

DECEMBER 2018

OVERSTRAND



Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



Ald Dudley Coetzee

FESTIVE GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Overstrand community is no different to other communities who experienced challenges presented by the downward turn in the economy, the recent civil unrest action the effect of which is noticeable.

For the municipality and the wider community, including businesses, the last number of months have been challenging. A solution to problems indicated by communities is made a priority by the council.

December is a month of enjoyment and special time of the year - a time family and friends get together and reflect on the year gone by and the promise of possibilities that the New Year will bring. As we celebrate

the holiday season with our loved ones, let us also take time out to think of those less fortunate than ourselves, and extend a helping hand where we can.

During Christmas time there is a culture of giving and receiving, sharing and caring, reaching out the hand of friendship and reconciliation, and make sure each and every one of our community members are included.

Furthermore it is time to spread love, goodwill and peace to our fellow beings, let's also remember to protect and care for our natural, economic, social, cultural and spiritual environment. The greatest gift we could exchange this season is to serve one

another; to work together to ensure the Overstrand is an area free of trouble, crime, fear and injustice.

Most importantly, let us celebrate the season responsibly. For those travelling to holiday destinations, have a safe trip and uphold the laws of the road to ensure the well-being of all concerned. May I also extend a special welcome to all visiting the area, I hope your stay will be a pleasant and memorable one.

On behalf of the Councillors and staff of the Overstrand Municipality, I wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and joyful Christmas and a Happy and Successful 2019.

OVERSTRAND RETAINS BLUE FLAG STATUS AT THREE BEACHES



Overstrand's Blue Flag co-ordinator Lauren Rainbird (centre), Cllrs Arnie Africa and Grant Cohen, received Overstrand's 2018/19 Blue Flag certificates for Grotto, Hawston, Kleinmond and Pilot Castle Beach. With them are Dr Thommie Burger, CEO of WESSA (far left) and Mossel Bay Deputy Mayor Dirk Kotzé (far right).

Overstrand Municipality has once again secured Blue Flag status for Grotto, Kleinmond and Hawston beaches as well as pilot status for Castle Beach in Pearly Beach.

A total of 46 beaches, 8 marinas and 12 sustainable tourism boats around South Africa have been awarded Blue Flag status for the 2018/19 season. This was announced at the Blue Flag launch at Santos Beach in Mossel Bay on 12 October 2018, which forms part of the National Blue Flag Programme, co-ordinated by the Wildlife and Environment.

The Municipality hails the award as a real feather in its tourism cap, since the Blue Flag is regarded by the World Tourism Organisation as the most coveted and respected international award that could

be bestowed on top beaches.

Grotto, Kleinmond and Hawston beaches offer top-notch life-saving standards, effective top-rate ablution and parking facilities and of course access for the disabled to ensure that both local and international tourists will have the privilege of enjoying pristine beaches where everyone can make the most of all amenities at their disposal.

Blue Flag status is awarded one season at a time and municipalities must apply annually to renew the status of their beaches. The Blue Flag reviewing panel moreover reserves the right to accept or withdraw membership should the qualifying criteria not be fulfilled.

To achieve Blue Flag status, 33 main criteria have to be met, including:

- Compliance with Blue Flag criteria
- Information relating to local eco-systems
- Environmental Management of beaches
- Beach facilities such as parking, access points, cleanliness
- Access for the physically disabled
- Safety services provided on the beaches
- Water quality, environmental education and information.

Municipal Offices Closed

At the Council meeting held on the 31 October 2018, it was resolved that all municipal offices in the Overstrand area, including libraries, but excluding other essential services, be closed for the general public on Monday, 24 December 2018 and Monday, 31 December 2018 and respectively reopen at 07:45 on Thursday, 27 December 2018, and Thursday, 3 January 2019.

WATER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN FORCE IN HERMANUS, RESIDENTS, VISITORS CAN HELP SECURE OVERSTRAND'S WATER RESOURCES



Overstrand Municipality appeals to visitors and residents to use water responsibly over the festive holiday season as Level 2 water restrictions in the Hermanus area are still in force.

