

December  
2009

# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality



Photo: Bernard Jordaan

## MUNICIPALITY GEARED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### KINDLY COOPERATE SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY A BREATH

Overstrand is geared to accommodate the huge influx of holidaymakers headed this way for their annual respite. More than 220 000 people are expected to visit our coastal towns between Christmas and New Year and although we appreciate the welcome economic boost, the accompanying strain on service delivery should also be catered for.

A lot of effort went into preparing the area for the upcoming holidays, Mayor Theo Beyleveldt said. One merely has to witness the silent testimony of the Blue Flags flapping on three of our beaches and the festive Xmas lights along the roads of our major towns, not to mention the huge number of temporary workers employed to enhance service rendering, especially with reference to law enforcement on our beaches.

As far as experiencing nature and outdoor activities are concerned, Overstrand is beyond comparison. Shall we mention the golden beaches, the mountains, the fish, the crayfish – to mention but a few – in passing? What's more: Our shops, boutiques and restaurants have shown a marked improvement over the years. And by now, the wine industry is appreciated as a welcome addition by all.

We will, however, require every holiday maker's cooperation to ensure that this season will be a pleasant experience for all and that those things that add to the value of a holiday in Overstrand remain intact for many seasons to come. For this reason, we call on everyone to use water and electricity sparingly, to be observant of traffic laws and to take the necessary measures to keep crime at bay. (See safety tips elsewhere in this Bulletin.)

Two dearly loved species of the animal kind, dogs and baboons, have a tendency to cause huge problems. With reference to the first, do kindly note that the latest ordinance stipulates that dogs should be kept on leads when entering public terrains. Dog faeces must also be picked up by the owners and the erven where they are kept must be fenced.

Baboons belong in nature and come to the residential areas to forage. For this reason, refuse should be placed in baboon-safe bins and on leaving the area after your holiday, please make use of the refuse drop-off points. Under no circumstances should the baboons be fed. We

will also appreciate it if you could report any baboon sightings by making use of the handy report form on our website [www.overstrand.gov.za](http://www.overstrand.gov.za).

It's not easy to find parking, especially at our popular beaches. Parking fees will again be levied at Grotto and Kleinmond's beach. As in the past, residents can obtain long-term parking permits from the area managers' offices.

As a result of heavy rainfalls earlier this year, the fire risk is extremely high due to the lush vegetation in our area. Uncontrolled fires can cause huge damage to nature and private property. Our fire services are prepared, but prevention remains the best cure. Please do not make fires when strong winds are blowing and please be sure to put out the coals once you have had your braai. Fireworks may not be fired off without the Fire Chief's permission, but specific sites will be indicated where a bit of fun can be had on New Year's Eve.

Contact our 24-hour control room in any emergency on tel 028 313 8111. The toll-free number for the Ambulance Service is 10177.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2009

### LIVE OUT YOUR VALUES

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 corruption, poor services, irresponsibility, selfishness and injustice.

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 MSI values in our community.

- Our **trustworthiness** confirms that what God promised became true. The Messiah *did* come!
- Our **respect** for one another confirms how dearly God paid for our lives. Every human is dear in His eyes.
- **Responsible** conduct shows that I am serious about my calling as a Christian – I *can* make a difference by shedding Light in otherwise bleak circumstances.
- **Justness** is based on the truth that Christ descended on Earth to give everyone an equal opportunity for Life.
- **Caring** is a continuation of His lifestyle. To care heals.
- **Good citizenship** is a sign that we are all working towards building a promising future. Where there is hope, there is life...

Prayer: 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!



Dr Wilhelm Burger

## OVERSTRAND PROJECTS CROWNED

The recently completed Gansbaai Waste Water Treatment Works of the Overstrand Municipality won the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) national award for the most outstanding civil engineering achievement in 2008 in the category for technical excellence. The same project was also the winner of the SAICE Western Cape branch's competition earlier this year and in August received commendation from the Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) in its competition for engineering excellence projects between R10 million and R100 million.

