

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

UPCOMING SARS VISITS

SARS has scheduled only one visit to Overstrand in the course of September:

- 20 September 2018 - Protea Community Hall, Kleinmond (10:00 - 15:00)

Their next visit will only take place on the 23rd and 24th of October 2018, and then at the Moffat Hall in Mount Pleasant. Consultation hours will be confirmed at a later date.

If you need to consult SARS before the 20th of September and are prepared to travel, make a note of the following venues and dates:

- 17 September 2018 - Victoria Hall, Caledon (10:00 - 15:00)
- 18 & 19 September 2018 - Welverdiend Library, Bredasdorp (09:00 - 15:00)



BUSINESS COMMUNITY SHAKEN BUT STEADFAST, AS MAYOR DUDLEY COETZEE DISCOVERED WHEN HE RECENTLY PAID A VISIT TO SOME OF THE BUSINESSES IN THE HERMANUS BUSINESS PARK.

Business owners Johan van Zyl, Conrad Oosthuizen, Johann Grobbelaar and Leon Douglas welcomed the opportunity to discuss matters with the Mayor in person. Although they confirmed that business has been severely affected by the events of the past couple of months, they remain positive about going forward. "We are making efforts to compensate for the losses suffered, but are optimistic about tackling the way forward head-on," was the general consent. Pictured here are Hyundai Hermanus branch manager Johann Grobbelaar (left), Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Hermanus Business Chamber chairman De Waal Steyn and Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion.

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS

During a Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 July 2018 in Hermanus' banqueting hall, Executive Mayor Ald Dudley Coetzee delivered his state of the municipality address.

This is what the Mayor said: "Overstrand community is hard hit by the downward turn in the economy, the drought and especially the recent civil unrest action the effect of which is visible.

For the municipality and the wider community, including businesses, the past couple of months have been challenging, and we have faced many trials in our efforts to provide services to all.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who offered and is still offering help - from the supply of meals for the police and law enforcement agencies and to residents in Zwelihle to community members who are serving at restaurants, also those picking up garbage and assisting the elderly. All these efforts are doing much to assist businesses to remain open.

For the more than 22 000 residents of Zwelihle, including our councillors residing there whose daily existence has been marred by the threat to their lives and whose movement has been impeded, we are especially thankful to people such as you who are collectively geared towards finding a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis at hand.

We are also very aware that our public safety and law enforcement officers are at great risk protecting us and helping to ensure that Zwelihle becomes safe again. The regular patrols and permanent SAPS presence in Zwelihle are having a positive effect and will remain in place to help 'normalise' the situation. We would like to acknowledge the role of cooperative governance by thanking the national, provincial and local politicians and councillors, every division of the police, the various disaster management departments and the provincial traffic department, church and community leaders, as well as organisations, our business community and our own municipal law enforcement, traffic officers and officials for their dedication and hard work during long hours. We have already commenced with clean-up operations in Zwelihle. We are also most appreciative that the national minister of police, Bheki Cele, and the Western Cape Premier, Helen Zille, as well as MPL Masizoli Mnqanasa have taken time out of their busy schedules to engage with us to ensure a favourable and stable outcome.

It is, however, with regret and utter sadness that I have to inform you that the damage to the municipality's property, following the civil unrest actions, amounts to an estimated R39 781 590 made up of the following:

Zwelihle satellite police station	1 345 126
Zwelihle library	5 828 880
Zwelihle taxi rank	1 452 000
Zwelihle informal trading stalls	446 770
Zwelihle new housing development	1 751 788
Zwelihle / Mount Pleasant swimming pool	1 931 647
Housing offices	6 277 255
Hermanus sewer plant	40 000
Fence along Schulphoek Road	399 833
Transfer station	12 808 291
Recycling plant	7 500 000
TOTAL	39 781 590

This figure excludes costs to repair infrastructure such as roads and pavements. The cost of the security company contracted to protect strategic municipal infrastructure, such as the municipal offices and the sewerage purification works during this time amounts to approximately R1,7 million. Overstrand was one of the leading municipalities in the country as far as refuse recycling is concerned. As a result of the criminal activities outlined above, we had to cease our recycling programme for the time being. No recycling can take place resulting in job losses, and the recycle swap shops, which benefitted our children, have now become redundant.

