

JANUARY 2022

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

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



WISHING YOU HOPE, HEALTH & HAPPINESS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

A message from Executive Mayor, Annelie Rabie

Given the protracted battle to keep the spread of COVID-19 under control, 2021 was, indeed, another trying year. There is still great uncertainty about what the future holds for our livelihoods, hopes and aspirations.

I do pray that those who reside in Overstrand and all our visitors will be allowed a bit of a respite

so that we can regain our equilibrium, relax a little and enjoy the great outdoors. As long as we adhere to COVID-19 protocols and regulations and act responsibly, I am sure everyone can have a great time and enjoy all the fantastic attractions Overstrand has to offer. Let me also take this opportunity to stress the importance of getting vaccinated.

As to what the future holds, one thing I can say with certainty is that the newly elected Council is eager and ready to pursue our vision of creating affordable, crime-free villages and towns where both man and nature can thrive: Hence my vision of an Overstrand for all.

I am pleased to say that we have already accomplished a lot in a very short space of time. We have had engagements with stakeholders regarding the contentious issues of baboon management and Schulphoeck/Dubai as well as individual sessions with all top management of the municipality. All ward committees have been elected and appointed, and early next year, the public participation process will commence with a view to drafting and finalising our Integrated Development Plan for the next five-year cycle.

On that score, I am of the view that communication is a two-way process, and I must urge all our residents to make use of every opportunity to have their say in local government affairs. Only with your inputs will we be able to prioritise your most urgent needs and desires so that we can budget and plan accordingly.

COVID-19 despite, everyone deserves the prospect of a better future, and as Council, we will do our utmost to not let you down. A special welcome is also extended to all our visitors. My wish for them is to enjoy the natural beauty that the Overstrand has to offer and the hospitality of our people and businesses. But they should do it responsibly and adhere to the rules as we would also have our traffic and law enforcement officials out in numbers for the protection of all.

My heart goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one in the course of 2021. May you use this time to reflect on the happy memories you have created together and find solace in the fact that those memories will live forever.

On behalf of Overstrand Municipality's Council and staff, I wish everyone a safe, peaceful and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

OVERSTRAND'S NINTH CONSECUTIVE CLEAN AUDIT

Overstrand Executive Mayor Annalie Rabie voiced her absolute delight with the municipality's ninth consecutive clean audit for the 2020/21 financial year and expressed her sincere appreciation towards the administration for all the hard work and commitment towards reaching this milestone.

Dr. Rabie also encouraged the staff to maintain high standards and, furthermore, to continue the hard work in striving towards achieving another clean audit next year to reach the perfect 10.

The audit outcome of a municipality is supported by the assurance provided by the management of the municipality as well as the role players charged with governance. Good governance is represented through the consistent development and implementation of sound and effective policies and procedures, supported by the necessary internal financial controls exercised by an established team.

The Auditor-General's report expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the Municipality had conducted its affairs and in adhering to best practice in its corporate and financial governance, inclusive of compliance with key legislation. The municipality furthermore had no material findings on pre-determined objectives.

"Based on the history of multiple clean audits, we now also know that the integrity of our business processes has been validated over an extended period of time. We will continue to invest in building skills, and with these capabilities and a stable environment, we are anxious to translate clean audits into enhanced service delivery and a solid base for existing as well as potential investors to broaden opportunities in the Overstrand," the Mayor said.

Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill, fully agrees with the Mayor's opinions and reiterated the importance of ensuring that good audit outcomes translate to the provision of services in all areas within the municipality's jurisdiction, specifically those in the poorer and underserved communities. He also expressed his gratitude towards the political and administrative leadership as well as all staff who, through their effective oversight and appropriate responses, contributed towards the good audit outcome.

REPORT SERVICE DELIVERY FAULTS

Please report problems or raise queries relating to municipal services, such as faulty street lights, immediately.

Don't wait for someone to report a problem, rather be that someone.

Remember to ask for a reference number. Thereafter, quote that number in all correspondence or calls relating to that particular request as it enables call-traceability for both parties.

On following up on some of the overdue repairs and requests to attend to problem, we found that reporting information is often incorrect and/or lacks specifics and, in the case of e-mail correspondence, often does not contain a contact number.

To ensure a quick response, please include the following:

- Details of the problem;
- Physical address;
- Nearest street corner in the case of a faulty street light; and
- Contact name and telephone number

Kindly note that social media or local chat groups are not monitored. Consequently, faults reported on these forums will not be responded to. To report a service delivery fault, send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za or call the relevant administration on the following numbers:

- Hermanus: 028 313 8000 or 028 316 2630
- Kleinmond: 028 271 8404 or 028 271 8484
- Gansbaai: 028 384 8300 or 028 384 8358
- Stanford: 028 341 8500 or 028 341 8376

Any fault which occurs outside normal working hours must be reported to the 24-hour control room on 028 313 8000/8111.

Traffic offenders be warned: AMENDED AARTO NOW IN EFFECT IN OVERSTRAND



OVERSTRAND'S SENIOR TRAFFIC OFFICERS GEARED TO ENFORCE NEW AARTO REGULATIONS. In the front are (from l-r) Liezl Hanekom, Yvonne Smith, Overstrand's Regional Inspector for Training, Development and Projects Zingani Tshefu, Ramlon Hansen and moderator Cecil Nyman from the Traffic College. At the back are Buks Minnie, Louis du Plessis, Phillip de Gruchy and Heini Jakobs.