This project is remarkable because of the fact that groundbreaking technology was implemented for the first time world-wide on full scale in a municipal plant and will enable the municipality not only to achieve major cost savings but also to limit its risks with effective environmental benefits. The project team that assisted the Overstrand Municipality consists of SSI Engineers and Environmental

Consultants, AVDM Consulting Engineers (Hermanus), Health and Safety Executive, EnviroAfrica, EnviroDinamik and GeotechnicsAfrica (Hermanus).

Overstrand Municipality's housing contractor, M5 Developments Cape (Pty) Ltd, won the coveted National Award for Housing Project of the Year 2009 from the Southern African Housing Foundation. The category entered was for housing under R80 000 (that is subsidised housing) and the project evaluated was the Stanford Housing Project. Rieger van Rooyen, director of M5 Developments Cape, gave recognition to his staff, the subcontractors, the professional team and Overstrand Municipality for their dedication and hard work in making the project such a huge success. "We are extremely proud of our achievement and this project demonstrates that even small projects can be undertaken with the same enthusiasm and pride as larger projects," he said.

# SOD TURNED FOR KLEINMOND HOUSING

The Kleinmond Low-cost Housing Project for which the sod was turned on Monday 9 November 2009 by the MEC for Housing, Mr Bonginkosi Madikizela, will not go only a long way towards alleviating the shortage of housing for the less privileged, but great care was taken to mitigate the impact of this project on the environment and the community.

It was a joyous occasion attended amongst others by the Western Cape Premier, Ms Helen Zille, Overstrand Mayor Theo Beyleveldt, councillors, officials and representatives of the community, the developer and the CSIR.

A total of 410 housing units will be built and with this, 47,5 percent of the applicants on Kleinmond's housing waiting list will be helped.

Overstrand Municipality once again made use of its scientific rating system to prioritise potential beneficiaries and to ensure that those applicants with the greatest need are being assisted first. This test is based on the socio-economic position of applicants, and the information used is obtained from the municipality's waiting list application form. Applicants have been rated on aspects such as the number of years they live in the municipal area, the number of dependants, age, income, marital status, type of dwelling they are currently residing in and the date of the initial application.

In the case of this project, beneficiaries have been waiting on average 14 years for a house. Their average age is 38, and on average they have two dependants. The average income for these beneficiaries is just under R1 100 per month.

Hopefully, their long wait will be rewarded with high-quality workmanship, a more



Community representatives joined the Western Cape MEC, Mr Bonginkosi Madikizela, for the sod-turning of the Kleinmond Housing Project. Also in the photo are Premier Helen Zille and Mayor Theo Beyleveldt. Premier Helen Zille took the opportunity to give her support to an innovative project that Overstrand Municipality is launching with the help of property law expert, Ms Leslie Downie, regarding second-generation transfers of low-cost housing. She, however, raised her concern about the phenomenon of the "selling of the key": The way in which large numbers of beneficiaries hand over their houses to others that don't qualify or should not benefit at all from the government's efforts to provide houses to the poor. She called for a review of housing policy.

spacious house and other once-off benefits because of the involvement of the CSIR and the Department of Science and Technology.

Principles underpinning the planning concept of the project included

- Establishing a pedestrian-orientated and friendly environment;
- Promoting a system of continuous routes to promote accessibility to social and economic activities;
- Promoting multifunctional open spaces; and
- Implementing cost-effective design to

optimise the use of available land and resources.

After a comprehensive environmental process, three sites for the development were determined, and their respective layouts were informed by scientific studies and comments received from interested and affected parties during the public participation process.

The residential component of this development, which is in accordance with the Department of Housing's criteria for subsidy allocation, will consist of 410 residential

erven with erf sizes ranging between 120m and 163m and a gross density of approximately 52 units per hectare. One parking bay has been allocated per erf. A total of six public open spaces have been provided.

