

MARCH 2016

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

# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## FIRE SEASON'S FIRST ONSLAUGHTS BRAVELY CONTAINED

– thanks to a united effort by fire fighters, volunteers and community supporters

Two raging fires, one which started in the vicinity of Stanford and another which broke out in the vicinity of Hawston, made headline news in January as overtaxed and exhausted fire-fighting teams in the Overberg battled to simultaneously contain a runaway fire in the Elgin Valley - all of which posed a very real threat to several residential areas within the area.



Faced with a blistering Southeaster fuelling the fires and a densely vegetated terrain that is not exactly accessible to vehicles, the fire-fighting teams really faced an uphill battle. From the outset, teams from Working on Fire, Cape Nature and volunteers going under the name Volunteer Wildfire Services stepped in to assist the joint fire-fighting services of Overstrand Municipality and the Overberg District Municipality on the ground. On several occasions, too, aerial support had to be called in to prevent serious damage to residences and infrastructure.

And then there were the community at large...

Overstrand's Fire Chief, Lester Smith, has nothing but praise for all those who so willingly offered their support and made sure that the fire-fighting teams were kept fed and hydrated day after day, night after night.

"All we can offer in humble return," he said, "is thank you". Thankfully no lives were lost, but the fires resulted in 1 388 ha indigenous vegetation being destroyed and caused severe damage to at least four residences - not to mention a great deal of trauma for all affected. Reflecting on this challenging start to the fire season, Smith remarked: "Should the investigation reveal that these fires were started wilfully, I hope those responsible are brought to justice. No one, no matter what, has the right to destroy another's livelihood or endanger other people's lives."

Given that hot, windy and dry weather conditions are to prevail for the foreseeable future, Overstrand appeals to all residents and visitors to exercise extreme caution in as far as fires are concerned. Also, please do report any suspicious activity immediately to your nearest police station or call Overstrand's 24/7 emergency centre on 028 312 2400.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT WALKS OFF WITH COVETED AWARD FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE



Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie flanked to the left by Fire Chief, Lester Smith, and Rosenbauer representative, Michael von der Heyde, on the right at the recent Overstrand Fire Department Review Breakfast hosted at the Windsor Hotel in Hermanus.

## CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FOR THIRD YEAR RUNNING

Overstrand Municipality yet again received a clean audit report for the 2014/15 financial year. A "clean audit outcome" is an unqualified audit which implies that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, that there were no material findings relating to the annual performance report and that all key legislation had been complied with.

We have received unqualified audits since 2006/7 and clean audits in 2012/13, 2013/14 and now in 2014/15.

"The attainment of a clean audit is in line with our ultimate goal, namely to maintain a clean administration characterised by good governance, financial compliance and strong internal controls," said Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, adding that "to fulfil this goal, we have to continuously improve our business processes in the interest of growth and sustainability".

### Quick Guide to Audit Outcomes and Findings

#### 1. CLEAN AUDIT OUTCOME:

The financial statements are free from material misstatements (in other words, a financially unqualified audit opinion) and there are no material findings with regards to reporting on performance objectives or non-compliance with legislation.

#### 2. FINANCIALLY UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION:

The financial statements contain no material misstatements. Unless the auditor has expressed a clean audit outcome, findings have been raised regarding either reporting on predetermined objectives or compliance with legislation, or both of these aspects.

#### 3. QUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION:

The financial statements contain material misstatements in terms of specific amounts, or there is insufficient evidence for the auditor to conclude that specific amounts included in the financial statements are not materially misstated.

#### 4. ADVERSE AUDIT OPINION:

The financial statements contain material misstatements that are not confined to specific amounts, or the misstatements represent a substantial portion of the financial statements.

#### 5. DISCLAIMER OF AUDIT OPINION:

The auditee provided insufficient evidence in the form of documentation on which to base an audit opinion. The lack of sufficient evidence is not confined to specific amounts, or represents a substantial portion of the information contained in the financial statements.

"I am justifiably proud that Overstrand's Fire Department came up trumps at the 2015 SAESI Conference and brought the Rosenbauer Award for Excellent Service home."

