

NOVEMBER 2012

24 Hour Emergency	028 313 8000/8111
Fire Brigade	028 312 2400

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

NATIONAL ATTEMPT TO ERADICATE FRAUD AND CORRUPTION ETHICS WORKSHOP PILOTED IN OVERSTRAND

In a first for Overstrand Municipality almost 150 members of the business community attended a workshop on Thursday 27 September 2012 in Hermanus to discuss ethical aspects regarding the municipality's procurement process.

Facilitated by Mr Kris Dobie from Ethics South Africa, the objective of the workshop was to promote integrity and transparency in all interactions between municipal supply chain management and the business community, in a collective way, to address corruption and fraud.

This workshop, that was initiated by Ethics SA as part of a broader municipal anti-corruption project, is regarded as a pilot project amongst municipalities.

The business chambers of Hermanus and Gansbaai played a major role in publicizing the event.

In his opening address, Municipal Manager Coenie Groenewald expressed the hope that collaboration between the business community and Supply Chain Management can be evolved further in the national attempt to eradicate fraud and corruption.

He said for municipal officials to successfully work towards the Over-

strand vision of being *A Centre of Excellence for the Community*, they need the business community to understand how to do business and what is expected from them in terms of legislation.

Looking at the current ethical and economical situation in the local government sphere of South Africa, we need to stand together to protect our local economies and to do it in an ethical and transparent manner.

Overstrand Municipality received an unqualified audit report for the previous financial year (2010), meaning that our procedures are in line with our policies, with adequate controls as directed by legislation. Nevertheless, we strive to continuously improve our systems, procedures and policies in order to serve our community in the best way we can, Mr Groenewald said.

In closing he said the workshop should not be seen as a once-off event, but rather the beginning of creating a transparent communication platform between local government and the business community. The vision and intent of creating this platform, is to create win-win situations, aiming at greater understanding of each other's needs and challenges.



At the Ethics Workshop on 27 September were from left Henk Kleinloog, Finance Director, Morné Potgieter, Contracts Manager, Ingrid Thesen, Procurement official, Kris Dobie, Ethics South Africa, Alta Pretorius, CEO of Hermanus Business Chamber, Gert Wepener, Manager of Purchases, Coenie Groenewald, Municipal Manager, Fanie Bothma, Gansbaai Business Chamber chairperson, and Mervin Milner, Hermanus Business Chamber chairperson.



Parking wardens ready to work in adverse weather conditions

PARKING MANAGEMENT TURNING A NEW LEAF

The management of the parking management system in the Central Business District (CBD) of Hermanus was taken over by the Overstrand Municipality on 3 September and according to feedback users are experiencing an improvement already.

Particular attention is paid to comprehensive and continued training of the parking wardens, previously known as marshals, to provide a courteous and efficient service. Their uniforms were also upgraded so that

the wardens may be more visible to oncoming motorists.

The new Park, Pay and Display system necessitates all motorists to pay upfront for their parking thus allowing the parking wardens more time to attend to other motorists who wish to park. This is not a new concept as motorists were encouraged to do so since 2010 in several news releases and the message has been strengthened by the introduction of the new descriptive signs.

Should a motorist require additional time to park he may purchase more time from the parking warden without having to move his vehicle. Those wishing to park for longer periods are encouraged to make use of the free parking areas on the outskirts of the CBD. In addition there will be free parking during the out of season periods close by in Marine Drive and at Gearings Point. Parking on Sundays and religious holidays will remain free.

Tariffs and hours remained un-

changed except on Fridays after 15:00 when motorists may park for free.

The Municipality's main objective was to facilitate parking and maintain an effective service that will also stimulate trade and tourism in the area. With everybody's co-operation this can be achieved soon, says Mr Paul Pfister, project manager. Enquiries can be directed to telephone

028 313 8919 during office hours.

CRITERIA FOR ALIENATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING RELAXED

Approval was given by the Overstrand Municipal Council for the relaxation of the criteria for the alienation of certain erven in Mount Pleasant earmarked for affordable housing, also referred to as GAP housing.

This segment of the housing market is characterized by households where at least one member has permanent employment or has established a viable semi-formal or formal business, is financially upwardly mobile, but has not accumulated sufficient savings or assets as deposits to reduce loan repayments on a housing product.

Amongst the criteria previously set were that applicants must reside in the Overstrand area, be striving towards being first time home owners and earn a monthly household income of between R3 500 and R15 000. After three rounds of inviting and evaluating applicants, only four of the 22 properties available could be transferred and it is clear that the criteria is too stringent and that the market being targeted from the project is not able to afford the purchase price and do not qualify for home loans.

