HEADLINES

March 2013

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

Should you know of any events or festivals that do not appear here, or for more information on any of the events and festivals listed below, please contact the Knysna Tourism office on 044 382 5510.

MARCH 2013

10-19
Knysna Speed Festival
www.speedfestival.co.za

19-24
Knysna Literary Festival
www.knysnaliteraryfestival.co.za

29-31
Sedgefield Slow Festival
www.slowfestival.co.za

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>KNYSNA POLICE</td>
<td>10111 or 044 302 6600</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDGEFIELD POLICE</td>
<td>10111 or 044 343 1321</td>
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<tr>
<td>KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY</td>
<td>044 302 6300</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
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<td>ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT</td>
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<td>SEA RESCUE SERVICES</td>
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<td>KNYSNA PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>KNYSNA PRIVATE HOSPITAL</td>
<td>044 384 1083</td>
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<tr>
<td>ER24</td>
<td>084 124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNYSNA CREW ER24</td>
<td>083 320 1199</td>
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<td>AMBULANCE</td>
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NEW ROAD CHANGES LIVES

Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, Dam-se-Bos resident, Mr Hendrik Britz and Ward 3 Councillor Migiel Lizwani. Picture: Desmond Scholtz

For countless years Dam-se-Bos resident, Oom Hendrik Britz, has been negotiating a really rough dirt road to be able to visit his family on the other side of the neighbourhood. Until recently that is when a neat stretch of paving has made all the difference.

Funded by R200 000 of the Knysna Municipal Council’s ward-based budget and R300 000 from the Upgrading Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) of the National Department of Human Settlements, 230 metres of road was paved from the Chris Hani Community Hall.

Mayor Georlene Wolmarans said the road was a main arterial through the community for 30 years and paving even a short stretch improved the quality of lives.

"Mr Britz, who uses crutches to get around, told our Manager Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Mr Eben Phillips, that the new paved road meant he could visit his children and grandchildren more. To some people this road may only be 230 metres of cement bricks, but to people like Mr Britz it is life changing.

"This road, which was identified by this community as a priority during the IDP process, is proof that the IDP process works. It may not always feel like the fastest way, but it does finally deliver in direct relation to the community’s needs,” said Wolmarans.

WASTE COLLECTION DAYS

KNYSNA

Monday:
Concordia, Bongani, Kanonkop, Dam-se-Bos, Edamini Qolweni, Robololo, Witlokasie, Flenters, Greenfields, Knoetzie, Heuwelkruin, Hornlee-West, Punt, Tannenhof, Welbedacht, Paradise, Knysna Heights, Eastford Downs, Brenton-on-Lake, Brenton-on-Sea

Tuesday:
Concordia, Bo-Dorp, Jood-se-Kamp, Nekkies, Ou Pad, Entambeni, Halani, Hornlee East, Green Pastures, Eastford Country Estate, Eastford Glen

Wednesday:
Costa Sarda, Fisher Haven, Hunters Home, Rexford, Onderdorp, Sparrebosch, Pezula, Thesen's Island

Thursday:
Industrial Area, Leisure Island, The Heads, Khayalethu

Friday:
Ouplaas, Belvidere, Westford

Sedgefield/Rheenendal and surrounds

Monday:
Groenvlei area

Tuesday:
Sedgefield Central, Bibbeyshoek, Rheenendal

Wednesday:
Sedgefield Island, Smutsville area

Thursday:
Karatara

Friday:
Zeegezicht, Extensions 3 and 4, Cola and Myoli Beach

If you do not live in the Knysna municipal area during the year, stay informed of the latest municipal news by downloading the monthly Council News from our new website. Look in the Media section of the Information Centre for newsletters and press releases. www.knysna.gov.za
The first quarter of 2013 has passed and autumn is knocking on the door. Fortunately, balmy weather lingers here on the Garden Route and the weather is perfect for being out and about.

It is of course also school holidays and long weekends-season, which means thousands of extra people are visiting our municipal area. I welcome participants of the many adventure sports events and visitors to our annual festivals such as the Sedgefield Slow Festival in March and the Knysna Loerie Festival in May. I know you are going to enjoy your time here.

To those celebrating Easter, I wish you a blessed time and a truly spiritual experience.

Let’s also not forget the reasons for so many public holidays. In this time we celebrate victories in our country’s history, such as Freedom Day and Human Rights Day, as well as our privileges: Family Day and Workers Day. Let’s use this time to be truly thankful for the things our country have achieved and look forward to the many things we will continue to overcome – because we are South Africans who are blessed to live in the most beautiful country in the world.