These sites are adjacent or in close proximity to an existing school, where most of the beneficiaries' children are already enrolled.

Urban design, architectural and planning considerations were involved in the planning of the proposed development. Orientation, position and best fit with the existing landform determined the built form of each site. Roads were laid parallel with contours so that the housing reflects the layering of contours, enables views and facilitates gravitational surface drainage. The main objective was to create an area with well-designed spaces where people will be proud to live.

With regard to the traffic impact of the development, sufficient sidewalk space will be provided on the internal roads, and pedestrian facilities on Main Road will be improved to cater for the increased volumes of pedestrians expected. This will include vehicle stopping areas with shelters to allow minibus taxis to stop and pick up passengers safely.

Assessments found no significant impact on heritage resources and pre-colonial archaeological remains. However, inputs regarding view corridors and landscaping were received from the local heritage committee and accommodated as far as possible in the final planning.

The technological contribution of the CSIR to this project is unique. Energy-saving technology and low-maintenance technologies could, in future, make housing more affordable. Thus this pilot project will also contribute to our understanding of future housing projects.



## OFFICIALS VISIT THE NETHERLANDS

Officials of Overstrand Municipality, Breede Valley Municipality and the Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency (CMA) visited the Netherlands at the end of October for a week to participate as guests of the Association of Dutch Municipalities in the LOGO South Exchange Programme.

This programme is an initiative of the International Cooperation Agency of the "Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten" (VNG). Its goal is to strengthen democratic local governments worldwide by facilitating decentralisation and assisting local governments in developing countries and countries in transition.

The current initiative focuses on reinforcing the capacity of local governments in the areas of Integrated Water Resource Management, Sewage and Waste Water Treatment, Engineering, as well as Spatial and Town Planning.

Representatives from the Friesland Regional Water Authority and the Municipality of Sneek in the Netherlands visited Over-

strand and the Breede Valley during May 2009.

The Overstrand delegation consisted of the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Pieter Scholtz, the Director of Infrastructure and Planning, Mr Stephen Muller, the Deputy Director of Water and Transportation Services, Mr Hanré Blignaut, the Manager: Project Management and Development Control, Mr Dennis Hendriks, the Manager: Town and Spatial Planning, Mr Riaan Kuchar, and the Operational Managers of Hangklip-Kleinmond and Gansbaai, Messrs Mike Bartman and Dirk Crafford.

The delegation visited the province of Friesland and the towns of Leeuwarden and Sneek in the northern part of the Netherlands from 24 to 31 October 2009. The programme is being financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs who paid for the flights, accommodation, meals, transport and travel insurance. Overstrand Municipality contributed by paying for the visas as well as a reduced subsistence allowance.

## KLEINMOND HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT ON TRACK AGAIN

Thanks to Overstrand Municipality's mediation, the Kleinmond Harbour Development is back on track but several obstacles still need to be removed before the project can commence, the Municipal Manager, Mr Werner Zybrands, announced.

According to him, the rezoning process has been finalised in the course of the year and the development rights for specific sections in the harbour area are now in place. The next step will be to determine the value of the municipal property, which forms part of the development. Recently, interested valuers were asked to submit cost estimates and an appointment is to follow soon.

One of the most important objectives of the project, namely the empowerment of the previously disadvantaged in the community, was also closely scrutinised. Due to the delays with the project, the original structure that was established for this purpose, namely Kleinmond Community Investment Holdings, could no longer proceed and consultations on the establishment of an inclusive community-based forum with whom the developer (Wharfside Developments (Kleinmond) (Pty) Ltd) can consult had to start anew.

With the aid of an independent facilitator, provided by OLEDA, the establishment of such a forum was made possible. All stakeholders were involved in an inclusive process and agreed on working within acknowledged structures. The forum is comprised of the local

fishing community, the Kleinmond Community Development Trust and the heritage cluster who jointly appointed a 10-member project team. The Municipality undertook to, in future, negotiate with this group only and there will be no further debates with individuals on representation in the structures, Mr Zybrands said.