In view of that the criteria was relaxed to now include applicants who

have been resident in the Western Cape for at least the past three years (but preference will be given to applicants living in the Overstrand municipal area), that former home owners will be considered if they can prove that they do not currently own any residential properties and that the monthly household income can be up to R30 000.00.

Seventeen properties remain to be sold and the selling prices range between R97,926.00 and R99,750.00.

At the same meeting council approved that a further eight erven in Mount Pleasant and Zwelihle may be sold for afford-

able housing. The erven that were released are 7374, 7375 and 7377 in Angelier Street, Mount Pleasant, 7386 and 7388 in Leeubekkie Street, Mount Pleasant, and 1635, 1636 and 1637 in Salukazana Street in Zwelihle.

A ninth erf in Zwelihle that was identified for alienation, was withdrawn from the list after an inspection by Councillors and after a rezoning process will be fenced and developed as a play park. Another resolution was that suitable land in the vicinity of the Mount Pleasant Small Business Centre be reserved for the purpose of developing a crèche.

CLOSING OF OFFICES DURING HOLIDAYS

With Christmas and New Year's Day falling during mid-week this coming summer holiday, the closing of offices will be different from other years. Municipal offices will be closed on Monday 24 December 2012 and on Monday 31 December 2012, except for essential services. After Christmas and Family Day the offices will be open for business as normal on Thursday 27 December and Friday 28 December. In the Western Cape 2 January is also a public holiday and municipal offices will re-open for the first time in 2013 on Thursday 3 January.

ARBOUR WEEK

Overstrand Municipality actively participated in Arbour Week, from 1 to 7 September. In total sixty trees were planted in different communities throughout the Overstrand in order to celebrate our lasting future, to further the greening of the Overstrand and to highlight the importance of planting trees in respect of global warming. On Thursday 6 September Cllr Dudley Coetzee planted a Yellowwood tree in Stanford with the help of the Busy Bees Nursery School. Joining the occasion were members of the Khoisan Implementing Agency and Stanford Conservation Trust.



BUILDING MATERIALS NEEDED



In a devastating fire in the Overhills Informal Settlement on Friday night, 21 September 2012 seventeen shacks were destroyed affecting 36 people of which 6 were children. After the fire was put out at 03:00 in the morning, immediate assistance was given to the victims in providing them with shelter, food and clothing. A few days later the victims were provided with nails, roof sheeting and poles to rebuild the structures. A call was made to the community for the donation of building materials such as doors and windows, which is not provided for in the relief pack. People who can assist are welcome to contact Overstrand Municipality's housing official in Kleinmond, Mr Joseph Smith, at 028 271 8424 during office hours. A survey of informal settlements in the Overstrand as at 30 June 2012 showed that there was a slight decrease in the number of informal households - from 3449 in December 2011 to 3436 in June 2012. Bi-annual surveys are conducted in order to monitor growth of informal settlements and the statistics are also used for planning purposes by the Municipality and the Provincial Government.

WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED



The water saving measures that have been in force in Greater Hermanus since December 2010, were lifted with immediate effect at the end of August. The De Bos Dam is currently 92 per cent full, the Gateway Well Field is in full production and the connection of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley wellfields to the area's water provisioning scheme is due any time. Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie expressed her gratitude on behalf of the municipality towards the residents for their patience and co-operation over the past two years to face the crisis. The extent to which it went was revealed in a survey undertaken by Hermanus High School learners. Lara van Rooyen, Kaila Engelbrecht, Lina Bronkhorst and Miandi Oberholzer, standing in this order next to her, visited 80 households in Vermont, Onrus and Sandbaai and found that almost all were aware of the water crisis and reduced their consumption. A high percentage of them knew what the level of the dam was and how much they were paying per kilolitre of water. Residents are also in favour of the re-use of purified waste water and desalination. Impressive measures were implemented to recycle water and harvest rain water and to use waterwise methods to keep gardens beautiful.

TYGERBERG CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO PERFORM IN HERMANUS



INON BARNATAN



OVERSTRAND ARTS/KUNSTE (OAK) will host two concerts at the end of the month. On Sunday afternoon, 25 November, INON BARNATAN, an Israeli pianist will give a recital in the Civic Auditorium at 15:30. On Saturday, 1 December, the TYGERBERG CHILDREN'S CHOIR may be heard in a Christmas Concert at 19:00 in the Dutch Reformed Church in Hermanus. Tickets for both concerts are R100 (R50 for students). Phone BELLINI at 028 312 4988 to book. Further enquiries to René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.