

OVERSTRAND

December
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 Fire Brigade	028 313 8000/8111 028 312 2400	

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

OBLIGATORY WATER SAVING MEASURES IN HERMANUS

EVERY DROP YOU SAVE
IS WORTH TWICE AS MUCH TOMORROW

Good cooperation and support is being received from the public for the obligatory water saving measures that were introduced in November for Greater Hermanus.

These measures are mainly aimed at gardening, where the greatest saving can be achieved, and entail the following:

- Watering of gardens is limited to one hour at night between 18:00 and 06:00 on specified days.
- Households with even street numbers may water on Mondays and Fridays.
- Households with uneven street numbers may water on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Preferably watering should be done with a hand-held hose, but automatic sprinkler systems are also acceptable.
- Exceptions can be allowed for valid reasons, but it must be granted in writing by the office of the Hermanus Area Manager. Cognisance must be taken that the sports grounds of the Hermanus Golf Club, the cricket club and the Hermanus High School are irrigated with recycled water from the sewerage works. Hermanus Primary and the Bowls Club will soon also be connected to this pipeline.

These measures will give weekenders a fair opportunity to water their gardens and allow more flexibility for people who can't be at their homes at a specific time. They do not apply to bona fide nurseries and owners of boreholes registered at the municipality. Enquiries can be directed to the Hermanus area manager's office at 028 313 8090.

Also affected will be the washing of vehicles, which may only be done with a bucket.

When announcing these measures, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said the diminishing levels of the De Bos dam, Hermanus' main water source, have been a cause of concern for quite some time. Unfortunately, despite a good response

to the call to use water sparingly, rainfall over the past couple of months did little to alleviate the situation.

Already, use is being made of water from boreholes but, in view of the heightened demand during the summer holiday season, the municipality deemed it necessary to promulgate water-saving measures for the Hermanus area in accordance with its competencies in terms of the By-law on Water and Sanitation Services, she said.

These measures apply to the administrative area of Hermanus only, in other words to all residential areas from Fisherhaven to Voëlklip, inclusive of Hawston, Vermont, Onrus River, Chantclair, Sandbaai, Hemel-and-Aarde Estate, Mount Pleasant, Zwelihe and Hermanus.

Other administrative areas within Overstrand are not affected by these measures since they still have sufficient water resources.

The Mayor called on all residents in Hermanus to cooperate fully. Should these measures prove to be ineffective, stricter water restrictions will have to be instituted. Council already approved as part of the budget process an additional charge of 20 percent on water tariffs when the dam level drops to 40 percent and another surcharge of 20 percent when it drops to 20 percent.

The municipality will also embark on an information campaign to promote water-wise gardening and the harvesting of rainwater.

Every drop you save today is worth twice as much tomorrow, the Mayor said.

Overstrand Municipality has made significant progress in implementing specific water conservation and demand management interventions over the last number of years. It is following its Water Demand Management Strategic Implementation Plan, and several detailed studies were completed as part of the implementation of the plan.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Peace
to all

For all of us, the upcoming Christmas season is a time of festivity and goodwill. It is as if we all want to use this spell in particular to distance ourselves for a while from selfishness and to share time and enjoyment with those we love.

The Christmas season is the ideal time for all residents and visitors to harness our lifestyles as a means of protest against the decline in basic societal values. We are inspired by the message of the Messiah who brought light to a world filled with darkness. He came to change evil hearts into hearts filled with compassion, pride into consideration, and selfishness into responsibility towards one another.

Christmas time is the ideal opportunity to embody the values that we have tried to re-establish with our Moral Standards Initiative within our community: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justness, caring and good citizenship and to carry it forward into the New Year.

May we all enjoy a peaceful and blessed Christmas time. May we extend this to one another so that our community can experience a Joyous Christmas. Peace to all!