Everyone who attended the seasonal review breakfast hosted at the Windsor Hotel in Hermanus to thank the Overstrand fire services' emergency personnel for their sterling services shared Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie's sentiments, especially given the fire-fighting team's valiant efforts to contain runaway brush fires earlier this year (see report above).

Every year, the Southern African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI) hosts a conference - the biggest emergency management services event in Africa - which culminates in an award ceremony to honour those fire departments from around the country that compete against one another over a prescribed period of time in accordance with strict guidelines.

Along with the award, the Fire Department also received cutting-edge tools and equipment worth a staggering R75 000 from Michael von der Heyde, a representative of one of SAESI's key sponsors, Rosenbauer, the manufacturer and distributor of world-class fire-fighting equipment and trucks.



## A SPECIAL APPEAL TO SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTH: *Let your voice be heard: Register to vote!*

**SOUTH AFRICA** has one of the youngest populations in the world. According to StatsSA's latest figures, nearly two-thirds of the population of 53 million people is under the age of 35, and nearly 40% of the population was born after 1994.

But these statistics are not reflected on the voters' roll.

In the 2014 national elections, the overall registration level was 80% of the eligible population - which is pretty high by international standards. However, while registration levels for voters older than 40 was over 95%, registration levels for voters aged 30 and younger were below 50%, with the registration level for voters aged 18 and 19 standing at a pretty dismal 15%.

Currently, out of an eligible population of approximately two million, only about 289 000 voters aged 18 and 19 are registered!

If our democracy is to survive and thrive, many more young South Africans need to get involved in the electoral process. And that's the challenge the IEC has set itself as it is gearing up to host the 2016 Municipal Elections.

The good news is that when it comes to youth participation, voting statistics show that once young people are registered, they have higher turnout levels than any other groups. In 2014, the turnout for voters aged 18 and 19 was 83%, which is 10% higher than the average.

The conclusion? If young people register, they are highly likely to turn up to vote on Election Day, and for that we say "thank you!"

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

#### 1. EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Spread the word that registering and voting in this year's municipal elections is not only our civic responsibility but *uber* cool! Those people who believe that their single vote won't make a difference should think again. Each vote counts in an election, especially in a "first-past-the-post" system for ward councillors. Did you know that in the last municipal elections in 2011, almost 400 ward councillors were elected by fewer than 250 votes?

#### 2. LOCAL IS LEKKER!

If you think municipal elections are not as important as national elections, think again!

Local government is at the coalface of the delivery of services and amenities throughout our country and directly affects a community's quality of life by providing essential services such as:

- Water
- Electricity connections
- Sanitation services
- Critical infrastructure such as roads and parks
- Safety and security

#### 3. YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

If you don't vote, you are leaving the future of your community, your town and your country in other people's hands. Would you trust other people with your pin number for your bank card or your phone? Probably not, right? So why trust other people to decide your future? Your vote is yours - you've earned this awesome right by being a citizen of South Africa and turning 18. Don't waste it.

#### 4. DON'T SUFFER FROM FOMO!

Still not convinced about whether you will vote? Okay, but at least register so that come Election Day, you have the choice whether to vote or not. The voters' roll for the elections closes on the day the elections are proclaimed. If you are not on the roll then, there is no chance of participating - even if you want to later! So get on the roll!!!

#### 5. USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO SHOW YOU CARE - AND YOU'RE COOL.

When you register and vote, spread the word among your friends using social media. All the cool people will be the ones showing off a selfie of their inked thumb on Election Day. How about you?

### FINDING YOUR CORRECT VOTING STATION

All eligible voters (South African citizens aged 18 or older) should ensure they are registered in the correct voting district where they ordinarily reside. Unlike national and provincial elections, voting in a municipal election is only allowed at the voting district in which you are registered to vote.

