

March
2009

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Hermanus	028 313 8000	028 313 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

INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO REBUILD OUR MORAL STANDARDS, VALUES

An initiative to revitalise and strengthen the moral character of our communities has been launched with strong and active support from the Mayor's Office by a grass-roots partnership involving church, business and educational leaders, under the facilitation of the Hermanus Transformation Association.

Concerned citizens are invited to join the Moral Standards Initiative to reverse the serious decline of moral standards and values in our society and to help rebuild the moral fibre of our society at all levels.

The primary objective of the initiative will be to re-establish the following six core values and standards in the hearts and minds of the people:

- Trustworthiness, ie being honest, adhering to a principled lifestyle, keeping promises and being loyal;
- Respect by honouring others, being courteous and listening to others;
- Responsibility by being accountable, exercising self-control, setting goals and checking attitudes;
- Fairness by playing by the rules, being impartial, getting the facts and giving a fair hearing;
- Caring by being thankful, kind, empathetic and forgiving and giving generously; and
- Good Citizenship in terms of paying what you owe, doing your duty, obeying rules and respecting laws.

A holistic and integrated approach will be followed to create awareness of and personal alignment with these values at schools and churches, in the business and public sectors, and ultimately amongst families. In addition to publicity in the local media, street marches, essay competitions, public platform support from leaders and the displaying of posters and banners will be used.

Businesses, churches and other organisations who volunteer to become partners will be assisted, where possible, to plan organisation-specific interventions to build these standards and values internally and to promote them externally.

This programme was to be launched formally at the end of February with the intention of electing a provisional core steering committee to manage the initial phase, but this will be expanded gradually to accommodate representatives from participating community institutions.

Initially, the campaign will focus on the Greater Hermanus area, but depending on future resources and active involvement of interested people, it is hoped that it can be extended to the other areas of the municipality soon.

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 Nedbank's Hermanus branch. The account number is 1345027931.



Women who make a difference: Glenda Fürst, Marianne Beyleveldt, Frieda Koba and Rina Louw all play a key role in the new partnership concept to take care of foster children in need in the Overstrand community

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN CARING FOR BABIES IN NEED

Pioneering work in caring for children who, in terms of the Children's Act, have been declared as in need of care is currently being undertaken in Hermanus. On Friday 6 February 2009 the first home in what is to become a complex of foster homes was inaugurated and if the project goes according to plan, it will be the first foster-home project in the country to be established in terms of the new Children's Act.

Partnership between welfare organisations (child welfare), the municipality and the community is the cornerstone on which this new concept has been based. The government's involvement is limited to allowances for foster care and place of safety as in the case of legal placements.

In this case, Hermanus' Child Welfare Association is the parent body charged with legal responsibility in terms of caring for foster children. Overstrand Municipality provided the land and services for the project, and the United Church as supervisory body will, on behalf of the community, ensure that care is up to standard.

Ikaya le iZibusiso, which translated from the Zulu means House of Blessing, will focus on orphans, neglected babies and children with special needs between the ages of 0 and three. Here they will be cared for by Frieda Koba, the matron, and receive the necessary medical attention until such time as they are strong and healthy enough to be placed in long-term foster care or to be put up for permanent adoption.

According to Rina Louw, social worker, the house as it stands embodies cooperation of the highest order.

Special people from all over declared themselves willing to become involved.

The people she singled out included Marianné Beyleveldt, wife of the mayor, Glenda Fürst, whose zeal led to the involvement of the United Church as supervising partner, Peter and Genevieve Stark, and Ferdi Kisten, who erected the building within 21 days and covered most of the costs from his own pocket (with the proceeds of a car he won and immediately put up for sale again).

Some of the other sponsors included Stephen van der Merwe, who drew up the plans, Coastal Trusses, Walker Bay Cement Works, Jean who removed the rubble, CCS, Windor Solutions, Kennedy Brothers, Mr Spike, Loui Plumbers, Island Electrical and ADT.

Municipal officials, the likes of Bobbie von Doring, Dennis Hendriks and De Wet Nel earned a special word of thanks, too, for everything they did to make this project possible.

The United Church's role will be to take care of the maintenance and operation of the home on a day-to-day basis, to provide food (by establishing a vegetable garden, amongst others) and to support the matron, Glenda said.

At the time of the opening, two babies occupied the home which can accommodate up to six children.

Two reverends were called upon to assist with the inauguration of Ikaya le iZibusiso: Jackson Tubu, since the thirties a religious leader in Zwelihle, and Rev James Gray, pastor at the United Church.

UNQUALIFIED AUDIT REPORT RECEIVED

Overstrand Municipality managed to achieve an unqualified audit report for a second consecutive year.

This was announced by Executive Mayor Theo Beyleveldt on Wednesday 28 January 2009 at a Special Council Meeting where the municipality's annual report for the year 2007/2008 was tabled.