Nicolette Botha-Guthrie
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



BLUE FLAG BEACHES READY AND WAITING

Overstrand retained its three Blue Flag beaches – Grotto, Hawston and Kleinmond – for the 2010/2011 season, and Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie went to Mossel Bay on Thursday 28 October 2010 to receive this award from the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk.

The presentation coincided with the tenth anniversary of the Blue Flag programme in South Africa. Grotto Beach was part of the programme from the outset, although it only enjoyed pilot status during the first year.

"Blue Flag status gives tourists peace of mind as far as factors such as water quality, clean ablution facilities and safety are concerned and definitely contributes to an increase in revenue for the area. The investments we make in Blue Flag beaches are definitely more than worth our while", Mrs Botha-Guthrie said.

According to the Minister, tourism figures for the first seven months of the year (compared to the same period during 2009) show an increase of 18,1% in foreign visitors. The figure is 4,5 million as opposed to 3,8 million for the same period last year.

Overstrand is geared for the huge annual influx of holidaymakers who will be relaxing in our coastal towns. More than 220 000 people are expected during the peak period between

Christmas and New Year and although this will be a welcome economic injection for the area, it will once more put pressure on our services.

A lot of effort went into preparing for the holidays, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said. In all administrative areas, huge numbers of temporary workers have been employed to ensure good service delivery, also as far as law enforcement on our beaches are concerned.

As a holiday destination, Overstrand has no equal as far as experiencing nature and outdoor activities are concerned. Holidaymakers' cooperation will, however, be required in order to ensure that everyone has a good time and that those things that add value to holidaying here are preserved for many years to come.

An appeal is made to everyone to use water and electricity sparingly, to keep traffic safety in mind and to take the necessary measures to curb crime.

Dogs and baboons may cause a nuisance, and visitors should take cognisance of the by-laws restricting these animals' movements. Refuse should be placed in problem-animal resistant bins and baboons should not be fed under any circumstances.

Contact our 24-hour control room for any emergency on 028 313 8111. The toll-free number for the ambulance service is 10177.

CLEANEST TOWN AND OTHER AWARDS

With six awards in recent times and recognition from the United Nations for its work in the area of disaster management, one would be justified in saying that Overstrand is firmly on the road to success.

The biggest feather in our cap is the trophy for the Cleanest Town in the Western Cape which has been awarded to Overstrand for the second year running. The municipality was crowned winner in this competition four times over the past eight years.

The results of last year's national competition with prize money of R1 million for the Cleanest Town are still awaited. This year, Overstrand once more reached the finals in this competition.

A mere two days earlier, on Tuesday 12 October, Overstrand was designated Local Housing Authority by the South African Housing Foundation. According to the certificate, this recognition was accorded for the affordable and environmentally friendly houses of a high quality which are delivered to the community under difficult circumstances. Mention was also made of the fact that local

labour and resources have been harnessed to deliver the project on time and within budget.

A couple of weeks earlier, former mayor, Mr Theo Beylerveldt, received an award during the annual conference of the South African Planning Institute for Overstrand's contemporary and multi-faceted approach to the challenges associated with urban growth, thereby rewarding the municipality's groundbreaking work with the compilation of a growth management strategy.

At an event coinciding with the Planning Conference, the municipality became one of the first two African cities to put its weight behind the United Nations' World Disaster Reduction Campaign. In so doing, Overstrand committed itself to follow a ten-point list of essential steps aimed at offering better resistance against environmental disasters.

In November, the paving of the streets around Market Square received the regional and national award from the Concrete Manufacturers' Association. This award is made every second year.

At the end of October, the Gansbaai Com-



At the Western Cape Cleanest Town Award ceremony were from left Mr. Anton Bredell, MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mrs. Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Executive Mayor of Overstrand, Johan van Taak, principle officer for solid waste management at Overstrand Municipality, Mr. Rudi Ellis, provincial head of department, Cllr Ben Solomon, Overstrand Mayoral Committee Member, and Mr. Hanré Blignaut, Deputy Director: Engineering Planning at Overstrand Municipality.

municipal Sports Centre received an award for sports development from the *Mail & Guardian*

as part of this paper's Investing in the Future campaign.

