

April  
2010

	Telephone	Fax
Hermanus	028 313 8000	028 312 1894
Gansbaai	028 384 8300	028 384 0241
Kleinmond	028 271 8400	028 271 4100
Stanford	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

## NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS CAUSE FOR CONCERN THIRD UNQUALIFIED AUDIT

An unqualified audit report was amongst the annexures to the 2008/9 Annual Report tabled by the Mayor, Cllr Theo Beyleveldt, at the February Council meeting.

This constitutes the third consecutive clean audit Overstrand has received since the last adverse report in 2005/6. The Mayor said that he takes pride in the report which underlines Overstrand's position as one of the best municipalities in the country.

Some work must still be done as far as the implementation of accounting standards are concerned, but the Municipal Manager, Director of Finance and all those who had a hand in achieving this distinction deserve to be lauded, Cllr Beyleveldt said.

He voiced his concern regarding the high audit costs, which this year amounted to more than R3 million.

This came about after Overstrand Municipality's Annual Report for 2008/9 was tabled in January sans the reports of the Auditor-General, the Audit Committee and the Municipal Manager as well as the Mayor's preamble since a definite answer from the Accountant-General on compliance issues with regard to the application of new standards was still pending.

Several meetings with the Auditor-General could not succeed in resolving the differences of opinion. Consequently, a meeting with the Accountant-General was held on 26 January 2010 in an attempt to gain clarity. His opinion was, however, not voiced in time for the tabling of the Annual Report.

In his report, the Auditor-General pointed to considerable losses with regard to electricity and water and the

lack of a formal process to assess risks. He also cautioned that the municipality will be up against a huge challenge as far as converting to the new system of standards (GRAP) is concerned.

The Municipal Manager, Mr Werner Zybrands, in turn, pointed out that the high costs incurred to meet certain GRAP standards did absolutely nothing to improve service delivery. For example, it took 82 computations at a cost of R17 000 to determine the value of the water in the

municipality's pipelines. According to him, the highlights during the reporting year amounted to the municipality succeeding in collecting 97 percent of its budgeted revenue, spending 94 percent of its capital budget and ending up with an operating surplus of R23 million.

The Audit Committee's findings were that the financial position of the municipality is sound and that the management of municipal operations is executed effectively based on a performance-driven system.

### LIBRARY'S FRIENDS WORKING HARD



## IMPLICATION OF COURT VERDICT FOR CREDIT CONTROL MEASURES

The Constitutional Court's recent verdict that consumers should be given at least 14 days' notice before their services can be terminated due to non-payment has a nasty sting to its tail which means that it is not worthwhile to contrive deferred payments in this way.

The some 14 or more days' grace goes hand in hand with additional expenses for the consumer in the form of the costs of the warning letter and increased deposits.

From the court verdict, it is also clear that the purpose of the 14-day notice period is to allow the consumer in arrears the opportunity to make representation or to enter into a settlement agreement before services are terminated.

Overstrand Municipality does, in fact, offer such opportunities, and clients having difficulties with payments are encouraged to make use of these opportu-

nities as soon as possible and not to wait for the compulsory notice period to make arrangements.

Unnecessary costs that can be prevented in this way include:

- An amount of R275,00 for the warning letter and collection costs; and
- Increased deposits equal to two times the highest monthly consumptions with a minimum deposit of:
  - Water: R 900.00, and
  - Electricity: R2 380.00

Unfortunately, some consumers in Overstrand have fallen into the habit of settling their accounts after the due date, full well knowing that the actual termination of services will only happen later. To discourage this habit, the debt collection process will, in future, commence immediately

following on the payment date.

Those who make use of Easy Pay, Pay@, SAPO or Internet payments must ensure that the money is in the municipality's bank account on the 20th. Payment through a third party ought to be made not later than approximately three working days before the 20th.

Note that accounts are payable on the 20th of each month and not the 25th or the end of the month. If your salary is paid after the 20th, you should attempt to get ahead with the settlement of your account. For your convenience, a debit order can be filled out which will ensure that your account is settled on time.

You must, however, ensure that there are sufficient funds in your bank account. If a cheque and/or debit order is dishonoured by the bank, the services will be terminated immediately without further notice.

