

August
2012PO Box 20
Hermanus 7200

	Telephone	Fax
Hermanus	028 313 8000	028 312 1894
Gansbaai	028 384 8300	028 384 0241
Kleinmond	028 271 8400	028 271 4100
Stanford	028 341 8500	028 341 0445
24 Hour Emergency Fire Brigade		028 313 8000/8111 028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

TIME OF USE HAS BIG INFLUENCE ON COSTS

HELP TO SAVE ELECTRICITY

For both the Overstrand Municipality and its residents it will be a good strategy to reduce the consumption of electricity as far as possible during the winter months. Especially between 18:00 and 20:00 one should switch off all unnecessary appliances.

According to the deputy director of electrotechnical services, Mr Deon Louw, the time of consumption has a great influence on electricity costs and deliberate saving measures in winter – when it is Eskom's peak season in terms of time-of-consumption – could be of great benefit to all.

The municipality's purchase cost of electricity in the months of June to August is about 55% higher than the rest of the year. "The municipality as such endeavours to curtail our own electricity consumption as far as possible during these months. The public can assist by switching off all unnecessary lights and appliances between 18:00 and 20:00," says Mr Louw.

Electricity consumption is divided into three daily tariff groups. The tariffs vary between only 28.65c/kWh in summer during non-peak periods (typically from 22:00 to 06:00) to 239.47c/kWh for peak consumption in winter (typically 07:00 to 10:00 as well as 18:00 to 20:00). Percentage wise there is thus a difference of 735.85.

Therefore it makes economic sense to control the time slots in which we use electricity. Great savings can be achieved by altering our consumption patterns.

"For a municipality it is possible, for example, to programme water – and sewage pumps coupled to reservoirs in such a way that they do not pump during peak hours, or at least as little as possible. By switching the energy consumption of pumps from peak hours to standard times we can save energy consumption in winter by 285% and in summer by 68%."

(As mentioned, the peak cost in winter is 239.47c/kWh, while it is only 68.86c/kWh in summer. Standard cost is 62.26c/kWh in winter and 40.98c/kWh in summer.)

Mr Louw says there is a time-of-consumption tariff available for bulk consumers in the Overstrand, but the principle can be applied by all consumers. Residents can adjust their tasks in such a manner that electricity consumption is reduced to an absolute minimum workable level.

Alternative sources of electricity, like sun power, wind power, and petrol - or diesel generators, have their financial pros and cons. Even on national level policy and legislation are considered which would make it possible for households to resell surplus electricity to Eskom and municipalities.

But the best advice to householders, according to Mr Louw, is rather to dress warmly and not to use heaters or heating devices.

He also warns residents to be on the lookout for fraudsters who sell electronic disks which supposedly reduce costs on prepaid meters. Not only are people cheated out of big amounts, but it is illegal to tamper with a meter and transgressors face heavy fines.



PILOT PROJECT FOR THE HOMELESS

An overnight shelter for homeless people was arranged in garages at the Hermanus clinic at the end of June. This temporary measure will weather the worst winter storms, but the possibility of establishing a rehabilitation centre is being investigated in conjunction with the Poverty Forum. Surveys have indicated that in Hermanus alone there are about twenty people who have no other means but to live off the street. One of them, Mr Willem Jantjies, will be in charge of those who make use of the overnight shelter. Mattresses and blankets were provided by the Municipality, while the provision of a chemical toilet and small water tank is being investigated. Law enforcement officers will visit the facility regularly to ensure order. At an inspection during the fitting out of the garages were from left: Desiree Arrison (Director of Management Services), Edward Fisher (law enforcement officer), Willem Jantjies, Nicolette Botha-Guthrie (Executive Mayor), Phillip de Gruchy (law enforcement officer) and Neville Michaels (Director of Protection Services). Albert Lourens (municipal carpenter), offloads material.

SWITCH TO PREPAID POWER

Municipal electricity users must take note that the electricity tariffs in the new financial year is structured in such a way that consumers of prepaid electricity will pay less per unit than consumers who are still making use of credit meters.

The aim is to encourage household electricity users to switch to prepaid electricity.

A consumer's electricity deposit can be used to finance the switch-over. The deposit payable for prepaid electricity meters is R360, compared to the minimum deposit of R1 100 for

credit meters, or twice the average electricity consumption.

The change-over from credit- to prepaid electricity meter is R360 (VAT included). The credit meter deposit minus the prepaid electricity deposit is in 80% of cases enough to pay for the change-over.

Clients who seek more information are welcome to contact Elmarie Hooneberg, senior manager of the Income Department, at 028 313 8149.

VEHICLE POUND TO HELP CURB ROAD DEATHS

The new vehicle pound which was opened on Friday 8 June 2012 by the Western Cape Minister of Community Safety, Mr Dan Plato, and the Overstrand Executive Mayor, Cllr Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, in Onrus River, forms part of a greater plan to curtail road deaths in the Western Cape by 50% before 2014.

The project is a partnership between the Western Cape Departments of Transport and Public Works as well as Community Safety and the Overstrand Municipality. The facility which was developed at a cost of R1 million was financed by the Department of Transport and Public Works, while the project was managed by the municipality.

This is already the fourth vehicle pound erected as part of the Drive Alive campaign in the Western Cape and will serve all the municipalities in the Overberg. The purpose of the pound is to promote the legal business of public transport. Operators in this business must have the necessary permits and must adhere to the stipulations of their licences.