Georlene Wolmarans
Executive Mayor

The Knysna Municipality has appointed Mr Mike Maughan-Brown as Director Planning and Development. The town’s former Manager Town Planning and Building Control has been acting in his newly appointed position for most of last year in addition to his duties as manager. His appointment is effective immediately and is, like all senior

management posts at the Municipality, a five-year contract position.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said she was delighted to retain the experience and expertise of Mr Maughan-Brown who had served the town for many years, both as Manager Town Planning and Building Control and as consultant in the private sector. “He has an intricate knowledge of all aspects of town planning and its related fields, and has proven exceptionally good at managing a large staff compliment and wide-ranging tasks and projects.”

Mr Mike Maughan-Brown holds a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning (UCT) and has 32 years’ experience in related fields including managing the first community-based informal settlement upgrade project in Cape Town and directorship of the UK-based multi-national, multi-disciplinary consulting company Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick.

“My objectives are to assist and support the Municipal Manager in the work already begun to expand the strategic vision of the municipality and to set a direction that will ensure the future of the organisation as an effective and efficient provider of services and facilitator of sustainable development in the municipal area,” said Mr Maughan-Brown.

This appointment is the first of four directorships that are expected to be filled this year. At the time of going to print the Directors Corporate Services and Community Services were expected to start on 1 March 2013 and 1 April 2013 respectively. The post of Director Technical Services was being re-advertised.

“My objectives are to assist and support the Municipal Manager in the work already begun to expand the strategic vision of the municipality and to set a direction that will ensure the future of the organisation as an effective and efficient provider of services and facilitator of sustainable development in the municipal area.”
The Knysna Municipal Council is in the process of writing off about R30-million of ‘old debt’ on services and interest as part of a radical debt recovery programme approved in Council in December 2012.

The programme effectively writes off all arrears except rates up to 30 June 2012, but is tied to stringent payback provisions for ‘new’ debt incurred from 1 July 2012 onwards. The local authority will also introduce stricter credit control measures linked to pre-paid electricity penalties from 1 July 2013.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the municipality had taken a relatively sympathetic approach regarding debt collection from its ratepayers over the past few years, mainly because of the impacts the global economic downturn has had on all its inhabitants. “However, we cannot continue in this way without putting Council’s finances, and therefore service provision, at risk. The municipality will embark on a significant debt recovery programme that will offer debt relief on the one hand, but will expect of ratepayers to keep their current accounts in the clear.”

The debt write-off process is being communicated to the different affected parties in various and appropriate ways. “I strongly urge all ratepayers to make every effort to keep their accounts to date, as we will pursue all debt incurred after 30 June 2012. I also thank the very many businesses and individuals who have made an effort to make arrangements to pay off their arrears. The town and its people are intricately dependent upon each other, and are more likely to succeed in their combined goals of a prosperous town and environment when we put our money and efforts together,” she said.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring launched its new website in February. Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the new website was aimed at better communicating the services of the municipality as well as fulfilling legal requirements regarding the Municipal Finance Management Act and the Municipal Systems Act.

“The website is meant to be dynamic and will be systematically expanded to incorporate as many of the municipality’s services and projects as well as all relevant documents, forms, policies and by-laws. The website address www.knysna.gov.za remains the same.

Licenced liquor traders in the Knysna municipal area may now trade on Sundays and for extended hours, depending on the nature of their business, following the promulgation of the new By-law on Liquor Trading Days and Hours in December 2012.

Knysna Mayor Georlene Wolmarans said the By-Law was approved in Council according to the Western Cape Liquor Act, Act 10 of 2010, Section 59(1), which provided for municipalities to determine their own trading days and hours for businesses licenced to sell alcohol within their areas of jurisdiction. Municipalities in the Western Cape that did not promulgate such a by-law by 31 March 2013 would then be required to enforce the hours determined by the Western Cape Liquor Act, according to existing individual licencing conditions.

Ms Wolmarans said the motivating factor behind the adjusted hours was providing more suitable times for the hospitality and tourism sectors, which were major economic drivers in the Knysna municipal area.

“As host to several festivals and events, the greater Knysna area attracts visitors over weekends who then spend much needed money in venues and restaurants. By allowing suitable hours, legal local businesses are given opportunity to operate optimally yet within acceptable parameters that can be enforced by the South African Police Service (SAPS),” she said.

