

May  
2009

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| 24 Hour Emergency<br>Fire Brigade | 028 313 8000/8111<br>028 312 2400 |
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# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## OPEN HAND FOR THE POOR COST COVERING PRINCIPLE WILL IMPACT ON TARIFFS

Rates increases of only 4 percent on residential properties and 7 percent on commercial properties and a more open hand to help the poor and pensioners are the highlights of Overstrand Municipality's draft budget for 2009/2010, which was released for public comment on 30 March. Final approval will take place on 27 May 2009.

Provision has been made for a sharp increase of 40 percent in the cost of electricity, and residents can expect to pay much more for services that have been cross-subsidised in the past. Actual cost of services will be covered in the new tariffs.

The total budget for 2009/10 amounts to R642 million – R490 million on the operational side and R152 million for capital projects – which is slightly down on this year's, according to the forecast in the budget documents.

On tabling the budget, Executive Mayor Theo Beyleveldt said it was a difficult budget to compile given the circumstances of the global economic recession and the need to provide residents with value for money. Affordability and the welfare of the community were kept in mind in the effort to provide effective service delivery. Complicating the matter was the fact that the sharp expected

increase in electricity costs, which is going to impact all municipal services, are not known yet.

Despite these factors, he is of the opinion that the budget is well-planned and expressed his satisfaction that the rates increase could be restricted to 4 percent on residential land and improvements and 7 percent on commercial land and improvements, averaging on a 5 percent increase on rates.

In this regard, there is good news for the poor and the elderly. The municipality increased the household income threshold to qualify for rebates of 30 or 40 percent from two times a government social pension to three times and the electricity consumption threshold from 350 units to 400 units. For a 20 percent rebate, the income threshold has been increased to six times a social pension subject to certain conditions. A new category of indigent was created for those in need but not qualifying in terms of their water and electricity consumption to enable them to be considered for subsidised sewage and refuse removal services.

It is hoped with these measures the municipality will be able to help more people who are suffering financially.



### A BOOST FOR GREY POWER

Project Grey Power, Overstrand Municipality's groundbreaking plan to bridge the gap between the skills and knowledge of the area's retirees and the experiential needs of young graduates or students in their final years, received a financial boost from ABSA's Corporate and Business Bank Division. Mr Bonisile Magewu, a relationship executive of ABSA, handed a cheque of R300 000 to the Executive Mayor, Cllr Theo Beyleveldt, on Wednesday 18 March 2009 to be used for the compensation of students taken on for mentorship programmes at the municipality. The occasion was also attended by Mr Hugo Lambrechts, ABSA's manager of Public Sector relationship executives, and Mr Werner Zybrands, Municipal Manager. Mr Magewu said that ABSA is excited about becoming part of the project as it regards the project as a very important initiative to address the skills shortage in the country. "We believe that this brilliant project will bring fruitful outcomes and that a model will be created for other municipalities to follow." More information about the project can be obtained from the project manager, Ms Lucinda Bucchianeri, at tel 028 313 8120, or Mr Jaap van Staden, a Grey Power service provider himself, at 0832592940.

## BAARDSKEERDEBSBOS TAKES PRIDE IN CENTRE

With the official inauguration of its brand-new community centre on Thursday 19 March 2009, the tiny rural Baardskeerdersbos community now has every right to boast about five things that set it apart.

According to Mr Hennie Vermeulen, chairman of the Baardskeerdersbos Residents' Association, the community recently added the community hall as a fifth feather to its cap already sporting the following four:

- The 90-year-old Groenewald twins, Enna and Henna, who have lived here all their lives;
- The Baardskeerdersbos Band, one of the foremost boeremusiek bands in the country;
- The large number of artists who have settled here recently and who have created an art route to attract tourists to the area; and
- The town's historical church whose annual fête attracts visitors from far and wide.