PARKING SERVICES REVAMPED

More than 72% of the respondents interviewed during a recent survey indicated that they will cooperate with and support an efficient parking system in the Hermanus Central Business District.

It is realised that most towns in our country with a similar infrastructure have a parking service that requires motorists to pay for their parking in the CBD. This system provides everyone with the opportunity to find parking, especially where parking space is limited. In the absence of an efficient parking system, trade and tourism in our CBD would be placed at risk.

In view of this, the parking services delivered in the CBD of Hermanus by Buyambo since August 2007 have been evaluated by Overstrand Municipality recently to ascertain whether our objectives are being met. Shortcomings were identified and are being addressed.

One of the first steps was to request Buyambo to issue the parking marshals with distinguishable blue bibs to avoid confusion with informal attendants and municipal workers so that motorists can be sure who to pay.

Every new system requires time to develop to a stage where it can be described as being efficient or satisfactory. It is with this in mind that the following information is provided to ensure continued cooperation from motorists and to improve the service in Hermanus to a level that is more than just satisfactory.

HOURS AND DEMARCATED AREAS OF OPERATION:

Parking fees are collected by the Marshals between the hours of **08:00 and 17:00 on Mondays to Fridays** and **between 08:00 and 13:00 on Saturdays**. Parking on Sundays

and religious holidays is free. The areas demarcated for paid parking can be seen in the map below. This will be also indicated in the areas with new bilingual **information signs** that will be phased in as the old signs are replaced.

Free parking: Parking bays other than the demarcated areas/streets such as Aberdeen and Hope Streets; sections of Marine Drive, Paterson, Royal and High Streets as well as Church square has been allocated as free parking.

Tariffs: Hermanus still has the lowest parking tariffs of all the areas in the Western Cape where this system is in use. **The tariffs are R1.50 for 30 minutes and R3.00 for an hour's parking on Mondays to Fridays and R4.00 per hour respectively on a Saturday.** An adjustment in the tariffs and hours of operation may well be necessary in future if the system is to reach the efficiency levels required.

Persons wishing to purchase a **parking card** may do so at the Buyambo office situated at Astoria Village, off Main Street. This card enables one to park in any demarcated parking bay during the above-mentioned hours.

Procedures: A Buyambo Parking Marshal will approach your vehicle **when parking in any of the demarcated parking bays** and having ascertained for what length of time you wish to park, he or she will register this information on the machine in his or her possession. You, the motorist, have the opportunity to register the payment transaction on the machine by pressing the paid button, failing which you forfeit the right to query the time recorded on the machine afterwards. When you return to your vehicle should the time allocated have been exceeded, you will be required to pay

the difference.

What happens to the money that is collected? The collections registered as payment are redistributed between the Buyambo marshals, the service provider, the system provider and the municipality.

What happens to those who merely drive off without paying? A small percentage of motorists still choose to use the excuse that they 'could not see the Marshal' or 'they weren't there when I got back' or even 'the Marshal did not have change' when handing him or her a R50 or more for 30 minutes' parking to justify their non-payment. In future, these explanations will not be accepted as it is the motorist's responsibility to comply with the system should he or she wish to park in the CBD during the times of operation.

Should you not **'pay upfront'**, as the information signs indicate, a Buyambo Marshal will register your vehicle as parked and you will be required to pay the amount reflected on the machine on your return. Motorists failing to pay will be dealt with accordingly.

PLEASE NOTE: The 'car guards' and 'car wash' people's service is not related in any way to the Parking Marshals employed by the Buyambo service provider.

