

MARCH 2021

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

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

THREE BRAND-NEW FIRE ENGINES HANDED OVER



Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill and Fire Chief Lester Smith all expressed their heartfelt thanks for the funding that made these most needed additions to Overstrand's fire-fighting fleet possible. Everyone agrees that with state-of-the-art technology and tools now part of its stable, Overstrand Fire & Rescue will be in a far better position to come to the aid of those in peril much quicker.

On Friday, 12 February 2021, Overstrand Fire and Disaster Management were handed the keys to three new fire-fighting vehicles to replace some of its retired and damaged stock. There to welcome the latest additions to its fire-fighting fleet were Overstrand Executive Mayor Ald. Dudley Coetzee, Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill, several councillors, provincial disaster services officials as well as Overberg and Overstrand fire fighters.

The event held at the recently renovated Hermanus Fire Station in Mussel Street started off on a sombre note, though, with Chaplain Mark Robson leading the attendees in prayer in remembrance of all fire fighters who have lost their lives or were injured in the line of duty.

"Our fire fighters are dedicated to defending lives and livelihoods under some of the most trying and perilous circumstances, and they – and the communities they protect – deserve to have the best equipment at hand," Mayor Dudley Coetzee said.

"Given that fire fighting is a mandate of the Overberg District Municipality, Overstrand Municipality itself is, however, not always in a financial position to replace outdated and damaged fire-fighting vehicles and equipment, and this is where the provincial government stepped into the breach. And for that we owe them a lot of gratitude," he explained.

The Western Cape Department of Local Government, through the Chief Directorate Disaster Management and Fire and Rescue Services, aims to improve fire service delivery throughout the Western Cape.

"Our investment of just over R57 million since 2016 in bolstering and maintaining fire-fighting services throughout the Western Cape Province bears testimony to the fact that we are committed to ensuring that every municipality in the Western Cape has the ability to render a basic fire-fighting service", Provincial Disaster Management Assistant Director, Marlu Rust, said.

"Municipal capacity grant funding creates the foundation on which current and future fire chiefs can build healthy and well-developed fire brigades, and it is through this programme that just over R6 million was invested in Overstrand Municipality's fire services over the past two years: Five million was allocated in the 2019/2020 financial year for losses, damages and costs incurred as a result of the Betty's Bay fire and an additional R732 000 was allocated in the 2020/2021 financial year for further development.

"In addition, in collaboration with the Overberg District Fire Services, Greater Overberg FPA and Overstrand Fire & Rescue Services, we also initiated a pre-fire plan in the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay area – a concept used by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in the United States: This is the first of its kind in the Western Cape."

Rust commended Overstrand Fire Services for their resilience and the tremendous growth and development they have shown over the past couple of years and urged all fire fighters to please stay safe and to use their vehicles and equipment diligently.



There to admire the latest additions to Fire & Rescue's stable were fire fighters Adam Mars, Gallie Badenhorst and Ebriam Isaacs. At the back are Cllr Ronald Nutt (left), Isuzu's Paul Charsley, Overstrand Fleet Management's Thelma Lobb, Overstrand Fire Chief Lester Smith, Provincial Disaster Management Assistant Director Marlu Rust, Portfolio Head of Protection Services Cllr Arnie Africa, Cllr Andrew Komani, Assistant Fire Chief of Operations Angelo Aplon, Cllr Christine May, Adrian Conradie of 600CT and Ian Newton of Fire 247.



That mask is hiding a huge grin: Fire Chief Lester Smith (far right) shares the moment with Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill (left), Overstrand Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Isuzu's Paul Charsley, Provincial Disaster Management Assistant Director Marlu Rust, Portfolio Head of Protection Services Cllr Arnie Africa, Director of Protection Services Neville Michaels, Adrian Conradie of 600CT, Ian Newton of Fire 247, Thelma Lobb of Overstrand Fleet Management, Assistant Fire Chief of Operations Angelo Aplon and Manager: Demand and Procurement Ivan Witbooi.

Fisherhaven slipway repaired



A Hermanus-based contractor, ABC Civils, was appointed by Overstrand Municipality to repair the slipway in Fisherhaven. Work commenced and finished in February 2021, slipway is now open for public.

Who pays for vandalised streetlights? You do. Help us curb vandalism.

Damage to streetlights and constant replacing of light bulbs are derailing ongoing efforts to deliver a service to communities and are costing ratepayers money to replace equipment.

It also impacts negatively on the security of neighbourhoods.

Reportedly, it is mostly youngsters who kick at the 3.5 m fibreglass poles in an attempt to break the light bulbs or who shoot at those bulbs with slingshots.

Elsewhere, perpetrators have managed to dig up and steal the cables supplying the streetlights and, in some places, even removed the entire streetlight pole and streetlight unit itself.

Surely, such activities cannot go unnoticed?

Overstrand Municipality appeals to all residents to report all acts of vandalism immediately to their nearest police station or to call Overstrand's 24/7 Control Centre without delay on 028 313 8000/8111: Help us to keep the lights on in our communities.

