

MAY 2016

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

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

BUYING/SELLING PROPERTY?

AVOID UNNECESSARY HEADACHES:

INVOLVE OVERSTRAND'S HIGHLY COMPETENT BUILDING DEPARTMENT FROM THE OUTSET

Buying your own home, or investing in any form of fixed property for that matter, is a major step that warrants careful consideration from start to finish.

Just imagine the heartache when occupation of that long-awaited very-own home has to be postponed due to incomplete or insubstantial paperwork...

To avoid any undue disappointment, it's best to involve Overstrand's Building Department from start to finish whenever you consider buying or selling a property.

Together, we can ascertain whether approved building plans are on file for all structures on the premises (with the inclusion of swimming-pools, Wendy houses, and the likes); occupancy certificates have been issued for all approved plans on record; and title deeds are subject to any restrictions.

Likewise, registered owners should be mindful that they will be held liable for all structures and buildings erected on their properties and should keep in mind that no structures should have been erected on any property without prior approval of a plan.

To ensure that your property transaction goes according to plan, be sure to visit the offices of Overstrand's Building Department at any of the addresses listed below:

KLEINMOND:
37 5th Avenue
028 271 8427

HERMANUS:
Paterson House 2
16 B Paterson Street
028 313 8089

GANSBAAI:
Main Road
028 384 8321

JOINT ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC LAWS OVER EASTER A GREAT SUCCESS



Overstrand Traffic and Law Enforcement officials joined forces with their Theewaterskloof counterparts, the provincial traffic authorities and the South African Police Services to execute a number of traffic stops over the Easter Holidays.

Primarily aimed at ensuring road safety during the exceptionally busy Easter holiday period, the roadblocks were set up at regular intervals and at random locations to check both drivers' competence and vehicles' roadworthiness. As a spin off, these roadblocks often resulted in uncovering instances where vehicle registration was a little "suspect".

As an essential element of an integrated approach towards road safety and crime prevention in the Overberg area, traffic stops focused on ensuring the safety of those passengers who made use of public transport (particularly with reference to permits and overloading) whilst the general fitness of all vehicles was also checked. Likewise, the intention was to ensure that pedestrians, too, used the road in a responsible manner and that drivers were alerted to the dangers of fatigue.

Naturally, speed limits were enforced at all times, and anyone found driving under the influence was arrested on the spot.

By maintaining a high visibility on all main routes leading into the area, all parties involved in this joint effort did their utmost to ensure that the Overberg could report a fatality-free Easter Holiday.

ONRUS CARAVAN PARK TACKLES SECURITY CHALLENGES HEAD-ON

Crime is an increasing issue for the camping community of Onrus Caravan Park and it is becoming a serious concern for management. During the December holidays and recent Easter weekend, seven incidents of petty theft and vandalism have been reported, and many voiced their concerns.

Stretching over 1 km with a perimeter of 2 km, this hugely popular caravan park has 250 stands of which 70 are occupied on a semi-permanent basis. No less than 1 300 people camp at Onrus Caravan Park during peak season - moving in and out of the camp from dusk till dawn.

The very nature of caravan parks render them vulnerable to property crime. "It is likely that caravan parks are easy targets for thieves because of the ease of access to caravans and tents, the constant turnover of their population and the fact that campers have 'stealable' goods", park manager, Rhyn Potgieter, said.

Overstrand Municipality has resolved to tackle the issues identified at the park head-on, starting with the strict enforcement of access control at the gate. Onrus Caravan Park experiences a huge number of outside visitors to residents in the camp. Various options have been

tried to monitor entry, ranging from individual keys for the gate at Davies pool, to laminated name cards and coloured arm bands.

Furthermore, the local municipal ward committee formed an ad-hoc committee under the auspices of the newly elected ward councillor, Dr. Junita Kloppers-Lourens, to deal with challenges and to promote effective management of the Onrus Caravan Park.

So far, three main challenges have been identified: a) security remains the biggest issue, b) a shortage of cleaning staff to attend to the ablution facilities is experienced during peak season and c) the need to upgrade infrastructure which will require capital spending.

Extra seasonal staff was employed during Easter to clean the ablution facilities more often, and that helped.

For future budgeting purposes, an evaluation and assessment study are currently in progress on how to improve the infrastructure.

In terms of security, though, the biggest challenge remains an increase in petty theft and the vandalism of tents.

Security is a big issue. Despite challenges experienced with the security service provider, the

number of guards was increased for the Easter holidays whilst a guard dog and its handler also attended to the safety of campers. The municipality is also investigating the possibility of CCTV cameras at strategic points along the perimeter fence. A 2,4 metre high fence has been erected in 2007, and the municipality is considering the addition of razor wire to improve its effectiveness.

The municipality also intends to roll out a customer satisfaction survey for visitors over the Festive Season to help ensure that Onrus Caravan Park lives up to the expectations of its clients.

Meanwhile, the camp's management is making a special appeal to visitors to take care of personal belongings outside their caravans and tents. The concept "out of sight, out of mind" is a good principle to apply when camping, and tips on how to avoid unpleasant incidents are handed out when campers check in: To avoid any temptations around camping spots, valuables - especially cash, laptops and handbags - should be kept out of sight and preferably be locked away safely. Furthermore, campers are advised to leave outside lights on at night and to ensure that gas bottles, bicycles, kayaks and the likes are secured.

UNKNOWNLY SCRUBBING YOUR FACE / BODY / TEETH WITH PLASTICS?