Mr Vermeulen thanked Overstrand Municipality for the excellent service delivery Baardskeerdersbos enjoys and added that the new hall will not only benefit the community but will also take care of a serious problem. Prior to the municipality's acquisition of the terrain, it served as a



Overstrand Mayor, Theo Beyleveldt, with Baardskeerdersbos' new community hall as backdrop

dumping site where once even a rotting cattle carcass was discarded.

"It shows that the municipality not only takes care of the larger centres but also has the interests of smaller communities at heart," he said. In particular, Mr Pieter Scholtz, ward councillor, and Mr Kat Myburgh, area manager, were singled out in his praise.

Overstrand's Mayor Theo Beyleveldt said Council's real concern is with residents' dignity, and community

centres fulfil a crucial role in this regard. These centres not only provide a place where people can interact, they also help to forge stronger neighbourly ties, the Mayor said. Over the past three years, 16 community centres have been built or upgraded.

Mrs Claudette Barnes reemphasised the fact that the hall will be crucial in putting the Baardskeerdersbos Community Development Project into action, particularly in ensuring that children from the environs are school-ready on admission. The rate at which these children failed, even in the early stages, was far too high in the past. However, judging by the confidence with which the kids performed their song-and-movement items during the inauguration, the project seems to be a resounding success.

According to the area manager, Mr Myburgh, it was decided in view of limited funds to manage the project internally and with the cooperation of professionals and contractors, it was possible to peg construction costs to as little as R3500.00/m². In the end, final construction costs amounted to a mere R350 000.00 which is way below the market value of undeveloped properties in Baardskeerdersbos at present.



Photo: Shantel Jaffer, Kaap-Rapport

## HERMANUS CROWNED TOWN OF THE YEAR

Hermanus was crowned winner in the highly contested Kaap-Rapport Town-of-the-Year Competition. On 27 March, during a befittingly lustrous occasion, Calvyn Giffellan, chief executive of Cape Town Routes Unlimited, one of the cosponsors, handed Mayor Theo Beyileveldt the trophy. At the time, Mr Beyileveldt said he is of the opinion that the town can ascribe its success to the fact that no stone is left unturned to ensure that the community is satisfied. The municipality's vision to be a centre of excellence for all it serves is supported by some remarkable performers from within the community. In short, every effort is being made to create opportunities for all, particularly by way of bodies such as Whalecoast Marketing and the Overstrand Local Economic Development Agency (OLEDA), two organisations which jointly receive R5 million in Council support for their efforts every year. In the national and provincial Vuna competition, too, this local authority's service delivery to civil society earned great praise. In sum, on receiving the trophy, the Mayor may have hit it on the button when he stated, "Overstrand is the place to live and grow."

## MORAL STANDARDS INITIATIVE: N° 2 THE VALUE OF RESPECT

In our support of the Moral Standards Initiative (MSI), we have addressed the value of TRUSTWORTHINESS in the April edition of this Bulletin. We are happy to note that awareness of this Initiative appears to be growing in our community. The impact should gain momentum with the implementation of the programme in our schools towards the end of April 2009.

This month, we focus on RESPECT as the second of the six core values of the MSI. The others to follow are Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Good Citizenship. We all know that respect is something that must be earned. To the extent that you show respect, you earn respect. This not only applies to individuals but also to us as a community.

Do visitors or we as residents experience respect as a prevailing value in the culture of our community?

A culture of respect will be reflected in things such as the courteousness and civility with which people are treated in our shops and businesses and by the officials in all branches of public service. It will be apparent in the way our road users behave and are tolerant towards others and obey the rules. It will be reflected in the cleanliness of our roads, sidewalks, parks and other public facilities and how we care for our lovely

natural environment.

How do we measure up to this?

As a community, we must not fail in our endeavours to gain the respect of everyone living or visiting here. To do this, we must live respectfully towards one another and towards our environment.

At local government level we are committed to do our bit to make the value of respect a significant part of our community culture. We appeal to all our residents to join us in this!