The Knysna Municipality By-law on Liquor Trading Days and Hours and the relevant schedule of trading hours are available on the municipal website under Document Library in the Information Centre menu of www.knysna.gov.za.

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Other sewer-related projects completed include the upgrade of three critical pump stations and removal of sludge in the eastern wetland at George Rex Drive. A call for proposals for the removal of fat from fat traps is currently in process.

The town’s River Health Programme is starting to show tangible results as especially river clean-ups are reducing the concentration of pollution that flows into the estuary. The Programme - which enjoys support and funding from the national Department of Environmental Affairs, South African National Parks and Eden District Municipality - concentrates its efforts on the river catchment areas of the Khayalethu, Bongani and Bigai Rivers. This programme also incorporates environmental education, provision of proper waste disposal facilities and improved weekly waste collection to reduce dumping of waste into rivers.

Installation of communal flushing toilets in informal areas are being completed and a gravity outfall sewer is currently being laid through Nekkies, Dam-se-Bos and Hlalani to reduce the use of ‘long drop’-toilets, which are major contributors to underground river contamination.

Ms Waring said regular water samples have been taken in the rivers since the beginning of the programme and were already showing improvement.

The major stormwater-related project, which entailed a property-to-property inspection of all stormwater and sewerage lines, was expected to have commenced by the time of distribution of this publication.

It should be noted that the swimming beaches and channels in the estuary are safe for recreational purposes.

At the beginning of every financial year (July) ward councillors are allocated R300 000 to spend in their wards, of which R100 000 can go towards operational projects such as clean-ups and events while the remainder is meant for capital projects.

At the discretion of ward councillors, ward projects are identified via the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process, which involves local ward committees and the community.

Execution of projects, including all recruitment and sourcing of labour as well as goods and services, are undertaken according to the relevant council policies and follow the normal processes such as tendering, advertising and requests for quotes.

The status of the projects by February were:

**Ward 1** – Irene Grootboom – Operational projects so far included a sports tournament and clean-ups while several capital projects will shortly be implemented including a play park, upgrade of sport fields in Sizamile as well as pedestrian walkways and speed bumps.

**Ward 2** – Louise Hart – Funds spent included fire fighting equipment and training in Karatara and handrails at the Sedgefield Library. Projects in hand include ablutions at the cemetery in Karatara and wheelchair ramps at homes of the disabled. Projects to be implemented shortly include two play parks in Karatara and speed bumps across the ward.

**Ward 3** – Migiel Lizzwani – The paving of the road to Chris Hani Hall has just been completed. Guard rails in street bends across the ward are soon to be constructed. Operational budgets have been allocated to neighbourhood clean ups, repair and maintenance of public toilets and skills development training.

**Ward 4** – Wiseman Litoli – Guard rails in street bends across the ward and a play park are soon to be constructed. Operational projects budgeted for include clean-ups and a sports tournament.

**Ward 5** – Magda Williams – Projects completed include the Brenton-on-Sea beach walkway, guard rails and public toilets in Rheenendal. Operational projects are allocated for alien vegetation clearing (job creation project), clean-ups, and Health and Youth Programmes.

**Ward 6** – Clive Witbooi – Jobs in hand: retaining walls in Hornlee, guard rails and wheelchair ramps. Operational projects completed include clean-ups, repair and maintenance of sports facilities and playgrounds, and basic computer training for small businesses.

**Ward 7** – Mertle Gombo – Design of a bridge over Bongani stream completed, building expected later this year. In hand or soon to be implemented: guard rails, wheelchair ramps, retaining walls. Operational budget allocated for a music festival, clean-ups, skills development training and a sports tournament.

**Ward 8** – Ntombizanele Sopeki – Paving of roads at intersections underway. In hand or soon to be implemented: guard rails and retaining walls. Operational budget was spent on neighbourhood clean-ups.

**Ward 9** – Michelle Wasserman – Spray lighting at Hornlee walkway and retaining walls will soon commence, while wheelchair ramps are currently being constructed at homes of the disabled. Operational budgeted: alien vegetation clearing.

**Ward 10** – Richard Dawson – Street lights in Grey Street soon to be installed. Refurbishment of toilets at taxi rank is planned for later this year. Some money has been put aside for road maintenance and surfacing. Operational budget allocated for clean-ups, beautification of public spaces, and repairs and maintenance in the CBD.