*Read the label and say **NO** to microbeads.*

Microbeads are tiny pieces of plastic hardly visible to the naked eye which are added to some soaps, toothpastes and beauty products such as facial or body scrubs, lip gloss and nail varnish.



These microscopic particles, which are less than 1 mm in size, wash down the drain and are so tiny, they cannot be "caught" by the filters at water-treatment plants. Consequently, with every use, thousands of these particles inadvertently end up in waterways, bays and the ocean.

Being made of plastic, these particles don't really degrade and are often mistaken for food by zooplankton or swallowed by filter feeders. Not all species are able to excrete the plastic, resulting in an accumulation in some animals and, as they make their way up the food chain via fish, birds and other marine life, they ultimately end up on your dinner plate!

Even worse: The surface of the plastic microbeads attracts and absorbs persistent organic pollutants such as DDT and PCBs from the surrounding water which can then transfer into animal tissue as the beads are consumed. Manufacturers don't really need to use plastic microbeads, but they do so because they are cheaper than natural alternatives such as crushed almonds, seed husks or apricot shells.

Most plastic microbeads are made from polyethylene (PE), but when you do check the label, also be on the lookout for ingredients such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) and nylon. If these types of plastics are included in the ingredient list, rather opt for a brand that makes use of natural alternatives.

Do your bit to keep the Overstrand pristine for all wildlife - on land and in the sea.

If you would like to contribute your thoughts in this regard or would like to offer advice, feel free to contact Fiona Matthes by sending an e-mail to Fionamatthes@gmail.com.

ITALIAN SIBLINGS SET TO TUG AT YOUR VERY HEART



TRIO BROZ



The exciting young **TRIO BROZ** (violin, viola, cello) will yet again take to the stage on Friday, 20 May, to entertain Overstrand's music lovers. Concertgoers will remember them as the brother and two sisters who play as if with one instrument! The programme includes Miniatures by Dvorak, *Intermezzo* by Kodaly, *Serenade Op 10* by Von Dohnanyi, two pieces dedicated to the Trio by Bellino and Ungherese, as well as *Serenade Op 9* by Lajtha. Be sure not to miss this beautiful and certainly enriching experience!

*The concert starts at 19:00 in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus and tickets are R120 (R60 for students). Book at **BELLINI** on 028 312 4988. Further enquiries can be directed to Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.*

SOLID WASTE IN PERSPECTIVE

Last year, Overstrand was yet again crowned top-performer in the Cleanest Town Competition's category "solid waste". Being crowned winner in this category, though, involves far more than simply picking up household refuse week after week. What is also at play here is a town's overall cleanliness, the way it operates its dumping sites and its adherence to the conditions imposed by the permits it holds.

More importantly, though, when it boils down to deciding on the winner, the Department of Environmental Affairs pays particular attention to those initiatives a municipality has instituted to foster a culture of recycling and the way it composts building rubble.

Yes, every little aspect pertaining to waste disposal is scrutinised.

Legally disposing of waste is becoming more and more complex due to stricter laws being imposed year after year. It is also becoming increasingly expensive.

To cite an example, a new cell was recently constructed at Karwyderskraal at a cost of R9,3 million. However, the requirements to build such a cell have since become far more prescriptive, which implies that further extensions to this landfill will cost considerably more in future.

That is precisely why we as Overstranders must do everything in our ability to extend the lifespan of this new cell to its maximum.

And we are not doing too badly. To tell the truth, in Overstrand, 39% of the refuse that would otherwise have been destined for the "rubbish dump" are already being diverted: The highest percentage in the country!

But there is always room for improvement, especially given the astronomical financial burden increasingly being placed on local authorities to dispose with solid waste in an environmentally friendly fashion.

If you want to do your part, simply adhere to the following:

RECYCLE DILIGENTLY

- Place all glass, tins, cardboard and paper in the clear plastic bags provided by the municipality. You need not worry about the nature of the material: Recyclable material is sorted at our plants, and the rest is channelled to suitable dumping sites.

MAKE COMPOST

- Turn your garden refuse into compost. In fact, quite a lot of kitchen waste can also be channelled to your garden rather than the rubbish dump and help to nourish the earth. For guidelines in this regard, visit http://www.wwf.org.za/act_now/green_living/at_home/make_your_own_compost/

KEEP BUILDERS' RUBBLE CLEAN

- By ensuring that a couple of basic rules are followed on your building site, you can help meet the demand for clean filling material and prevent large volumes of rubble, which could also be harmful to the environment, from ending up elsewhere.

MAKE USE OF e-WASTE BINS

- Special bins for the disposal of electrical/electronic waste have been installed throughout Overstrand: There is one at Gansbaai's landfill site, the dumping site in Stanford and at the transfer stations in Hermanus and Kleinmond. If you want to get rid of an outmoded printer, computer, cell phone or some such like, dump it here: We, in turn, deliver the contents of these bins to specialised companies who either save the recyclable components or dispose thereof in an environmentally sound fashion.

TREAT POLLUTANTS/POISONOUS SUBSTANCES WITH CARE

- Special receptors have been installed at Gansbaai's landfill site, Stanford's dumping site and the transfer stations in Hermanus and Kleinmond for the disposal of hazardous and poisonous substances. Please make use of these facilities to get rid of all batteries, long-life globes, old motor oil, herbicides, pesticides, etc.

Overstrand welcomes all suggestions on what we can do to reduce solid waste even further. Send your suggestion to jvantaak@overstrand.gov.za or call 028 313 5045.



**How to register for
the Municipality's SMS service**
SMS your account number with the letters **SMS**
to **082 338 1631** or contact a Client Services
Officer at your closest rates hall.