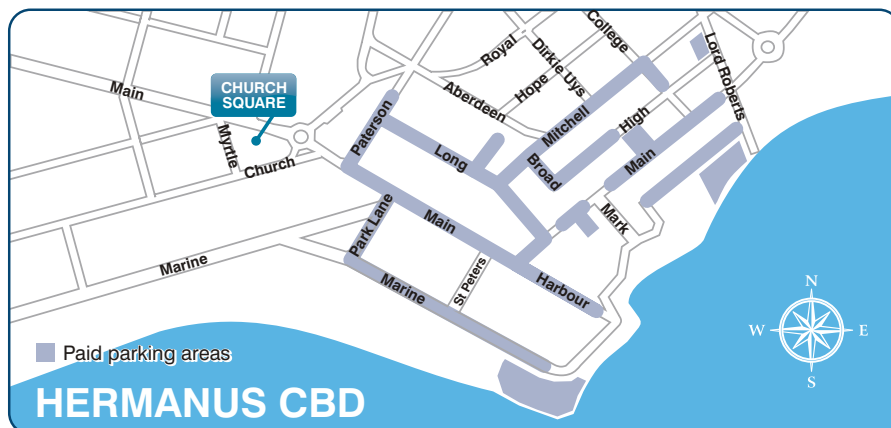
Who are these informal attendants? Up until now, numerous individuals have appeared in the CBD area calling themselves 'parking attendants', 'parking guards', etc. They are in fact termed 'car guards' and 'car washers' and as from 1 December 2010 have a specific identity, distinguishable by their orange bibs, which will also display the phone number of their coordinator. They will operate in the CBD area only.

Car guards: They may accept **voluntary 'tips'** for watching your vehicle. They will appear in the CBD area **between the hours of 17:00 and 08:00 only**. They may not act as car washers as well.

Car wash: The people who undertake to wash your vehicle have their **own tariff** and may wash vehicles **between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00 only** and may appear in the following parking areas only: Barney's, Bientang's Cave, FNB parking, Gearing's Point, Mitchell Street, Rossi's, Savannah Cafe, Spur/Clicks and Woolworths. They may not act as car guards as well.

Motorists utilising the services of the car guards and car washers do so of their own free will and at own risk as these people are not employed by the municipality. The municipal law enforcement division will, however, be monitoring their activities closely. Motorists should not pay or give money to any person other than those mentioned above for parking.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of our residents and visitors to Hermanus for their part in maintaining good relations and a CBD area *par excellence*.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT

Since Overstrand Municipality's tariff structure underwent considerable renewals in the course of this year, many residents are having difficulties with the interpretation of their monthly accounts. With the aid of the accompanying analysis, the local authority aims to alleviate such difficulties. The impact of the various tariffs and concessions on your account will be apparent when you study the tables and draw a comparison with your own situation. Keep in mind that value added tax must still be added to these examples.

PROPERTY RATES 1 JULY 2010 to 30 JUNE 2011		DEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH:		
		Land value of R560 000	Land value of R3 000	Land value of R7 000
		Improvements value of R720 000	Improvements value of R17 000	Improvements value of R43 000
		Property value R1 280 000	Property value R20 000	Property value R50 000
Basic property tax/month = property value x 0.0031 ÷ 12 (R)		330.67	5.17	12.91
Minus	Residential rebate 15 000 x 0.0031 ÷ 12	3.87	3.87	3.87
	Improvement rebate 35 000 x 0.0031	9.03	1.30	9.04
	20% Improvement rebate	63.55	-	-
Plus	HPP levy if applicable	25.42	-	-
TOTAL		279.64	0.00	0.00

PROPERTY RATES 1 JULY 2010 to 30 JUNE 2011		UNDEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH:		
		Land value of R560 000	Land value of R60 000	Land value of R7 000
		No improvement value	No improvement value	No improvement value
		Property value R560 000	Property value R60 000	Property value R7 000
Basic property tax/month = property value x 0.0031 ÷ 12 (R)		144.67	15.50	1.81
Minus	Residential rebate 15 000 x 0.0031 ÷ 12	3.87	3.87	1.81
	Improvement rebate 35 000 x 0.0031	-	-	-
	20% Improvement rebate	-	-	-
Plus	HPP levy if applicable	14.08	-	-
TOTAL		154.88	11.63	0.00