If you use municipal water to water your garden, you may only do so for ONE HOUR per week, before 09:00 or after 17:00, on ONE DAY per week only. The day per week is determined in accordance with street numbers. For residents with even numbers, it is Wednesdays ONLY, and for those with uneven numbers, Tuesdays ONLY.

The use of irrigation systems are still allowed but, remember, only for one hour per week.

Note, too, that vehicles and boats may only be washed with a bucket and cloth and that the hosing down of hard surfaces or paved areas is prohibited.

As from 1 June 2018, the first level of water-restriction tariffs applied to the administrative area of Hermanus only.

Consumers in general continued to demonstrate good co-operation and a sense of ownership and responsibility, which largely contributed to the positive results.

BAGS OF LOVE LAUNCHED



BAGS OF LOVE FILLED WITH BASIC NECESSITIES

Pictured here are Terry McCarthy (left) and Des Collins of Society of St Vincent de Paul as well as Christopher van Niekerk and Bern van Niekerk of Eastcliff Kwikspar. With them is Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion (right) challenges residents to meet or better the number of bags donated last year.

One of the charity projects in the Overstrand, Bags of Love, has launched this year's drive at the mayoral offices on 1 November 2018.

Through this campaign, needy families in Overstrand will receive a bag, filled with basic groceries and quite often a few added Christmas treats just before Christmas.

The price of a readily packed re-usable recycled shopping bag is R185 and is available at the Eastcliff Kwikspar in Hermanus.

Individuals or businesses can participate by either donating money directly into the bank account or, when shopping at the Eastcliff Spar, request the cashier to add the cost of a bag and the staff will pack the bag on your behalf.

The Bags of Love project is co-ordinated by the Hermanus Catholic Church and well supported by most churches and many generous individuals and organisations, such as Rotary.

Last year, more than 2 000 were collected and handed out in the area. Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion challenges residents to meet or better the number of bags donated last year.

For further information, contact conveners Terry McCarthy at 083 255 8614 or Des Collins 082 824 1058.

Tough trade-offs for next budgeting cycle

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 31 October 2018, Executive Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee confirmed that the Municipality is currently busy with the 2nd review of the current 5 year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) - i.e. 2019/20 IDP review.

In his IDP review directional speech, Mayor Coetzee explained that an IDP review allows Council the opportunity to 'pause and assess' whether they are still on track in attaining the strategic direction set in the 5 year IDP of 2017/2021.

The Mayor urged all stakeholders to actively participate and engage in the platforms created for the 2019/20 IDP and Budget review process.

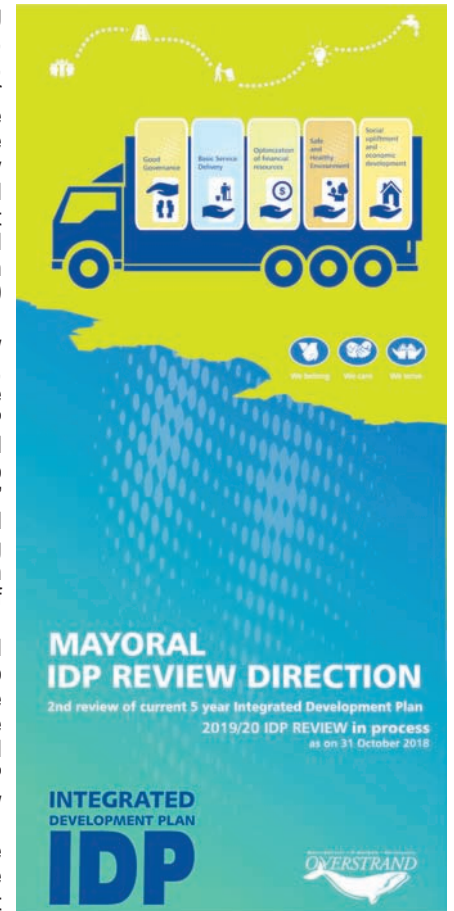
"As always, the public will have the opportunity to submit written inputs on both the draft IDP review and draft Budget in April 2019," he said.