The amended Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act (AARTO) aims to track habitual offenders and to remove them from our roads. This act not only introduces a points-demerit system but also migrates the prosecution of road traffic offences from the Criminal Procedure Act and the concomitant judicial authority of the courts to an administrative process-driven system orchestrated by the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA).

Serious offences, including drunk driving and reckless or negligent driving, will still be prosecuted criminally but in future, an alleged infringer will be considered guilty until proven innocent.

In preparation for the introduction of the new regulations published under the amended AARTO, Overstrand's seven senior traffic officers were the first to undergo rigorous training in, amongst others, the administrative procedures pertaining to the act as well as the application of the points-demerit system. Shortly thereafter, all other traffic officers in Overstrand completed the same modules and are now geared to enforce the new act as and from 1 January 2022.

Note that in terms of the points-demerit system, a driver's licence and/or professional driving permit and a vehicle's registration can now be suspended or even cancelled.

Thus it is in everyone's best interest not to commit traffic offences and to ensure that their vehicles are maintained in a roadworthy condition, especially those who drive for a living.

OVERSTRAND FIRST TO ESTABLISH NEW GENERATION WARD COMMITTEES

At the Provincial Public Participation Forum hosted in Mossel Bay on 3 December 2021, Overstrand Municipality was announced to be the first municipality in the country to establish the new generation of ward committees following on the 2021 local government elections.

Ward committee elections took place from 15–18 November and were conducted at 21 venues located within the municipality's demarcated 14 wards.

In total, 5,956 registered voters participated with an average turnout of 426 voters per ward. This translates to a turnout of 10% of all registered voters (59,979) as per the IEC's voters' roll.

Overstrand Municipality's administration would like to express its appreciation regarding the election of the new generation of ward committees towards:

- ✓ the Executive Mayor and Councillors for their leadership, involvement and support;
- ✓ the Overstrand community and, in particular, the voters who largely contributed to the success of the elections; and
- ✓ the officials who took care of the logistics and administrative arrangements before and during the election process.



EATERIES TO OPTIMISE FESTIVE SEASON

Overstrand Municipality is allowing restaurants to use sidewalks adjacent to their properties for outdoor dining in an effort to enable eateries to optimise the festive season's trade by accommodating diners safely.

Permission has also been granted to allow for the closure of sections of streets in Hermanus on specific days and during timeslots when heavy pedestrian traffic is experienced. These allowances have been made in the interest of our restaurants and their clients, and approval has been granted for the 2022 Easter and December holidays as well.

Restaurateurs in the adjacent Overstrand towns are welcome to contact the respective local administrations or ward councillors to do the same.

We trust that this will allow restaurants to trade responsibly by allowing outside seating so that more customers can be accommodated without breaking any of the COVID regulations. Overstrand Council wishes restaurateurs a safe and bumper season.

BE BABOON AWARE



In an effort to increase awareness of waste management in baboon-affected areas, Overstrand Municipality has launched a refuse awareness campaign aimed at holidaymakers and visitors.

Feather flags at drop-off points and posters on lamp posts will remind visitors to be baboon aware and to think before they dump.

Dealing responsibly with waste by thinking 'Baboons!' is a simple way to become part of the solution and to protect the health and wellbeing of both the wildlife and your family.

Letting agents and home owners who rent out their properties during the holiday season often do not alert newcomers and visitors to the fact that baboons can be troublesome.

This campaign will remind them that only wheelie-bins, secured with a baboon-proof locking device, may be used in identified problem-animal areas and that no black bags should be left on pavements under any circumstances.



Alfred Phunguphungu (front left), George Hendricks, Quinton Pletschke (back left) and Gerol Braaf at the mini-drop-off in Voëlklip



Rudolph Hansen (yellow T-shirt) and Amos Andries doing their bit to remind visitors and holiday-makers to be **baboon aware**



BLUE FLAG SEASON

Overstrand's 2021/2022 Blue Flag season commenced officially on Wednesday, 1 December 2021 when Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, hoisted the flag on Grotto Beach.

In addition to Grotto Beach, other beaches with Blue Flag status in Overstrand are Hawston, Kleinmond and Castle Beach. At Onrus beach, the Blue Flag was hoisted for the first time.

Blue Flag-status is a well-respected international award signifying that a beach is not only safe and beautiful, but that it is also managed in an environmentally friendly and socially responsible manner.

Accreditation is awarded for one season at a time and municipalities must apply annually to renew the status of their beaches. Furthermore, water samples must be taken at regular intervals and be tested by independent laboratories.

If it is found that conditions at a beach have deteriorated, a beach's Blue Flag-status can be revoked.

Given that several of Overstrand's beaches have managed to retain their Blue Flag-status for many years running, Mayor Rabie expressed a special word of thanks to everyone involved as well as the sponsors who support this drive.

"Flying the Blue Flag signifies that our beaches are open, safe and protected," the Mayor said, "and I would like to thank everyone for making sure that we retained that status."

"Nevertheless, irrespective of the lengths we go to to ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and pleasant holiday experience, it remains up to beachgoers to act responsibly: Only swim where lifeguards are on duty, follow their instructions and behave courteously towards your fellow beachgoers," she cautioned.

In South Africa, Blue Flag beaches are mostly operated during the December/January holiday season only. For the duration of the season, lifeguards will be on duty from 09:00 till 18:00, and certain activities such as dog-walking will be prohibited.

In Overstrand, Blue Flag-status will remain effective from 1 December 2021 till 16 January 2022 for Onrus, Hawston, Kleinmond and Castle Beach and until 31 March 2022 for Grotto.