REFUSE 1 JULY 2010 - 30 JUNE 2011

DEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH:	
One collection per week	Two collections per week
R87.50	R123.00

ELECTRICITY

CATEGORY	USAGE	PRICE PER UNIT	COST	BASIC CHARGE	TOTAL
Indigent	300kWh	0.5762 per unit	172.86	142.11	314.97
Single phase up to 60 Amp: Two-part tariff	1300kWh	0.6949 per unit	903.37	142.11	1 045.48
	600kWh	0.6949 per unit	416.94	142.11	559.05
	300kWh	0.6949 per unit	208.47	142.11	350.58
One-part tariff for pre-paid meters only (minimum use of 255kWh/month)	300kWh	1.4089	422.67	-	422.67
	Sub-economic 300kWh	1.2155	364.65	-	364.65

WATER

HOUSEHOLDS: TARIFF STRUCTURE		USE OF 8kl PER MONTH	USE OF 20kl PER MONTH	USE OF 50kl PER MONTH	USE OF 70kl PER MONTH
Infrastructure levy		7.15	7.15	7.15	7.15
Basic fee (RUE)		80.70	80.70	80.70	80.70
Consumption:	0-6kl 0.00	6kl = 0.00	6kl = 0.00	6kl = 0.00	6kl = 0.00
	7-30kl 6.48	2kl = 12.96	14kl = 90.72	24kl = 155.52	24kl = 155.52
	31-60kl 16.2	-	-	20kl = 324.00	30kl = 486.00
	>60kl 21.6	-	-	-	10kl = 216.00
TOTAL		100.81	178.57	567.37	945.37

SEWAGE

CHARGES	DEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH CONSUMPTION OF 50kl			DEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WITH SEPTIC TANK	UNDEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY THAT CAN CONNECT TO SEWERAGE	UNDEVELOPED SINGLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY THAT CAN NOT CONNECT TO SEWERAGE
Basic	79.80	79.80	79.80	54.00	170.00	54.00
Infrastructure	8.99	8.99	8.99	8.99	8.99	8.99
Water usage (70% x R8.55)	299.25	149.63	89.78	-	-	-
Tanker service	-	-	-	R370 or R740 after 15:00 on weekdays	-	-
TOTAL	316.22	238.42	178.57	62.99 (Tanker services excluded)	178.99	62.99



STATEMENT

FOR ALL ACCOUNT QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
DEBTORS VAT REG. NO.

Account Number:	
Statement Date: 28/08/2010	Receipts up to: 27/08/2010
Val. Land: 900000	Val. Buildings: 570500
Prepaid Meter No:	

TAX INVOICE: 2882696

MONTHLY ACCOUNT FOR: AUGUST

Serv. Dep: 30.00-	Erf No:	Handed Over:	Arrangement:
Other Dep:	Suburb: KKM	Amount:	Amount:

METER READINGS / METER LESINGS

SERVICE	METER No.	PREVIOUS READING	PRESENT READING	CONSUMPTION	PERIOD	DAILY AVERAGE
W E	188981 304909	27344 3415	27368 4093	24 678	23/07-05/08 23/07-20/08	1.84 24.21