Beyleveldt also laid emphasis on the following aspects in the annual report:

- The restructuring of the Municipal Manager's office and the appointment of more skilled personnel in certain departments, for example the Finance Department;
- The unanimous adoption of the 2007 / 2008 budget, which brought about the highest investment in infrastructure in the municipality's history;
- The expansion of the municipality's waste management and cleansing services to such an extent that numerous compliments for the cleanliness of our towns were received and inroads could be made in the management of the baboon problem in the affected areas;
- The initiatives to enhance local labour promotion and the creation of jobs, for example cleaning services in the residential areas;
- The introduction of a 24-hour emergency and SMS service, which made it possible to communicate more effectively after hours and in emergencies; and

- The exceptional performance in the Vuna Awards whereby Overstrand was crowned national winner in the category "Financial Viability" and overall runner-up in the province with a further special award for being the most innovative in the Western Cape. At the time, the Mayor also extended his congratulations to Laingsburg for winning the national award as the best category B municipality.

The Mayor said Overstrand's biggest concern is the state of the municipality's housing projects in Kleinmond, Mt Pleasant, Zwelihle and Stanford. The projects are being delayed by the High Court application regarding an appeal lodged against an allocated tender. (However, judgement was passed on 11 February two weeks after this speech.)

Beyleveldt said the community should be proud of what has been achieved. It took a great effort from all. With regard to the outcome of the audit, he cautioned that there are still some of the new audit standards to be implemented but gave the assurance that planning is on track to achieve set goals.

The Annual Report is available for perusal at the offices of area managers and in public libraries or on the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za

Representations regarding the Annual Report must be submitted to the Municipal Manager by no later than 6 March 2009.

DIFFERENT PRE-PAID TARRIFS THERE FOR A REASON

There is some confusion regarding the different electricity tariffs applicable to municipal consumers with pre-paid meters.

The tariffs, approved by Council and NERSA, are as follows:

- **One-part tariff:** (with a minimum average of 500kWh per month, over a six-month period) = R 0-7807 per unit
- **Two-part tariff:** Prepaid up to 60 Amp = R 0-439 per unit
Plus a monthly basic charge = R 135-00 (incl.)

The reason for this tariff structure is that when a consumer uses less than 500kWh per month, the revenue generated is not sufficient to maintain the electrical distribution network in our area. Therefore, a minimum levy of R135 per month is charged with the concession of a lower unit cost.

This can be to the advantage of a consumer, as in the case of a person whose average consumption is approximately 450 units per month and, therefore, has to convert to the two-part tariff. The comparison below indicates the effect on the account of such a person:

- **One-part tariff:** 450 units x R0-7807c = R 351-32
- **Two-part tariff:** 450 units x R0-439c = R 197-55
Basic Levy = R 135-00
Total = R 332-55

From the above comparison, it can be seen the person in question actually saved R18-77 per month.



Photo: Giorgio Lombardi

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR: N° 2

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, YET...THERE'S NO DROP TO SPARE

In February, we celebrated World Wetlands Day. We learnt that whether "upstream or downstream", water connects us all. Building on that theme, the United Nation Conference on Environment and Development decided in 1992 to earmark 22 March as World Water Day with the intention of drawing attention to the importance of freshwater and to advocate the sustainable use thereof.

As has been the case with World Wetlands Day, this year's theme focuses on connectivity: "Shared waters, shared opportunities". In particular, the emphasis will be on transboundary waters where cooperation in managing these resources can help build mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries whilst simultaneously promoting peace, security and sustainable economic growth.

However, since water is of such vital importance to all South Africans, it has been decided to extend the celebration of World Water Day to cover an entire week, and the theme will be "Water is our Future". In the course of 17-23 March, an appeal will be made to all South Africans to maintain and improve the quality and quantity of available freshwater resources in such a way that future generations will not have to go without.

Undoubtedly, we are all too aware of the health threat posed by polluted freshwater resources; the consequences of which are all too evident in neighbouring countries and even our northern provinces.

Thus, in the interest of everyone, treat our future - water - with the reverence it deserves. Remember: Every drop counts!

FIRE HELI PROVES ITS WORTH

Early in February, a fire erupted in the Maanskynekop Nature Reserve near Hermanus and, as a result of difficult terrain and strong winds, raged for days on end. Once again, having a helicopter proved useful since fire fighters could be dropped off high up in the mountain to keep the fire under control. Careless handling of emergency flares played a huge role in this fire. If a flare has reached its expiry date, it should be handed in at an authorized institution such as the fire brigade, the police services or the harbour authority. Special containers have also been placed at solid-waste transfer stations for the purpose of disposing with obsolete flares.

PLAN AGAINST FRAUD

Council adopted a Fraud Prevention Plan, which was compiled as result of an anti-corruption initiative funded by the Department of Provincial and Local Government.

The plan is based on the core ethical values driving the business of Overstrand; the development of its systems, policies and procedures; interactions with rate-payers, the public and other stakeholders and the decision making by individual managers. In addition to promoting ethical conduct, the plan will also assist in preventing, detecting,

investigating and sanctioning fraud and corruption.

The policy stance of the municipality is that there will be zero tolerance of fraud and corruption.

The plan states what an employee must do when he/she suspects fraud and corruption, what members of the public or providers of goods and services must do when they suspect fraud and corruption, how such allegations will be dealt with, the recovery of losses and the protection of whistle blowers, amongst others.



Verkies u dié nuusbriëf 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