Issues that still need to be resolved include the following:

- Once the valuations have been finalised, the Municipality and the developer must agree on a purchase price. Thereafter the developer will be required to provide the Municipality with certain guarantees with a view to ensuring the project's sustainability.
- In addition, the required planning needs to be done and approval must be obtained for the development of the harbour below the high tide mark. Currently, the Municipality is liaising with the national and provincial authorities to determine which legal and financial requirements should be met. From the outset, the upgrading of the harbour was the reason for municipal involvement in the project and it is still one of the project's main objectives. This should, however, be executed in a way that is not detrimental to Overstrand's ratepayers.

Although the project is still regarded as viable, the economy's recovery will also be taken into account in the setting of time-frames.

# TIES WITH REGIMENT REINFORCED

On Saturday 7 November 2009, the Regiment Westelike Provincie's ties with Overstrand were reinforced with the unit's participation in the annual Poppy Day commemorative service and the exercising of its freedom of access to the area by way of a march through the streets of Hermanus.

Public interest in this military activity was good. Amongst others, a group of Boy Scouts in uniform with their standard took up station to watch the parade closely. The staff of Romantiques, an antique shop in Dirkie Uys Street, donned berets from their stock to show their goodwill.

According to Mr Trevor Floyd, organiser of the Remembrance Day service, there was an increase in the number of wreaths laid at the Cenotaph above the Old Harbour. Institutions that were involved included the Overstrand Municipality, the Junior Council, Regiment WP, several military formations, veteran organisations, the SA Police Services and local schools.

The band and two companies of soldiers from Regiment Westelike Provincie, followed by twelve Mamba vehicles, partook in the march. Thereafter the vehicles proceeded through Kleinmond and Betty's Bay as part of the events of the day to exercise the right of access to Overstrand Municipality.

This Citizen Force unit, who is celebrating its 75th anniversary, was amongst others deployed in Egypt during the Second World War and did boarder duty during the Bush War. After 1994, the unit was successfully transformed and today serves as a symbol of transformation. Subsequently, some of the unit's members partook in peace operations



The parade in Hermanus on Saturday 7 November 2009



abroad and RWP is soon to depart to render protection services on the northern boarder.

In his commendation at the parade, the Mayor, Theo Beyleveldt, said the citizenry looks up to military personnel who adhere to a high value system characterised by trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justness and caring.

*"We want an environment in which an*

*open society with equal opportunities for all can exist so that we can ensure that only the best men and women take the lead in preparing our armed forces for the protection of our country,"* the Mayor said.

At a function following on the parade, the commander of RWP, Col Stephen Pierce, said the unit intends to hold a similar parade in 2011.

## QUID PRO QUO

Two independent surveys – Munidex and MunicipallQ – recently highlighted Overstrand as one of the top municipalities in the country as far as service delivery as well as productivity is concerned.

Such performance, naturally, requires a counter performance by those on the receiving end. Ratepayers are required to pay their accounts religiously so that the municipality has the financial means to meet its obligations with regard to suppliers, service providers and personnel.

For the next couple of months, the municipal text message service will be employed on a pilot basis to remind residents that payment of their accounts is due. Be sure to register for this service to, in this way, also be kept abreast of other emergency situations. You can either register by talking to a client service officer at your nearest rates hall or by sending your account number and the word SMS as a text message to 082 338 1631.

We realise that economic circumstances are tough and if you are having difficulties, do not hesitate to make timely arrangements. If you fail to do this, the municipality will, in terms of its Credit Control Policy, have no other option but to refer accounts in arrears to its debt collecting agency, Debtpack. This could lead to suspended services, increased deposits and administrative costs which could have been avoided.

You are also reminded that dog licences are now payable.