Furthermore, cognisance should be taken that for this 2019/20 IDP review the Overstrand Executive Management Team has collectively decided to retain the strategic direction set in the current 5 year IDP. The vision, mission and strategic objectives will therefore remain unchanged.

With this 2019/20 IDP review process, "we acknowledge the highlights of the past financial year but more importantly the areas that require our attention moving forward," the Mayor added.

The preliminary priorities for the 2019/20 IDP review process are as follows:

1. The civil unrest of the past few months impacted our community. The Municipality has initiated a mediation process between all affected parties. We will also approve and implement a strategy to deal with civil unrest in the Municipality.
2. We will launch a diversity management initiative to, amongst others, promote anti-racism in the Overstrand.
3. Through our communication efforts we will proactively work to restore the relationship between the Municipality and our Overstrand community.
4. The Municipality acknowledges the increasing housing need. Some of the actions proposed are:
 - a. Rethink our housing strategy - investigate the provision of more serviced sites and less top structures;
 - b. Investigate the creation of a new town as the extension of an existing town in the Greater Hermanus areas;
 - c. Investigate proposals for the "management" of backyard dwellings in the Overstrand.
5. There is a need for government support services in the municipal area to advance social upliftment. We must intensify our efforts to lobby government departments to take up permanent office space at the Hawston Thusong Centre. Similarly, we must source funding for the extension of the Thusong centre.
6. We will finalise the informal trading by-law with the aim to stimulate the informal economy in disadvantaged areas.
7. The review of our Spatial Development Framework (SDF) is in process and it must allow for growth and development in the municipal area.
8. We are in the process of re-instating our refuse recycling strategy.



REMEMBRANCE DAY: MOVING EVENT MARKS THE CENTENARY OF THE END OF FIRST WORLD WAR



LEST WE FORGET: Snr Superintendent Yvonne Smith (left), Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Moth Llewellyn Tiltmann and Junior Mayor Claudia Weich attended the Ceremony in Hermanus to lay a wreath and mark #RemembranceSunday2018. #LestWeForget

A service to mark Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day) was held on Sunday morning, 11 November 2018. War veterans and friends and family gathered at the Cenotaph War Memorial at the Old Harbour in Hermanus.

The sound of a lone bugler playing the *Last Post* followed by the observation of two minutes' silence at 11:00, the exact hour when the First World War was ended on 11 November 1918 in honour of those who paid the highest price for our freedom, deeply moved onlookers. (The first minute was for those who were killed during the war and the second for those who had returned alive.)

Having laid a wreath on behalf of the Overstrand community, Mayor Dudley Coetzee said: "As we gather here to reflect, it is fitting for us to also remember our duty - to educate future generations of sacrifices made. Remembrance should be at the forefront of our national consciousness; remembering those who gave their lives during battle so that we can be here today".

He thanked all who were involved in arranging the event, especially the Regiment Westelike Provinsie, holder of the Freedom of the Overstrand and the Old Bill of the Seagull Shellhole, the local unit of the Memorable Order of the Tin Hats (MOTH's) who organised the ceremony.

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pay their last respect by placing a rose at the foot of the cenotaph.

A card attached to the poppies, read: "We never knew you, but we know of you - we will never forget your selfless sacrifice. Thank you."

URGENT / IMPORTANT: Notice to informal residents on old Hermanus dumpsite

This notice is to inform the community regarding the potential risks of landfill (dumpsite) gas and the methods to avoid these and the danger of constructing temporary housing on an un-rehabilitated dumpsite.

The Old Hermanus Dumpsite received general waste (rubbish). General waste consists of, for example, waste from households and businesses such as old food, paper, plastic, garden waste (grass cuttings and branches), etc.

Landfill gas is generated when the organic portion (food and garden waste) of the waste starts to rot. This rotting process releases a gas that is mainly made up of carbon dioxide and methane. Carbon dioxide is colourless, odourless and non-flammable. Methane is also colourless and odourless, but is flammable.

Landfill gases are potentially dangerous when trapped so that it cannot mix with natural airflow. The most likely places where this can happen are inside trenches, excavations, manholes, informal structures, etc. close to the landfill.