What sense does it make to vandalise stalls at the taxi rank and shops in Swartdam Road where entrepreneurs from Zwelihle try to make a living? We sincerely hope that the recent visit by the national minister of police, General Bheki Cele, will bear fruit. I am mindful of the call by the minister of police for engagements with all concerned. I however want to state it categorically that the municipality will not engage with people who take part in criminal activities, nor will we engage before law and order have been restored and the situation in Zwelihle has normalised. All stakeholders must respect the offices of the democratically elected councillors. We should contest our political differences at the ballot box, and once we have done that, we should all work together for the benefit and betterment of our communities. We have already commenced with the design of a plan to rebuild the reputation of the Cape Whale Coast as a preferred destination and we will consult with the affected parties. We accept the challenges of going beyond the restoration of normality.

Now, more than ever, we need to work towards finding solutions for the challenges facing us, especially the housing issues - bearing in mind that there is no quick fix.

It is a long road ahead, but we do believe in our communities and towns - we have to get back our hope. From here on, let it once again be a case of 'all hands on deck' so that together we can all play our part in bringing normality back to Zwelihle, Hermanus and the Overstrand in general."

RECYCLING IN GREATER HERMANUS AND HANGKLIP-KLEINMOND ON HOLD

Arsonists recently caused severe damage to infrastructure and equipment at waste transfer stations, and their actions also resulted in the conveyor belt and baler at the recycling plant being damaged beyond repair. Recycling in the Greater Hermanus and Hangklip-Kleinmond areas can, therefore, no longer take place.

Consequently, until such time as a short-term solution has been found, the municipality had to terminate the distribution of clear recycling bags.

• *Bulletin undertakes to keep its readers updated on progress made in this regard.*

JOINT EFFORT TO RESTORE SAFETY AND STABILITY

AS A TRUE EMBODIMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, national, provincial and local political leaders recently joined hands with community leaders, non-governmental organisations, the business community, law enforcement agencies and municipal officials to make Hermanus safe again.

A Joint Operation Centre (JOC) was established from where efforts to curb the threat to life and livelihood were coordinated and, most importantly, to assess the harm the civil uprising might cause in the long run.

In its latest update published on 21 July 2018, the JOC found that a potential health disaster has been avoided in Zwelihle because the municipality managed to maintain the supply of running water. Nevertheless, certain focus areas - as identified by health inspectors operating under the auspices of the Overberg District Municipality - will require urgent attention. These will be attended to as a matter of urgency.

Meanwhile, the presence of and regular patrols by the SAPS and the Community Policing Forum will help to normalise the situation.

Completion of Bientang upgrade postponed VILLAGE SQUARE TENANTS ASKED THE MUNICIPALITY TO TEMPORARILY STOP CONSTRUCTION WORK ON PUMP STATION 2, SITUATED ABOVE THE OLD HARBOUR IN HERMANUS.

Many businesses reported that trade has been severely affected by the events of the past couple of months, and the ongoing work on the pump station in close proximity to their businesses is not helping.

Having considered this request, the municipality has agreed to interrupt the construction project with the proviso that it must be completed within the 2018/19 financial year.

Given that the Bientang pump station dates back to the 1960's, a comprehensive upgrade is a matter of necessity.

Nevertheless, having considered the risk of keeping the over-capacitated sewerage pump station in operation for yet another peak season, all parties have agreed that work on the project should cease in October and that completion must be postponed till next year.

Meanwhile, Overstrand Municipality undertook to do its utmost to prevent any spillages and to ensure that a proper maintenance regime is followed in the interim.

The new rising main pipeline still has to be completed and connected to the existing system. This will not only impact tenants of Village Square, but also businesses along Marine Drive and Main Road as well as those on Market Square.

Unavoidably, whilst construction is underway, sections of Marine Drive, Market Square and Main Road as well as the parking lots in the affected areas will be closed temporarily to vehicular traffic. Pedestrian traffic will be accommodated as far as possible.

Nevertheless, work at the pump station itself and rehabilitation of the site will be completed as far as possible before civil construction is suspended in October 2018. It is planned to continue with completion of the balance of the work from April to June 2019.

VOLUNTEER SHORT-TERM TEACHERS

The children of Zwelihle and Mount Pleasant need you now

In conjunction with the Overberg District Education Department, the Hermanus Rotary Club is investigating ways in which learners attending Qhayiya Secondary, Lukhanyo Primary and Mount Pleasant Primary can be assisted to catch up on the work they have missed as a result of the recent unrests.