**There are a number of ways voters can find their correct voting station:**

- Call the Electoral Commission's contact centre on 0800 11 8000 between 07:00 and 21:00 on weekdays. For the first time, contact centre agents will also be available to assist voters via webchat ([www.elections.org.za](http://www.elections.org.za)), Twitter (@IECSouthAfrica), Facebook (IECSouthAfrica) and email ([info@elections.org.za](mailto:info@elections.org.za)).
- Use the voting station finder app on the IEC website at [www.elections.org.za](http://www.elections.org.za).
- Dial \*120\*IEC# (\*120\*432#).

Voters who are already registered can SMS their ID number to 32810 (cost R1) to receive confirmation of their voter registration details, including the name of their voting station.

When you go to your voting station to register, be sure to take your green bar-coded ID book, smart ID card or a valid temporary ID certificate along. No other forms of ID are accepted for voter registration.

The Electoral Commission reminds all voters that it is a criminal offence to knowingly register in a voting district in which the voter is not ordinarily resident.

**When:** 08:00 to 17:00 Saturday 5 March and Sunday 6 March 2016

**Where:** The voting station in the voting district where you ordinarily reside. Call 0800 11 8000 (07:00 to 21:00 weekdays) or dial \*120\*432# or visit [elections.org.za](http://elections.org.za) to find your correct voting station.

**What you need:** Your official Home Affairs ID (either a smart ID card, a green bar-coded ID book or a valid Temporary Identity Certificate)

**How long it will take:** It takes just a couple of minutes - you fill in one application form and we scan your ID. That's it!

**More info:** Call 0800 11 8000 or you can get hold of our contact centre agents via Twitter and Facebook between 07:00 and 21:00 on weekdays.



### St Peter's Anglican Church to host enthralling OAK concert

On Tuesday evening 29 March, Overstrand Arts/Kunste (OAK) is to host the virtuoso Stefan Temmingh (recorder) accompanied by Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord) in the St Peter's Anglican Church. Stefan, an internationally acclaimed artist, will have concertgoers enraptured with his amazing skills as he performs a programme titled **Corelli and Co.** The ambience of the St Peter's Church is most suited to this programme which includes works by Arcangelo Corelli, as well as by composers influenced by his compositions. The programme includes the following works: Arcangelo Corelli - Opus 5, Sonata No. 9 in A major; Johan Helmich Roman - Sonata in C minor (BeRi 203); Francesco Saverio Geminiani - Chaconne; Arcangelo Corelli - Opus 5, Sonata No. 10 in C; Georg Friedrich Handel - Sonata in B minor Op. 1 No. 9 HWV 367b; Antonio Vivaldi - Sonata in E major, RV 806; Arcangelo Corelli - Opus 5, Sonata No. 12 "Follia" in G Minor.

The concert will commence at 19:00 and tickets are R120 (R60 for students). Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. Direct any other enquiries to Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.



### UPGRADED KLEINMOND LIBRARY BENEFITS ALL - BUT ESPECIALLY OUR STUDENTS

When the library was originally built in 1986, Kleinmond was still a small village with but a handful of school-going children. Over the years, this fast growing town has seen a dramatic change in demographics with the result that the library battled to keep up with the demand for assistance with and space to work on school projects.

On many an occasion, the visiting regional librarian witnessed first-hand how children had to make do with sitting on the floor to work on their projects because there was simply no room to accommodate them. On each of these occasions, Kleinmond's chief librarian, Wilma Hooneberg, made a point of discussing the changing needs of the community with the regional librarian, and her efforts finally paid off.

Following on an assessment by a team from the Western Cape Library Services, a decision was reached that an extension of the Kleinmond library to include another upstairs level would be warranted and R5 million was granted for this purpose. Work commenced in April 2015 and it is envisaged that the new library will be fully operational by end of April this year.

The new library will be comprised of an adult section, children's section and a reference and computer section. One of the two halls upstairs will be used to host conferences, while the other will be used as a lecture and activities hall.

"Everybody in Kleinmond will benefit from the upgrade of the library because we will no longer have to take books out of circulation simply to make space for new stock," said Wilma. "The ones that are going to benefit most, though, are our children and students since now there will be ample room where they can work in peace and quiet," she added.