DETAILS / BESONDERHEDE

DESCRIPTION	CONSUM.	AMOUNT	VAT	AMOUNT INC. VAT		
Balance brought forward:				1457.39		
Journals: CORR MTHDR				162.01-		
ACB/other payments:0000005632				1295.38-		
RATES RES				293.59		
WATER INFRASTRUCTUR			1.00	8.15		
WATER RUE	1	80.70	11.30	92.00		
WATER FREE	2.564			75.76		
WATER 7 - 30 KL	10.257	66.46	9.30	206.43		
WATER 30 - 60 KL	11.178	181.08	25.35	161.99		
ELECT/ELEK BASIC/BASIES	1	142.10	19.89	537.10		
ELECT/ELEK CONSP/VERB	678	471.14	65.96	87.50		
REFUSE MONTH/MAAND	1	76.75	10.75	54.00		
SEWER MONTH/MAAND	1	47.37	6.63	8.99		
SEWERAGE MONTHLY SEEF	1	7.89	1.10	1525.51-		
Payable by Debit Order						
** Total monthly:				.00		
CREDIT	90 DAY +	90 DAYS	60 DAYS	30 DAYS	CURRENT	AMOUNT DUE
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1525.51	1525.51
Payments must be made on or before the due date.						PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE 20/09/2010

AN INSPIRING GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

The inauguration of the 30 members of the seventh junior council of Overstrand on Thursday 21 October 2010 was an inspiring glimpse of the future for Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie.

"I am proud and excited about the calibre of leadership we have here," she said and added that she had always believed that young people are an important and often unrealised source of skills, energy, creativity and vision for communities. "I am glad that we in Overstrand are able to tap into it."

Expanding on her words, the 2010/11 Junior Mayor, Lungisa Qendu, promised that he and his fellow councillors will try their utmost best to make a difference to their communities. He added that being junior councillors meant a lot to them as young people, because these opportunities will open many doors in future for them as young leaders.

Although Mrs Botha-Guthrie officiated in the capacity of mayor at this function, she attended all the previous inaugurations as a guest. She thanked the Enlighten Education Trust under whose management the Junior Council was put firmly on course and Mr Theo de Wet, who has performed the job of junior town council manager diligently over many years.

"A lot of brain power went into finding the right place for the junior councillors in their respective school environments to let them play a meaningful leadership role, a role that is fully integrated with the system of representative councils for learners," she said.

"As Overstrand Municipality, we fully subscribe to the vision that this body first and



At the inauguration of the 2010/11 Overstrand Junior Council were in the front from the left Sivenathi Nyongo, Anita Mfiki, Abenathi Ndinwa, Christiaan Kriegler, Lungisa Qendu (Junior Mayor), Theo de Wet (Junior Council Manager), Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Fanie Krige (Communication Manager) Jonwin Bassolati (Deputy Junior Mayor), Tegan Green (Junior Speaker), Daniëlle Krige, Codene Pretorius and Asipe Mqhwayi. Standing at the back are from the left Dikeleli Fuma, Vuyiswa Ngaphi, Joudene Philander, Eben van der Heide, Lorenzo van Schalkwyk, Unathi Maneli, Ricardo Tobias, Sarel Naudé, Zander Holtzhausen, Masibulele Joni, Te'gan Dean, Bianca Huysamen, Marni van der Westhuizen, Julianne Pheiffer, Andrea Albertyn, Ian Cornelius, Abigail Swartz, Faeeda Moos and Ebermuscka Newham.

foremost has an educational role and that you must learn while you lead. From our side, we will give you all the necessary support to enable you to perform well," Botha-Guthrie said before reminding the young people that they will only benefit as far as they allow themselves to make use of this opportunity.

The Junior Council is composed to be as representative as possible of all Overstrand's geographic areas and communities. Apart from Qendu, who is from Zwelihle, the other executive positions are filled by Jonwin

Bissolati, Deputy Junior Mayor and representative of Hawston and Mount Pleasant, Tegan Green, Junior Speaker and Stanford representative, Christiaan Kriegler, Hermanus representative, Daniëlle Krige, Kleinmond representative, and Abenathi Ndinwa, Gansbaai representative.