Landfill gas can typically migrate up to 100m from the landfill through the soil.

The community was requested by notice during October 2018 to take note of this danger and not to construct structures on the landfill site.

The results of gas sampling and testing by gas specialists indicate that there is a definite risk of dangerous gases which can potentially harm the community.

The Overstrand Municipality therefore reiterates the fact that the area is not suitable for residential use.

FACTS ON THE COURT ORDER FOR SCHULPHOEK LAND

Overstrand Municipality would like to set the record straight on the court order for Schulphoek land granted on Friday, 26 October.

Due regard is given to a recent newspaper article which is factually incorrect, specifically the section that states that the order requires the Municipality to act with immediate effect to prevent further land invasion of the property.

The placement of this article does create the perception that the Municipality is not acting in accordance with the provisions of a court order.

The Municipality would like to put the matter in perspective:

An interim order was only granted against the occupiers and to prevent further unlawful occupation. The applicant sought an order against the municipality on 6 November 2018 which the Municipality will oppose.

We are not mandated to prevent unlawful occupations on private land. The landowner must do so, assisted by the police if necessary.

What to do with recyclables in the interim...



The recycling plant in Hermanus suffered irreparable damage during the riots and, subsequently, the word was spread on social media that residents can dump their recyclable waste at the refuse drop-off site at the OK Minimarket in Voëlklip.

Unfortunately, the municipality was not consulted in the matter with the result that this facility, initially only intended as a "weekend" drop-off site, is now being flooded.

In the meantime, Jacques van Niekerk, of Walker Bay Recycling, confirmed that this enterprise is currently in the process of establishing a small sorting facility in Sandbaai's industrial area.

Even though their facility is still rather limited at present, Van Niekerk invites concerned Hermanus residents to drop their recyclables off at the new depot at Argon Street, Sandbaai Industrial.

"We are recycling cardboard, paper, glass and plastic," says Van Niekerk, "and people are welcome to call me on 083 452 7465 if they have any questions".

Meanwhile, the municipality is going ahead with the planning of a new recycling facility so that the full "clear plastic bag" service for recyclable refuse as well as a drop-off site for garden refuse and household waste will, yet again, be made available to residents.

In accordance with municipal legislation, public bids for the operation of the new recycling plant will be invited and the public will be kept abreast of progress in this regard at all times.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to stick to the usual days and arrangements pertaining to the collection of household waste.

Also note that the other transfer stations/dumping sites/deposits are still operational and that these sites should be used for the dumping of household waste and garden refuse (loads less than 1 ton).

All commercial loads (refuse, builders' waste and garden refuse) should, however, be dumped at the Karwyderskraal landfill site.



WHY YOU NEED A VISIBLE STREET NUMBER

Overstrand Municipality urges home owners to ensure that the street number of their property is visibly displayed on the street-facing wall, door and/or gate.

Currently in Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi-Els the erf numbers is on display, but that needs to change. The Kleinmond Administration will, via its ward committees, plan and implement the change to street numbering in the foreseeable future.

Not only will this save valuable time when calling an ambulance, the fire brigade or the police in case of an emergency, but it also has obvious merits for the Municipality when rendering services and attending to complaints.

According to the By-law relating to streets, public places and the prevention of public nuisances, all premises - be they residential (home or flat) or commercial - must at all times display a number that is clearly visible and readable from a height of 1,5 m above the centre line of the adjacent road or carriageway.

If you are unsure of your exact street address, check your municipal account: The name of the street and the number of your property should appear right below the account holder's name. If these details do not correspond with your physical address, please contact the helpdesk at the municipal offices in your area.

In this regard, note that in the case of corner properties, the main entrance to the property will generally be regarded as the access address.

Should you require any further assistance with clarifying your street address, please call the Infrastructure and Planning Directorate on the following numbers: Hermanus 028 313 8000, Kleinmond 028 271 8400, Gansbaai 028 384 8300, Stanford 028 341 8500, or send an email to enquiry@overstrand.gov.za.

Is Your House Number Clearly Visible from the Street?