Faulty Street lights:

If you discover a faulty streetlight, please report it to us.

Do not take it for granted that someone else has called – make sure it has been reported.

During office hours (07:45-16:30), report to:

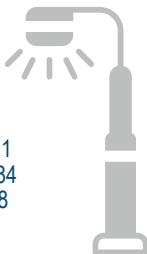
Hermanus Administration: 028 316 5600 or 028 313 8111

Kleinmond Administration: 028 271 8400 or 028 271 8484

Gansbaai Administration: 028 384 8300 or 028 384 8358

Stanford Administration: 028 384 8500 or 028 384 8376

Remember to ask for a reference number.



HERMANUS COUNTRY MARKET UPDATE: THE WAY FORWARD



Overstrand Municipality had a fruitful discussion with representatives of the Hermanus Country

Market and the Hermanus Sports Club on Wednesday, 3 February 2021 regarding the continued operation of the Hermanus Country Market.

Mayor Dudley Coetzee again emphasised the significant contribution this market makes towards Overstrand's economy by creating jobs, safeguarding the livelihoods of traders and promoting tourism in the region. The meeting was chaired by the Mayor and attended by the Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion, Ward 3 Councillor Ald. Kari Brice and the Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill as well as representatives of the Hermanus Country Market and the Hermanus Sports Club.

The following issues were resolved:

1. The market will remain at its present location.
2. A long-term lease will be considered by the Hermanus Sports Club.
3. Overstrand Municipality will assist with ensuring that the market stalls are structurally sound.
4. Hermanus Country Market will negotiate the use of the area with the Hermanus Sports Club, where after they will report back to the municipality on the agreement reached.

OVERSTRAND TRAFFIC CONTINUES TO ADDRESS BACKLOG

Good progress has been made to reduce the backlog with licence disc renewals and processing payments made via EFT.

Although they are not nearly up to date yet, the commitment of the staff must be commended.

The entire Traffic Department has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which makes the task even more challenging.

Understandably, frustration levels are high, but we urge residents to exercise patience and to understand that the staff is under pressure.

We are grateful to report that most of our traffic offices are, once again, 100% operational and at full capacity.

Since the beginning of the year, staff members have been devoting their Saturday mornings to addressing the backlog and sorting out those EFT payments that were incorrect.

Resolving payments that have been made incorrectly are very time consuming and add to the backlog. It is important that the correct amount and correct vehicle registration number are entered when making EFT payments in order to ensure a speedy transaction.

Motorists must also make sure that the registration discs of all motor vehicles under their ownership are up to date. Discs will not be printed if there are any outstanding vehicle licence discs that need to be renewed.

Depending on individual or dealership transactions, no one week is the same and the number of transactions vary between 5 500 and 12 500 per week. These numbers include transactions such as fines and warrants.

For example, during the first week of February, 148 vehicles were tested for roadworthiness, 165 driver's licences and 64 temporary driver's licences were issued and 2 485 licence renewals and 1 266 transactions via EFT payments were finalised.

EFT payments still the best option:

In the interest of maintaining social distancing and limiting movement, the Traffic Department still recommends that people make use of EFT payments to settle transactions.

Please call 028 313 8136/8031 to ascertain the correct amount due before making an EFT payment, or call the Overstrand switchboard for traffic services on 028 313 1044.

As alternative, requests can be emailed to registrationsadmin@overstrand.gov.za.

Enquiries will be addressed within two or three working days. Please provide your vehicle registration number, ID number and contact details. Always attach proof of payment to the email and quote your vehicle registration number when enquiring whether your disc is ready for collection.

Residents who live in Gansbaai and Kleinmond are encouraged to add GB or KMD to the payment reference to indicate from where they will collect their licence discs. This will make it easier for staff members to allocate the printed disc to the correct town.

Banking details:

Account Name: Overstrand Municipality

ACCOUNT NUMBER (Primary Account): 1190136678

Bank: Nedbank

Type of account: Current Account

Branch Code: 198765

Branch: Inland Garden Route

SWIFT Code: NEDSZAJJ

** use your vehicle registration number as reference number*

Fines:

If you have paid for the renewal of your vehicle licence via EFT and have not received your licence disc yet, remember to keep a copy of your proof of payment in the relevant vehicle until you receive your licence disc. In the meantime, do not remove the expired disc from the windscreen.

When you are stopped by a traffic official, just show him/her a copy of your proof of payment if you have renewed your vehicle licence via EFT.

Should you have been fined for an expired vehicle licence but were unable to collect due to the closure of traffic services, you can dispute this, in writing, within 30 days of receiving the fine. Your representation will be considered favourably should you be able to provide proof of payment before the expiry date of the licence.

For this purpose, representation forms can be obtained from the fines department or email lcrolissen@overstrand.gov.za. However, it is not a prerequisite to make use of this form. A letter or email will suffice. The forms/letters can be delivered to the traffic offices (fines department) or to the additional municipal court in Harmony Lane, Hermanus during office hours.

