

FEBRUARY 2020

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

# Bulletin

*Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality*

## HAWSTON HEIGHTS WELCOMES ITS FIRST RESIDENTS



On Thursday, 12 December 2019 the Western Cape Minister of Human Settlements, Tertius Simmers and Executive Mayor of the Overstrand Municipality, Dudley Coetzee handed over the keys to proud new home owner Suleiman Moses (65).

Sixty-three families received the ultimate gift shortly before the festive season when they were handed the keys to their new homes on 12 December 2019 by Western Cape Minister of Human Settlements, Tertius Simmers, and Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dudley Coetzee.

The remaining units and serviced sites of this R77.9 million Integrated Residential Development Project (IRDP) in Hawston are expected to be finished by April 2020.

The new development is situated east of the R43 in Hawston and will be named Hawston Heights. It comprises 489 sites that include 107 residential sites for the affordable housing market in terms of the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP), 378 residential top-structure sites resorting under the Breaking New Ground (BNG) programme, two business sites, two community-zoned sites, nine open public spaces, roads and a storm-water retention pond.

Of the 378 BNG houses, 19 are being built to accommodate people with disabilities. Instead of being 40 m<sup>2</sup> in size, these houses measure 45 m<sup>2</sup> and include a ramp leading to the front of the house, grab rails in the bathroom and sliding doors to the bathroom as well as lowered light switches to ease accessibility for wheelchair-bound residents.

On addressing those present, Minister Simmers reminded residents who are thinking about renting out their homes or trying to sell them that according to the contract, owners are not allowed to sell a house handed over by the government for eight years. They may also not rent it out or use it as a spaza shop or business premises.

He encouraged families to participate in community development and to take responsibility for their security by forming a neighbourhood watch. "You have been given an opportunity; don't misuse it," the Minister said.

Along a similar vein, Ward 8 Councillor and Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion asked residents to take care of their houses and to plant grass, trees and flowers. "We want a place where our children can play safely, and it is important for young and old alike to exercise and socialise," she added.

In closing, Cllr Arnie Africa thanked Frankie Frans and his team at the Housing Department for their commitment and logistical arrangements before and during the handovers.

## BABOON MANAGEMENT

### Latest report rather revealing

Following on the formulation and finalisation of its Strategic Baboon Management Plan, Overstrand Municipality appointed Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS) as a specialised service provider to manage and control baboons in the area by means of a "virtual fence".

A condition of this appointment was that HWS should keep the baboons out of town 90% of the time, employing "soft" techniques such as paintballing, fitting radio collars and tagging in an attempt to identify and deter "repeat offenders".

For starters, HWS has been monitoring the Voëlkop Troop in Hermanus and the Pringle Bay Troop since the beginning of November 2019.

In their report submitted at the end of November 2019, HWS claims that both the Voëlkop Troop and the Pringle Bay Troop were kept out of town for over 98% of the time.

Based on their observations, HWS also found that the Pringle Bay Troop is probably more habituated to humans and has largely been kept out of town for the past few years with the aid of rangers employed by the local residents' association.

Their conclusion is that Pringle Bay's baboons are more used to feeding out of town and, therefore, respond to management much better than the Voëlkop Troop, which has not been managed for many years and is addicted to human-derived foods.

"Given that there is still a good abundance of fynbos forage available to both these troops of baboons on the mountains and valleys around town, they should be encouraged to continue to feed there without coming to town for a fix of sugar,"



project manager Dr Phil Richardson said.

"Here the residents of the urban areas can play a huge role in baboon management. Removing sweet smelling fruit from their fruit trees before they ripen, closing doors and windows and securing waste so that it cannot be easily opened or torn apart will all reduce the rewards if the baboons do come to town. If there are no rewards readily available within the urban area, most baboons would rather not be paintballed or subjected to the scares of the Virtual Fence and stay out of town 100% of the time."

**Should you have any questions regarding Overstrand's Strategic Baboon Management Plan, feel free to contact Tamzyn Zweig on (0) 28 271 8420.**



## REPAIRED AND READY TO ROLL

Kleinmond's transfer station and garden waste drop-off area are now fully repaired and ready for business from 7:30 to 18:00 on weekdays and from 7:30 to 16:30 on weekends and public holidays.

Members of the public are welcome to make use of these facilities to dispose of general and garden waste, provided the load does not exceed five tons.

Loads of under one ton can be disposed of free of charge, but a fixed charge – as per the published rates – will be levied for loads between one and five tons. Small loads of builders' rubble of less than one ton will also be accepted at the transfer station.

Loads of general and garden waste in excess of five tons must be disposed of at the Karwyderskraal regional landfill site, and the same applies for builders' rubble where loads exceed one ton.

For more information regarding the transfer station or disposal fees, contact Craig Mitchell on 028 313 5045.