The Hermanus Library with its circulation of more than 270 000 items per annum is one of the leading libraries in the Western Cape, but had it not been for the Friends of the Library, it would have been an uphill battle. This group of volunteers not only markets the library but, by staging coffee mornings, cultural activities and lucky draws, collected more than R45 000 in the course of 2009 and bought books to the value of R27 000. Membership fees amount to a mere R10,00 per annum, and the best place to contact the friends would be at a coffee morning on a Friday.

### SAVE INTEREST ON DEBT

As an incentive measure for debtors to settle their arrears before 31 May this year, Council has approved in principle that interest on such amounts can be written off. This will be a once-off concession only and only applies to debt which has been incurred up and until 31 December 2009.

# TENDER AWARDED FOR SPEED MEASURING

Speedsters, be warned! Overstrand Municipality is ready for you after the tender for traffic speed measuring, number plate recognition and administrative support for fine collection was awarded at the end of February to Total Client Services Ltd, or better known as TCS, for a period of two years.

TCS has been in operation for 29 years providing technology, application software and specialised services to local and provincial government at 142 installed sites. TCS is known for its state-of-the-art infrastructure, consisting of camera law enforcement equipment, computer equipment and software to provide an environment that is geared for maximum finalisation of offences and awareness of road safety.

The back-office administration is performed on the premises of the Traffic Department under supervision of TCS. Traffic Department management will oversee the process, and monthly reports will be provided to the municipality. Back-office operations are vital for law enforcement to ensure that cases are processed and executed effectively.

Serving of summonses will be a joint responsibility of the Traffic Department and TCS. Serving agents of TCS are placed all over the country and, wherever possible, serve summonses personally.

Summonses will also be served by means of roadblocks and number plate recognition systems.

Warrants of arrest will be served in

similar ways.

A website will be available for the public to register and get access to their outstanding fines. They can also visit the Traffic Department's offices to verify whether all fines have been paid. When a new fine is processed, a registered client will receive an SMS to inform him/her about the development. Members of the public will also be able to view photo images regarding camera-detected offences.

The seriousness with which speeding offences are viewed was demonstrated recently when the Hermanus Magistrate's Court fined a man R6000,00 for driving at 128km/h in a 60km/h zone.

Motorists must also take note that the Overstrand Traffic Department received

authorisation from the Directorate of Public Prosecution to make use of unmarked vehicles, also known as ghost vehicles, for surveillance and traffic law enforcement with regard to moving violations as well as municipal bylaws. Amongst the offences that will be acted against are the use of cell phones while driving, passing of vehicles against barrier lines and the unauthorised transport of paying passengers. These vehicles will always be manned by officers in full uniform.

*\* It was also reported that the arsonist who started the shack fire in Kleinmond on 7 January 2010 was found guilty by the Caledon Magistrate's Court and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for five years.*

## BANTAMSKLIP LEAST PREFERRED OPTION

Bantamsklip is the least preferred option for Eskom's next proposed nuclear power station and was, in fact, removed from further consideration in the current application for authorisation.

In the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) released in February 2010, the environmental consultants Arcus GIBB (Pty) Ltd revealed that the development of a nuclear power station at Bantamsklip will be the least cost effective when compared with the other two sites, Thyspunt (Eastern Cape) and Duynefontein, close to Koeberg.

The study found that there are no fatal flaws at any of the proposed sites which would exclude them from the development of a nuclear power station in time, provided that appropriate mitigation is implemented.

The Bantamsklip site, however, was found to be too costly because its location would require longer and larger transmission lines and upgrades to the existing road and bridge to enable the transporta-

tion of extra heavy loads. The Bantamsklip alternative was estimated to be R8 billion less cost effective than either of the other two sites.

Thyspunt was identified as the preferred site and recommended for authorisation by the two regulatory authorities, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs and the National Nuclear Regulator.

Mayor Theo Beyleveldt welcomed the outcome of the environmental impact assessment in view of his call on residents to make use of this process to raise their concerns about the possible siting of a nuclear power station at Bantamsklip.

The draft EIR has been distributed for comment to all registered interested and affected parties for a period of 66 days. A number of public interactions will be held during this period. All comments will be considered and responded to before the final EIR will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs for a decision.