Mayor Theo Beyleveldt talking to Whale Coast FM

## IMBIZO REACHES THOUSANDS

Overstrand Municipality's participation in the National Imbizo Week on Wednesday 4 November 2009 went off well. In the morning, a live phone-in programme on the community radio station Whale Coast FM reached thousands of listeners and the evening's meeting in the Zwelihle Community Hall was attended by almost 200 residents.

The radio station was inundated with calls and SMSs after the opportunity was advertised in the local media and a text message was sent out by the municipality. The discussion was led by presenter John Mathew, who afterwards remarked that this was an innovative, convenient and non-threatening way to conduct an imbizo. It also allows for immediate interactivity which helps to pinpoint issues.

What amazed the Mayor, Cllr Theo Beyleveldt, is that many listeners phoned in just to praise the municipality for the good

service they are receiving. All issues raised during the show could be addressed and it was a great opportunity for the general public to gain information on the projects and programmes of the municipality.

The hour-long meeting in the Zwelihle Community Hall was used by the Mayor to give feedback on the latest developments regarding housing, electricity, waste management, public toilets, health and roads. In this he was assisted by Municipal Manager, Mr Werner Zybrands. Interpretation services were provided.

Many questions were asked, ranging from issues such as high-mast lighting, security measures at the sewage treatment works, the awarding of tenders and the fire brigade services. When time ran out, opportunity was given to those interested to write down their questions and hand them in for a response later.

## SOCCER TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

Real Attackers from Zwelihle won the inaugural Mayoral Soccer Cup Tournament on Sunday 8 November 2009 in Gansbaai, after beating another Zwelihle team, Shock Waves, with 3 goals against 1 in the final.

Eight teams from the Overstrand area played against each other. In the first round, Young Killers from Gansbaai, Black Birds from Stanford, Try Again from Kleinmond and Marine United from Gansbaai were knocked out. In the semi-finals, Salim United and Sweepers were knocked out, and in the game for the third place, Sweepers won.

The Mayor, Cllr Theo Beyleveldt, and the councillors that attended the event were very

impressed with the standard of soccer in the municipal area. All the participating teams tried their best and used the big day to showcase their football talent. The purpose of the day was also to raise excitement for the World Cup Tournament next year in South Africa.

Soccer fever ran high on the day, fuelled by the procession of teams led by a group of Kaapse Klopse from Blompark, entertainment provided by disco dancers from Stanford and the involvement of the Coca Cola stage truck at the event. Local community radio station Whale Coast FM was also there to pump up the excitement and to keep those at home informed.



Mayoral Cup winners: Real Attackers

# NEW PHASE FOR JUNIOR TOWN COUNCIL

The Overstrand Junior Town Council moved into a new phase with the inauguration of twenty-eight junior councillors on 22 October 2009. With the election of these members, a stronger linkage with the Learner Representative Councils at the different high schools was established. Provision was also made to accommodate the new high school in Gansbaai when it opens next year.

In an effort to be as representative as possible of the Overstrand area and communities, the junior councillors come from Hawston Secondary School, Hermanus High School, Qayiya Secondary School in Zwellihle and Northcliff House College, as well as the grade 8 and 9 classes from Die Bron and Kleinmond Primary Schools.

The Junior Mayor for the new term is Stacey Afrikaner from Hawston Secondary, with Michael-John Heyns (Hermanus High) and Sintle Nhlapo (Qhayiya Secondary) as Deputy Mayors. The rest of the executive committee consists of Lee-Roy Julies, as the Mount Pleasant representative, Brin Hoffman (Kleinmond) and Stephanie Dreyer (Stanford).

Stacey expressed the hope that the new Junior Council will fulfil all expectations and quoted from an inspirational piece of prose that dreams can come true if one takes the time to think what one wants from life. Michael-John won the audience over by starting his speech in isiXhosa and including Afrikaans as well. Sintle promised that he and his fellow councillors will try their utmost to make a difference in their communities through service delivery.