But, as in the case of the value of Trustworthiness, it starts with us and in our homes. The value of RESPECT lies inside each of us, and it is a personal responsibility to nurture this value and to earn it by showing it. We need to show courteousness and civility and respect for the rights and autonomy of others and be willing to solve all conflicts peacefully. We need to do to others what we want done to ourselves. Only then can we collectively build a culture of respect and earn it in return.

This is the challenge. Let's go for it!!

For further information, contact Ernst Kretschmer at 082 412 4538 or Ronel Mostert at 082 470 3975. Financial contributions are welcome and can be paid into the account of Hermanus Transformation Association at Ned-bank's Hermanus branch. The account number is 1345027931.

## WHEELS & RUNNERS RACE ON 9 MAY

The third annual Wheels & Runners Race, the only fully-integrated event for wheels and runners in South Africa, will be held in Hermanus on Saturday, 9 May.

The vision of the race is to promote awareness in all communities of the abilities and needs of people with disabilities in wheelchairs and to encourage service providers and these communities to strive towards making facilities and events disabled-friendly and inclusive of all members of the community.

The race is held between 09:00 and 11:45 and the START/END point will be located at the Church parking area in Main Road. Information regarding the route and the CBD traffic arrangements is available on the route maps on the website [www.hermanusrace.co.za](http://www.hermanusrace.co.za)

The public is warmly invited to join the Fun Walk and to use wheelchairs, children's buggies or strollers, trolleys, homemade chariots, floats et cetera. Assistants will be allowed to push wheelchairs or any other "vehicle" with wheels, or how about pushing yourself? Businesses are invited to enter and advertise their business with logos or to build a float that will depict their service or business best.

For further information, please call 028 312 1889 or fax 086 6090 932 or email [info@hermanusrace.co.za](mailto:info@hermanusrace.co.za)

## WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR: N° 2

### BIODIVERSITY THREATENED BY INVASIVE ALIENS

On 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity is commemorated. Did you know that there are as many as 100 million species on Earth, of which only 1.7 million have been identified, and that scientists estimate that between 150 and 200 species of life become extinct every 24 hours?

The term "biodiversity" has become a buzzword in modern times. It is the term given to the variety of life on the planet Earth as well as the patterns that it forms. Usually, we think of it in terms of the variety of plants and animals, but it also includes genetic differences within a species and the variety of ecosystems that can be found.

During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, world leaders agreed upon a strategy for sustainable development. One of the agreements signed during this convention was the Convention of Biological Diversity. This agreement between the world's biggest governments set out commitments on how they can achieve ecological integrity while going about the business of economic development. Over 150 governments signed the document at the Rio conference (including South Africa), and since then more than 187 countries have ratified the agreement. Most importantly, the Convention reminds decision makers that natural resources are not infinite and sets out a

new philosophy for the 21st century – that of sustainable use.

The theme for International Biological Diversity in 2009 is invasive alien species. They are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, as we are all too aware in the Overstrand area where an abundance of invasive alien plant species occur that threaten our precious fynbos ecosystems. If a new species can find a habitat similar to its native habitat where it can feed and reproduce, the possibility of it surviving is great. For it to become invasive, it must have the ability to out-compete the native species for food and habitat, leading to widespread introduction into new environments where it can increase in population and harm ecosystems.

According to the World Resources Institute, the biggest cause of extinction is loss of habitat. Even in the Overstrand region, loss of habitat due to development pressures and factors like invasive alien infestations is having an impact on our biodiversity. Our goals must be to conserve and restore our biodiversity where possible, resulting in community involvement and delivering benefits for the present and future citizens in the Overstrand region. For more information, contact Willemien Swanepoel in the Environmental Management Department on 028 313 8100.



Hawston Beach, a pristine marine ecosystem.

VERKIES U DIÉ NUUSBRIEF IN 'N ANDER AMPTELIKE TAAL?

SMS u rekeningnommer met A vir Afrikaans na  
082 338 1631 of kontak u naaste klientediensbeampie

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

**NATIONAL FRAUD HOTLINE**  
**0800 701 701**