## HERITAGE SURVEY ADOPTED

The Overstrand Heritage Survey, which was conducted by Messrs Nicolas Baumann and Associates, was adopted by Council at the end of February and will now be lodged with Heritage Western Cape in order to have the municipality declared competent to deal with its own heritage matters.

The survey identified buildings older than 60 years; compiled a general historical background, including an analysis of

urban morphology; mapped, photographed and assessed structures in terms of heritage; captured data, descriptions and gradings; mapped areas of potential heritage and reviewed the zoning scheme in affected areas.

Also included in the survey are the sites of shipwrecks and burial grounds as well as development guidelines. The survey is available on the Overstrand website.

## LOCAL SON TO PERFORM



Tobias Kotzé from Hermanus, the most promising young cellist in SA and currently a second-year BMus student at Stellenbosch majoring in cello, will be OAK's next artist at a concert held in the Auditorium on Sunday, 11 April 2010 at 15:30. Tobias will be accom-



panied on the piano by Phillipus Hugo and will perform classical, romantic and modern works from the entire Baroque spectrum. Tobias has had tuition in Salzburg and partook in master classes in London and Zurich. Bookings can be made through BELLINI on tel 028 312 4988. Any other enquiries can be directed to René du Plooy, OAK's Secretary, on 082 940 4238.

**NATIONAL FRAUD  
HOTLINE**

**0800 701 701**

## COMMUNITY POLICE FORUM



### CRIME PREVENTION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

A security expert recently warned that older people are increasingly becoming soft targets for criminals. Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, not only that of our law enforcers. By applying the following tips, senior citizens can protect themselves against crime. Also bring these tips to your neighbour's attention and fight crime on every front.

#### At home:

- Do not open the door for a stranger. Keep all doors leading to the outside locked and fit them with peepholes.
- Alter the pattern of your daily movements. Don't go walking or shopping at the same time every day.
- Don't leave notes on your door.
- Leave the lights on when you go somewhere at night.
- Inform your neighbour if you are going to be away from home for a lengthy period.
- Cancel your newspaper delivery in good time and arrange with someone to empty the mail box during your absence or when going on holiday.
- Report suspects in your vicinity. Keep the number of the local police office or that of a security firm on hand.
- Ask for identity documents should a stranger knock on the door.
- Don't allow strangers to use your telephone. Rather make the call in person if necessary. Do not let strangers set foot inside your home.
- Don't leave the keys to your home under the mat at the front door or in the mail box for someone else to collect.
- If you suspect you are being followed or note anything suspicious, call the police.

#### While out on a walk:

- Avoid walking alone in the evenings or at night.
- Don't carry a weapon with you unless it is absolute necessary: You can be robbed of your weapon at the time of an attack and it can be turned on you.
- Move in well-lit areas when dusk sets in.
- Keep your purse out of sight when you walk and don't carry large sums of money on you.

#### While shopping:

- Keep your purse on you and not in the basket or trolley.
- It is better to make use of a card than to carry large sums of money on you.

#### In a vehicle:

- Keep your doors locked.
- If you have car trouble, pull off to the left of the road, open the bonnet and wait inside your car until help arrives.
- Keep your car in gear at stop signs.
- Plan your route.
- Don't leave your purse in the vehicle.
- Lock valuables in the boot.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.

#### At the bank:

- Decline assistance at an ATM.
- Don't hand your credit or debit card to anyone so that he or she can help you.
- If you need assistance, see a bank official.
- Don't make use of ATMs at night unless the site is well lit.

By using your "common sense" as above, you can make your life so much safer. If you have any tips of your own, feel free to call Hennie Westraad of the Police Community Forum in Hermanus on 082 820 4811.

**VERKIES U DIÉ NUUSBRIEF IN 'N ANDER AMPTELIKE TAAL?**  
SMS your account number with E for English to **082 338 1631**

**UNGATHANDA LENCWADI YESAZISO-NDABA IBHALWE NGOLUNYE ULWIMI?** Thumela i-SMS enenombolo ye-akhawunti yakho kunye no X omele isi Xhosa kule nombolo **082 338 1631**