If problems with licences are encountered during inspections by the road



Mr Dan Plato, Western Cape Minister of Community Safety, and Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie enjoy the success achieved with co-operative governance at the opening of the new vehicle pound in Overstrand.

authorities, transgressors receive hefty fines and taxis are impounded until the problems are sorted out.

Ms N Tsipa-Sipoyo, director of land transport safety, gave the assurance that the pound adheres to all legal requirements and was proclaimed in the Provincial Gazette in March as a repository for impounded vehicles. A full-time manager has also been appointed for the pound.

According to Mr Yasir Ahmed, chief

director: transport regulation of the Department of Transport and Public Works, the idea for the pound sprouts from the realisation that 16 000 deaths per year on our country's roads is far too high. The tragedy is exacerbated by the fact that it is not the speed-maniacs or drunken drivers who are killed, but mostly the innocent passenger, pedestrian or driver of the other vehicle involved in the accident.

Research furthermore shows a

correlation between crime and those who transgress the rules of the road and speed limits.

Mr Kenny Africa, Provincial Traffic Chief, recounted that he recently pursued a vehicle that overtook him over a barrier line on a blind hill. After a reckless chase of over 200 km/h the offender was eventually pulled off – subsequently some 49 kg of dagga was found in his vehicle. It is now standard practice in his department to search vehicles that are pulled off, thereby assisting the police in their fight against crime.

Co-operative governance is the winning recipe in the Western Cape, according to Mr Plato. He said by working together the province and municipalities can achieve much more. "Service delivery protests are rife throughout the country, because people want services and not only small talk. Our duty is to satisfy the needs of our people."

The Mayor said she was impressed by the professional manner in which the project was handled and that the municipality and its "men and women in blue" are ready to make a success of it.

TAKE CARE WITH ENCROACHMENTS

A number of complaints have been received regarding gardening and other encroaching activities on road reserves and public thoroughfares belonging to the municipality. While the Overstrand Municipality encourages residents to maintain the road reserves adjoining their properties, it may be illegal if the stipulations of The Administration of Immovable Property Policy (2009) is not adhered to.

The following quote from the policy is applicable: *The Municipality may, subject to such conditions as it may deem fit, permit encroachments on road reserves and public thoroughfares in order to encourage adjoining owners to maintain the road reserves adjoining their properties, provided inter alia that:*

- a) the planting of trees, shrubs and alien lawn or the erection of seating, statuary or other similar objects within 1,5 metres measured from the tarred or gravel surface of the road, is not permitted;*
- b) the 1,5 metre area referred to may be planted with lawn of a type approved by the relevant directorate of the Municipality and subject to the owner of the adjoining property allowing at all times the free movement of pedestrians in those encroached areas;*

c) no such encroachment shall be partially or wholly enclosed or fenced by any means whatsoever, permanently or otherwise, for the exclusive use of the adjacent property owner;

d) no encroachment fee shall be charged by the Municipality and no formal agreement need be entered into in respect of the above encroachment; and

e) the Municipality shall have the right of free access to the encroachment at all times for inspection, maintenance and repair of any services which may traverse the encroachment or to install such services in which case the Municipality shall not be liable for any damage to the encroachment which may arise from such inspection, maintenance, repair or installation.

An encroachment on municipal property is only legal if it complies with the above mentioned conditions or if the encroacher is in the possession of an encroachment agreement entered into with the municipality. Any person contravening these measures, subjects himself/herself to prosecution. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact **Léandra Minnaar** on 028 313 8109 or iminnaar@overstrand.gov.za.

MORAL STANDARDS INITIATIVE

Values in the family

It has been thoroughly proven that the values children cherish are captured from their parents. The example of parents speaks louder than words. Double standards therefore do not work for children. They learn fast!

Children acquire respect from the manner in which Dad talks to Mom. The type of language adults use when they are angry, the way men act towards women, the way people talk about national leaders and those in the community, the way people think about those of different cultures – everything determines whether the value of respect is established amid children. Children who receive respect will be able to give respect.

Children should not, in the first place, be taught to do as they are told. They must learn to be responsible. Children must be involved with decisions which are taken at home. That means that parents and children are co-responsible for the household, money matters, discipline and

functioning of the house. They must learn to take decisions and face the consequences. Overprotection causes a child more harm than good. Responsible children have more self-confidence and can make better decisions. Obedient children do exactly what their parents say for fear of punishment. Our country needs more responsible young people.

Parents with compassion are an example to their children. Children see what love, caring and active help mean to others. They see what it means to live not only for oneself. They experience the joy of sharing, see the thankfulness in the eyes of those who receive grace. To care curbs materialism and creates kind-heartedness. This speaks to children.

Values are conveyed within the family. What type of values play a role in your home? Parents and family therefore have a great responsibility towards our children. Today's choices determine tomorrow's joys!

- Wilhelm Burger

DID YOU KNOW?

Bed & Breakfasts as well as guest-houses can apply for the following property rates rebate on the difference between business and residential rates:

- 1 x lettable room: 100%
- 2 x lettable rooms: 80%

- 3 x lettable rooms: 60%
- 4 x lettable rooms: 40%
- 5 x lettable rooms: 20%

Contact Antoinette Geldenhuys, manager for rates, at 028 313 8050.

VERKIES U DIÉ NUUSBRIEF IN 'N ANDER AMPTELIKE TAAL?
SMS u rekeningnommer met A vir Afrikaans na **082 338 1631**

UNGATHANDA LENCWADI YESAZISO-NDABA IBHALWE NGOLUNYE ULWIMI? Thumela i-SMS enenombolo ye-akhawunti yakho kunye no X omele isi Xhosa kule nombolo **082 338 1631**