If you are a qualified English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa-speaking teacher who can offer any subject for Grades 1 - 12 and willing to volunteer in a classroom on a short-term basis, please forward your full name with contact numbers and e-mail address to Ann Wright at annwright@telkomsa.net or call her on 083 307 0726.

Ann, president of Rotary Hermanus, promises to follow up and to discuss preferred age groups and scheduling of your availability immediately.

OVERSTRAND FIRE AND RESCUE FLEET BOLSTERED



Pictured at the time of handing over the new fire vehicles are from left to right Western Cape Government Deputy Director: Fire Brigade Services Etienne du Toit, Western Cape Government Chief Director: Disaster Management and Fire/Rescue Services Colin Deiner, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Senior Manager: Fire and Rescue, Disaster Management and Security Services Lester Smith, Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion and Assistant Fire Chief: Operations and Training Angelo Aplon.

Overstrand Fire and Rescue Services recently received three new vehicles. These vehicles will enhance the fire brigade's fleet, enabling them to reach destinations faster and to be better equipped to deal with any type of incident.

The official handover of the new Toyota Hino 6 000-litre water tanker, a Ford double-cab 4x4 bakkie and a Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4 as well as rescue tools and other specialised equipment to the value of R2 million took place on Wednesday 1 August 2018.

The purchases were made possible thanks to the provincial fire services capacity grant.

The 6 000-litre water tanker is a welcome addition to the fleet of emergency response vehicles and is able to deal with some of the difficulties fire fighters experience with regards to water. Apart from supplying water during fire fighting operations, the tanker has the ability to pump water from open sources such as dams or swimming pools, which is an added bonus since fire hydrants are not easily accessible in some areas.

The two bakkie units are also very impressive as they particularly meet fire and rescue needs for incident command and operational response in rough terrain. They are fitted with two-way radios, which will improve communication between the various divisions when working in the field and enable faster deployment when arriving at the scene of an incident.

Overstrand's Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee said, "It fills me with great joy that I am able to be with you to share in this momentous occasion today."

"Knowing the challenges that we have faced in the Overstrand Fire Department, receiving the keys for three new vehicles from the provincial government will certainly do much to enhance our service delivery in this area."

"I am especially thankful to Fire Chief Lester Smith for taking the initiative to approach the provincial government so that we could be considered in their project to help smaller municipalities such as ours with capacity building within the fire fraternity."

"Once again, I wish to extend my profound gratitude to the provincial government for this tremendous opportunity. I have no doubt that this appreciation is also felt by the various fire fighters who will be using these much needed additional resources and for whom the benefits will be profound."

Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion said that Fire and Rescue Services distinguished themselves as astute and capable professional fire fighters, and that the team is doing a sterling job. She also mentioned that during the past year (July 2017 - June 2018), Fire and Rescue responded to 619 incidents across the Overstrand. She commended the province on making this investment which enables Overstrand Municipality's fire fighters to resolve incidents faster and more safely.

Fire Chief Lester Smith thanked the Mayor for his support and his ability to recognise the value of a good fire fighting team.

He also thanked Etienne du Toit, Western Cape Government Deputy Director: Fire Brigade Services, and Colin Deiner, Western Cape Government Chief Director: Disaster Management and Fire/Rescue Services, for listening to his plea and taking action.

He concluded by thanking Thelma Lobb of Fleet Management for her assistance as well as Angelo Aplon, Assistant Fire Chief: Operations and Training; Marlu Rust, Assistant Chief: Fire and Disaster Management; Joe Schoeman, Assistant Chief: Fire Safety; Dawie Esau and the rest of his team.



Pictured here are Chief Lester Smith (2nd right) along with Assistant Chiefs Angelo Aplon (2nd left), Marlu Rust (4th left) and Joe Schoeman (3rd right). Also at the event were André Lucas (Law Enforcement), Colin Deiner (Western Cape Government Chief Director: Disaster Management and Fire/Rescue Services), Etienne du Toit (Western Cape Government Deputy Director: Fire Brigade Services), Patrick Africa on the far left (Assistant Chief: Traffic) and Mark Robson (chaplain).