The balance of the Junior Council consists of the following representatives:

Hawston Secondary School: Andrea Albertyn, Codene Pretorius, Eben van der Heide, Julianne Pheiffer, Abigail Swartz,

Chrisna Witbooi and Ebermuscka Newham;

Hermanus High School: Lorenzo van Schalkwyk, Bianca Huysamen, Ian Cornelius and Marni van der Westhuizen;

Qhayiya Secondary School: Masibulele Joni, Dikeleli Fuma, Anita Mfiki, Sivenathi Nyongo, Vuyiswa Ngaphi and Unathi Maneli; Gansbaai Academia: Jolene Philander, Ricardo Tobias, Zander Holtzhausen, Sarel Naudé and Asipe Mqhwayi; and

North Cliff House College: Faeeda Moos and Te'gan Dean.



ON OUR STAGE

OAK has much in store for all our supporters and holidaymakers during the next few weeks! On Sunday, 5 December at 15:30 well-known Wilna Snyman can be seen in *Dear Mrs Steyn* in the Auditorium. On Thursday, 16 December, a CHRISTMAS concert will be held. **TRUE VOICES (photo)** will be singing Christmas Carols, interspersed with Barry Smith at the organ. This concert will be held at 19:00 in the NG Church.

On Wednesday, 5 January 2011 at 19:00 Marga van Rooy takes to the stage to bring us Afrikaans comedy in *AI MERAAI* and *BRUIDJIE DIT EN BRUIDJIE DOT*. Saturday, 8 January sees brilliant pianist, GUSTAVO ROMERO, from America back by popular demand playing in the Auditorium at 19:00. Book at BELLINI in Hermanus on 028 312 4988 or contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further enquiries.

Public holidays to have little impact on office hours

With public holidays falling mostly on weekends, municipal offices will hardly be disrupted during the coming holiday period.

Except for these public holidays, municipal offices, including libraries, will only be closing at 13:00 on Friday, 24 December 2010 and Friday, 31 December 2010 to reopen for business at 07:45 on the first workday thereafter. Essential services will be delivered throughout.

FIREWORKS TRANSGRESSORS BE WARNED!

As is the case elsewhere in the country, Overstrand's municipal law enforcers are on standby to, in conjunction with the police, put an end to the illegal use and sale of fireworks.

This message comes from the municipal law enforcement chief, Mr Marius Hendriks, who commented on reports that police stations have been instructed to ensure that the laws and municipal regulations regarding the sale and use of fireworks are enforced.

This follows on concerns voiced by animal lovers regarding the tendency of people to set off fireworks during the holiday season.

The sale and use of explosives are governed by the Explosives Act of 1956, which states that it is illegal to use fireworks:

- within 500 m of any place where explosives are stored or manufactured, a petrol depot or a gas container;
- in any building or public thoroughfare;
- in any other public place or resort, except where earlier written approval has been obtained from the local authority.

No fireworks may be sold by a street vendor or vendor at a flea market, from a boot or trailer or from a spaza shop. Only wholesalers and retailers who have been licensed in

terms of the Explosives Act and who are in possession of a valid licence issued by the chief explosives inspector may sell fireworks.

If a person is found guilty of the possession of fireworks, he can be fined R600 or jailed for 12 months.

"Animals' safety is also a huge cause for concern. The use of fireworks, especially on enclosed properties, has caused serious injuries to animals in the past since they try to run away or hide from the noise," Hendriks said.

Divisional Chief of the Overstrand Fire Brigade in Hermanus, Joe Schoeman, pointed out that the By-law on Community Fire Safety stipulates that no-one may set off fireworks within a municipal area unless he or she has applied in writing to the Fire Chief and furnished proper motivation for the application.

He added that the owner of the premises from where the fireworks are set off will be deemed to be the transgressor until the contrary can be proven.

Fireworks may be set off on New Year's Eve (31 December) from 22:00 until 01:00

at the following venues:

Grotto Beach (East from the Blue Flag area), Hawston Harbour and Beach, Uilenkraalsmond Beach, Stanford's Cove and Kleinmond Beach.

VERKIES U DIÉ NUUSBRIEF IN 'N ANDER AMPTELIKE TAAL?

SMS u rekeningnommer met A vir Afrikaans na 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