♦ **Note that the Karwyderskraal site is operated by the Overberg District Municipality, and anyone who wishes to dispose of waste or rubble there must first register with this entity before loads will be accepted.**

As is evident from the picture below, the repaired garden waste drop-off area at Kleinmond's transfer station now sports a concrete retaining wall structure and a reshaped floor area.



The transfer station's new cladding



The team responsible for the repairs has every reason to be proud of their handy work. From left to right are Rickus Appel, Patrick Litoli, Louis Adonis, Herschel Mackenzie and Hilton Hull.



The Cliff Path Management Group, in partnership with Overstrand Municipality, is busy replacing 20 old and faded sign boards along the Hermanus cliff path. The cliff path is one of Hermanus' most unique attractions and stretches from the new harbour along the coastline to Grotto beach. Pictured here are Ashrick Marhinus (coastal monitor), Michael Henn (field ranger: environmental management services) and Anina Lee (CPMG chairperson). In front are budding environmentalist Anathi Feni and Ward 3 Councillor Kari Brice.

## NEW PINK BIBS FOR LEGAL CAR WATCHERS



A collaborative initiative between Overstrand Municipality, AfriForum, SAPS, security companies and neighbourhood watches will see 40 recently appointed after-hours car watchers take to the streets in Hermanus in catching brand-new pink bibs.

After-hours car watchers gathered in Overstrand's Auditorium recently to receive pink security bibs and a warm jacket.

The brand-new pink bibs and blue caps, sponsored by AfriForum and the Hermanus Community Police Forum (CPF), will ensure the car monitors are easily identifiable in the CBD area in Hermanus. They have also been issued with identity cards bearing their names, ID numbers and photos which must be displayed at all times during the execution of their duties.

Operating times for the car watchers will be between 16:00 and 02:00 seven days a week.

The car watchers will cover the following parking areas: Gearing's Point, Sharklady, Clicks, Market Square and red stalls, FNB, Harbour Road, Bientang's Cave, the Marine Hotel, Rossi's and the area behind Jet.

Motorists are not obliged to leave a tip, but tips are most welcome. Formal parking marshals, with orange vests, will work during the day.

In addition, six peace officers will be patrolling and monitoring the CBD on foot. They have the power to fine people and to make arrests. They will receive assistance from law enforcement and traffic officers.

This initiative was made possible through cooperation between Overstrand Municipality, AfriForum, CPF, local security companies, Hermanus Police and the Westcliff Neighbourhood Watch.

**Should members of the public encounter persons other than the stated car monitors, or if there are any complaints or queries relating to the programme, they can contact Law Enforcement on 028 313 8111 or 028 312 2400. These contact numbers are also printed on the back of car watchers' vests.**

## DOGS & ZONED BEACHES

### Working towards an outcome that will suit all

As reported in last month's *Bulletin*, Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee has appointed Nature's Valley Trust to conduct a six-month pilot study aimed at zoning certain beaches so that all and sundry can enjoy Overstrand's coastline safely and responsibly.

In the course of December, a special effort was made to inform pet owners of the potential hazards their companion animals might inadvertently pose to especially shorebirds breeding along our coast.

It is also true that not everyone likes dogs.

Families with toddlers who want to build their sandcastles to their heart's content without Bozo defiling the lot is one example. Another example would be the energetic, i.e. the joggers and fitness fanatics, who like to stretch their limbs along our pristine coastline: Seeing that off-the-lead Bozos all too often join in the fray, their experiences haven't been all that pleasant either.

And then there is the wildlife ....

Nevertheless, the intention is not to keep dogs off our beaches completely. Rather, Overstrand would appreciate your cooperation as keeper of a companion animal to see whether we can create sufficient space so that Bozo, too, can frolic in the surf without inadvertently upsetting anyone or anything.

Now, wouldn't that be nice?

Should you wish to comment on the proposed zoning of Overstrand's beaches, please call Nature's Valley Trust Brittany Arendse, Conservation Ecologist on 044 531 6820 or e-mail [www.naturesvalleytrust.co.za](http://www.naturesvalleytrust.co.za)

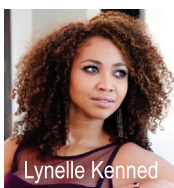
**Note, too, that the next round of public consultations in this regards has been scheduled for**

- 30 January 2020: Kleinmond Library Boardroom, Kleinmond, 09:00-11:00

- 30 January 2020: Fernkloof Hall, Hermanus, 13:00-15:00

- 31 January 2020: Council Chambers, Gansbaai, 09:00-11:00.

**Check the local press and social media for updates.**



Lynelle Kenned

## Medley of popular arias

On Sunday 16 February, soprano **Lynelle Kenned** will take to the stage and perform much loved songs from musicals and operas. She will be accompanied on the piano by well-known **Elna van der Merwe**.

The concert, presented by OVERSTRAND ARTS/KUNSTE (OAK), will take place in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus at 15:30.

Tickets cost R150 (R60 for students) and are available from the Tourism Office in Mitchell Street (tel. 028 312 2629). Contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further enquiries.



Elna van der Merwe