Junior Council Manager Theo de Wet distinguished between the pleasurable life (parties and designer clothes), the good life (attending school and having hobbies) and the meaningful life, which should all form part of a balanced life. He said the service delivery goals of the Junior Council are a good way to give meaning to one's life.

He quoted Mother Theresa of Calcutta who once said: I always begin my prayer in silence, for it is in the silence of the heart that God speaks. God is a friend of silence. We need to listen to God because it is not what

we say, but what He says to us and through us that matters.

Executive Mayor Theo Beyleveldt congratulated the newly inaugurated members of the Junior Council and referred to the values that were highlighted during the past year in the Moral Standards Initiative campaign.

Four members of the first group of junior councillors that was inaugurated five years ago attended the ceremony and related what it meant to them.

Apart from the executive members, the rest of the group consists of Codene Pretorius, Jonwin Bissolati and Hilary Jacobs, all from Hawston Secondary, Noël Basson, Grace Martins, Jacobi Naude, Daniëlle Krige, Ana Saul, Alice Schoeman (volunteered to continue serving during her matric year) and Christine Rust (volunteered to continue serving during her matric year), all from Hermanus High, Xola Maliwa, Zintle Yokwe, Lungisa Qendu and Sinethemba Magqirha, all from Qayiya Secondary, Jacques Scholtz and Tarryn-Lee Winkworth (Northcliff House College), Jadine Dreyer and Bevan Damon, both from Die Bron Primary, and Reuben Coert, Natalie Felix, Tiyang Mohlafuno and Happy Mnukwana, all from Kleinmond Primary.



Incoming Junior Mayor Stacey Afrikaner receives her scarf from Overstrand Mayor, Theo Beyleveldt.



The junior councillors for 2009-10 with Mayor Theo Beyleveldt and Junior Council Manager, Theo de Wet.

## POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM



### TEN TIPS TO CURB CRIME

During the festive season, we should not let down our guard. Here are a couple of crime-prevention tips which we all, strictly speaking, should adhere to:

1. Ensure that you keep your doors locked at all times and be sure to close the windows when you leave your house.
2. Pay attention to your surrounds; if you make use of an ATM, don't accept or ask for any help from a bystander.
3. Keep in mind that the permitted blood alcohol level is 0,05%. Do not drive when you have consumed alcohol: More than one beer, more than one tot of spirits, and you can already be in trouble.
4. Do not give lifts to hitchhikers.
5. Keep emergency numbers on hand.
6. Do not open your doors to strangers.

7. Do not leave your valuables in sight in your vehicle (even if the doors are locked). Lock them away in the boot of your car.
8. When you park your vehicle, always be sure to lock it.
9. Report the movements of suspicious people to the police.
10. Remember, using drugs, being in possession of abalone and catching fish or crayfish without a licence is an offence. The police maintain a policy of "no mercy" for these transgressions.

We wish you a crime-free Christmas season. A big thank you, too, to our protection services who keep our area safe.

Contact Hennie Westraad of the Hermanus Police Community Forum on 082 820 4811 if you want to share any tips or require additional information.

## OAK WORKED HARD

Overstrand Arts/Kunste (OAK) presented 11 concerts during 2009. These included international and national artists and ranged from cellists, violinists, pianists, flautists, opera and lieder singers, as well as Hermanus' own wunderkind, Stefan du Toit. Some artists even offered master classes to interested students! Fittingly, the year was concluded with a Christmas Concert by members of the well-known Black Tie Ensemble followed by Twaalfde Nag directed by Marga van Rooy. **OAK wishes everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas!** For enquiries or suggestions, please contact René du Plooy on 028 312 1895 or mobile 082 940 4238 or email her at renedup@telkomsa.net



## OFFICE CLOSURES IN DECEMBER

Municipal offices will close on Thursday 24 December 2009 and Thursday 31 December 2009 at 13:00 for the Christmas and New Year weekends and will only reopen the following Monday.

**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

**NATIONAL FRAUD HOTLINE 0800 701 701**