Seconds Count in an Emergency

- Protect your family and your property by having large visible house numbers.
- Firefighters, law enforcement, and paramedics will find you faster when your home is properly marked.
- A visitor, child or injured person may be unable to give clear directions.
- Emergency personnel from a neighboring community may be unfamiliar with your area.

Use Large Visible Numbers

- Numbers need to be at least 3 inches in height and facing the street.
- Put the numbers under lighting, and use numbers with a contrasting background, so they will be visible at night.
- Post your house number on both sides of a mailbox or sign pole at the end of the driveway near the road.
- Be sure to keep the numbers visible by trimming trees and bushes.



NO FIREWORKS IN OVERSTRAND

Overstrand Municipality has banned the use of fireworks in any area at any time.

Note, too, that the use of any flame-emitting device, specifically Chinese lanterns, fire crackers and flares for any purpose other than an emergency, is prohibited by law.

We urge residents and visitors to be sensible and don't even consider setting off these items since you cannot determine where they might land, causing a fire and resulting in losses.

The Explosives Act that regulates selling of fireworks, is enforced by SAPS and shops purported to be selling illegal fireworks can be assured that law enforcement agencies will take action against any person who acts irresponsibly and outside the prescribed legislation.

Be warned - street vendors are not permitted to sell fireworks and it is illegal to detonate fireworks on the beach or in any public space.

Please report any offences to your nearest SAPS station:

Hermanus Police 028 313 5300

Gansbaai Police 028 384 0201

Stanford Police 028 341 0601

Kleinmond Police 028 271 8200

The municipality will continue to work with SAPS to ensure the safety of the community.

• Any special requests regarding organised firework displays must be directed to SAPS and once they have approved a request, the Chief Fire Officer will consider the application.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

During the next few weeks leading up to the start of the fire season, we urge communities to be more vigilant and not to start unnecessary fires particularly during dry days.

People are also asked to remove unnecessary rubble on their properties which can pose a serious fire risk and houses next to grasslands need to ensure that there are sufficient fire breaks between their properties and the grasslands.

Residents should cut back overhanging tree branches close to their properties and also clean their gutters as leaves that end up in gutters can pose a fire risk.

People must also ensure that they have the contact details of their local fire authorities at hand should there be a fire emergency.

Contact numbers:

• In case of an emergency please contact Overstrand Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management on 028 312 2400. Alternatively phone Overstrand Municipality's 24h control room 028 313 8000/8111.

- Be sure to save the number on your cellphone and to teach it to your children.



Danny Kat, the road safety mascot, in conversation with the Hawston Cadettes on #roadsafety and #fire awareness.

UPDATING THE HOUSING DEMAND DATABASE (WAITING LIST)

Overstrand Municipality started a process of verification of the housing waiting list on 1 November 2018 whereby citizens in need of government subsidised housing opportunity must ensure all existing information is correct and updated or register as a first time applicant.

A number of 8 201 applicants were registered on the database on 31 October 2018, but the information of individual beneficiaries may be out-dated, for example changes in income, number of financial dependents, change of address, etc.

The Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) household income limit increased in July 2018 from R15,000 to R22,000 and it therefore creates an opportunity for more citizens to register / verify their information.

The housing demand for Overstrand Municipality is also placed on the Provincial Housing demand database and therefore it is of utmost importance and in their own interest that affected citizens co-operate and update their information.

The project will ultimately assist with the planning of the future housing projects.

Residents have until 30 November 2018 to update their information during office hours (08:00 - 16:30) and on Saturdays (09:00-13:00).

For more information please contact your housing officer:

KLEINMOND (Joseph Smith): 33 5th Avenue, Kleinmond;

Tel: 028 271 8400 / 8424

HERMANUS (Bernard Fortuin / Aron Gcotyelwa): Magnolia Street, Hermanus;

Tel: 028 313 8000 / 8111 or 028 313 8148

STANFORD (Lungelwa Mamama): 17 Queen Victoria Street, Stanford;

Tel: 028 384 8500 or 028 384 8327

GANSBAAI (Lungelwa Mamama): Main Road, Gansbaai;

or phone Tel: 028 384 8300/8327

