

OCTOBER 2016

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Kleinmond	028 384 8300	028 384 0241
Stanford	028 271 8400	028 271 4100
	028 341 8500	028 341 0445

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

# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## HOME INVASIONS NO LONGER A 'BIG CITY' CRIME

Until recent years, Overstrand residents have been spared the emotional trauma of having their personal space - their homes - invaded by criminals intent on pilfering everything they can lay their hands on, sometimes with devastating consequences.

As a result, and because we as Overstranders are trusting people, we may have become a little lax in safeguarding our homes and belongings.

Sadly, due to the dramatic increase in petty theft and burglaries in the area, Hermanus' Detective Commander Lt Col GM Pillay approached *Bulletin* with a request to issue a word of warning to everyone in the area to be vigilant and to do their utmost to help ensure that they safeguard themselves and their belongings.

Other than ensuring that all access points to your home - especially windows and doors - are safely locked and burglar-proofed, never create the impression that no one is home:

- Newspapers and mail that simply pile up in your post box or on your doorstep are dead give-aways. Ask a neighbour to collect these on your behalf.
- When you plan on leaving your home unoccupied for a while, consider installing timers that will turn on the TV and certain lights in the house at odd hours. That way it will be hard to tell whether someone is actually home... or not.
- AND - too many of us are in the habit of drawing the curtains/blinds before

*In the long run, though,  
the best advice is  
to always remain vigilant:  
Not only for the sake of  
your own safety, but also  
for the sake of  
your neighbour.*

departing on a prolonged journey. Should those curtains/blinds remain in the same position day after day, week after week, it is yet another signal that no one is home... Perhaps the same friendly neighbour who collects the mail/newspapers can lend a hand in this regard too?

While at home, it goes without saying that valuables - especially cell phones, notebooks and laptops - should never be left in sight near an open window or door! However, do also keep in mind that the washing on the line or the mower

carelessly left unattended right next to the garden fence may be just as attractive.

Not all burglars are blatant - some can come up with quite ingenious schemes!

- When next you receive a call ostensibly made to a 'wrong number', be careful how you respond. Never let on that the principal occupant - i.e. your husband/parent - may not be home. Be sure to also instil this principle in your kids - and their babysitters.

Obviously, making your home as uninviting as possible by installing motion sensors and alarm systems will help to safeguard all that is near and dear to you.

- For a less expensive option, get a dog or plant thorny shrubs along your fence and under windows - most

thieves are opportunists and would rather not spend time untangling themselves from the likes of a num-num bush (*Carrissa macrocarpa*) or Kei apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) while making their getaway.

A word of caution to all consummate gardeners:

## The operative word in SIDEWALK is WALK!!

As much as we appreciate the enthusiasm with which home owners are lending a hand to help beautify our towns by sprucing up their sidewalks, Overstrand Municipality must caution that what is commonly referred to as a 'pavement' is, actually, a road reserve.

Road reserve - as defined by law - implies that the 1,5m verge which abuts your erf belongs to the Municipality. It is reserved for use by all forms of public transport - mostly pedestrian traffic - in the case of residential areas.

Our home owners become over enthusiastic and their gardens spill over on to sidewalks to such an extent that it is virtually impossible for any pedestrian - be they on foot or in a wheelchair - to move without having to step into the road and, by inference, into traffic!

Clearly, as illustrated by the example here, these practices compromise the safety of those who have every right to move along our towns' sidewalks without fear of being run over.



Do also keep in mind that in most of our villages, lanes and streets are just wide enough to accommodate two-way vehicular traffic. So, imagine encountering two vehicles travelling in opposite directions, another road user on a bicycle and a mother pushing a stroller along the stretch of road pictured here...

Should any of the motorists referred to in this scenario have to swerve to avoid a collision and, as a result, end up having to plough through this very artistic sidewalk array, all damages - including that to the subject motorist's vehicle -

will be for the home owner's account. But that's only half of the story: What if a collision cannot be avoided and someone is injured in the process...?

The example pictured here is but one of many instances where the municipality will have to step in to ensure that home owners do not encroach sidewalks and place road users - be they motorists or pedestrians - at risk.

Clearly, the next question would be: How do I ensure that my sidewalk is traffic friendly? The simple answer would be to imagine that you are a parent pushing an infant in a stroller from one end of the block to the next. If you have to duck and dive shrubs and trees along the way, find it impossible to keep that stroller moving through patches of gravel/mulch or, even worse, a whole bed of sour figs, it clearly is not. In this regard, section 5(b) of the by-law referred to above states that "no person shall in any way obstruct the pedestrian traffic on a sidewalk by bringing or allowing to be brought thereon any object or vehicle". Here, "object" has the widest possible meaning and includes trees, plants, shrubs, flowers, rocks, logs, loose stone, constructed flower beds, fencing and even gravel.

Furthermore, in terms of section 8 of the same by-law, unloading, storing and/or mixing building materials and/or allowing any form of waste (including garden and building waste) to accumulate in a public place (i.e. a sidewalk) without prior consent is an offence. This expressly implies that skips/containers, too, may only be placed on road reserves or in public places if the Administration in question has approved a short-term lease agreement for this purpose.

For a detailed answer on what is allowed and what is not, best to download Overstrand's Policy on the Administration of Immovable Property from [www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za), paying particular attention to paragraphs 63 to 64 "Projections, Projecting Structures and Encroachments". Alternatively, visit your nearest municipal office and request a copy of said policy.

# YOUR COUNCILLORS (2016 - 2021)



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## OVERSTRAND'S WARDS:

1. Franskraal and Masakhane;
2. Gansbaai, De Kelders, Kleinbaai and Blompark;
3. Hermanus and a portion of Westcliff;
4. Mount Pleasant, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley and a portion of Westcliff;
5. Zwelihle South;
6. Zwelihle North;
7. Sandbaai;
8. Hawston, Fisherhaven and Honingklip;
9. Kleinmond, Mountain View and Palmiet;
10. Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay, Rooiels, Overhills and Proteadorp;
11. Stanford, Baardskeedersbos, Pearl Beach, Viljoenshof, Withoogte and Buffeljachts;
12. Zwelihle North-West;
13. Onrus and Vermont.



## Exhibiting Excellence

It is an honour and a privilege to welcome Maryna Visagie to the Mayoral Gallery. Pictured here is an example of one of Visagie's works titled "Old Harbour - Hermanus" rendered in oil on canvas. Artists who are interested in submitting their works for exhibition in the executive offices are kindly requested to contact Mari Geyer at [artintheoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:artintheoffice1@gmail.com).



## PIANO DUO AND LOCAL CELLIST IN CONCERT THIS MONTH

On Friday 14 October, the piano duo Carles and Sofia will treat their audience to a magical Spanish hour. They will play Goyescas (100 years later!) from the opera by Enrique Granados, *Suite Española* by Isaac Albéniz and *Two Dances* from La Vida Breve by Manuel de Falla. This concert will commence promptly at 19:00.

On Sunday 23rd at 15:00, Hermanus will welcome one of its own - cellist Tobias Kotzé - to the stage. Tobias recently obtained his master's degree from the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano, Switzerland, and will be accompanied by Elna vd Merwe. They will perform works by Bach, Boccherini, Brahms, Sibelius and Prokofiev. *Both concerts will be held in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus. Tickets are R130 (R60 for students). Book at BELLINI on 028 312 4988. All other enquiries can be directed to Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.*



Carles & Sofia



Tobias Kotzé