the following bank account: **Account name SVP-Bags of Love, ABSA Bank, Hermanus Branch, Account number 925 114 2278**. All funds donated will be used to make up bags which will be distributed by Saint Vincent de Paul to those in need.

For more information on the Campaign, contact the convenors on their respective cell numbers, i.e. Terry McCarthy (083 255 8614), Des Collins (082 824 1058) and Bruce Fraser (083 270 3230).



Seen at the launch of the 2017 Bags-of-Love Campaign that took place recently at Overstrand Executive Mayor Rudolph Smith's office are (L-R) Spar Eastcliff's Manager Christopher van Niekerk and owner Bern van Niekerk, Overstrand Cllr Elnora Gillion and St. Vincent de Paul's Terry McCarthy and Des Collins.