Knysna Municipal draft budget 2014/15 to be tabled

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans will table the 2014/15 draft budget during an ordinary Council Meeting during March 2014. The Draft Budget will afterwards be available on the municipal website and local libraries for public comment.

Check in @ your library 15 – 22 March 2014

On the 27th of April South Africa will celebrate 20 years of democracy and as part of the celebrations a national initiative of 20 hours of volunteerism was launched. Executive Mayor Cllr Georlene Wolmarans said that it is a fitting gesture to celebrate an era of hope.

"I want to call on all our residents to think about ways that they can take part, small or big. Every contribution can and will make a difference in someone else’s life, continuing the spirit of creating an improved life for all South Africa’s residents."

"It is an extremely tough environment out there with many inhibiting factors including difficult financial and socio-economic circumstances, but I believe that Knysna Municipality has made considerable progress. We are committed to build on our successes and work with our residents to overcome the challenges to create a town where people and nature prosper," said Wolmarans.

She said the municipality is counting on its residents to share the responsibility to build a strong and caring town. "We will deliver on our mandate, but to be successful in our vision for the town, where all can prosper, we need the input and commitment of all our residents. We have launched the Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) late last year - this is a crucial part of determining where the town will be in 20 to 30 years."

The outcome will be Knysna’s blueprint for the future, a business plan to motivate funding, stimulate investment and highlight opportunities. If you want to live and prosper here, it is imperative that you play your part in drawing up the plan for our futures. Make sure your voice is heard, in true democratic style.

Wolmarans said that the 27th of April should be a reminder to all of us not to take opportunities to give input in government planning processes for granted. "We have developed multiple forums for you to have your say. Democracy did not come cheaply to our country - let’s honour it by taking part.

Lisa (library and Information Association of South Africa) launched Library Week 14 years ago as a celebration of our country’s libraries and literacy heritage.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said that this year’s theme links to the 20th anniversary of democracy in South Africa: Celebrating libraries in 20 years of democracy: check in @ your library. "Library workers across South Africa have been requested to identify the top twenty South African books published during these 20 years that reflect South African life, written by South Africans. Your librarian’s choice should be available on 15 March when you “check in” at your library!"

All 11 Knysna libraries will also run a fine free week to encourage people to visit libraries during this week, and return those overdue books.

Library Week will always include the 20th of March. The South African Public Library, now known as the National Library of South Africa (Cape Town Campus), was the first library to be established in South Africa. This was done by a government proclamation on 20 March 1813.

Human Rights Day is also celebrated on the 21st of March and our Bill of Rights recognises the freedom of access to information as a basic human right, the week then links an important historical event with a crucial date in our new democracy.

Waring said residents can also look forward to the Knysna Town library moving back to the newly renovated premises the first week in April and more details about the long awaited opening will be announced during Library Week.

Read more about the services at o u r l i b r a r i e s at www.knysna.gov.za

Knysna is taking the lead with South Africa’s first Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) that was initiated September 2013.

The ISDF’s purpose is to ensure better coordination between the municipality’s different strategic plans including the Human Settlement Plan, Spatial Development Framework, Environmental Plan and the Economic Development Strategy.

For more information visit the municipality’s website: www.knysna.gov.za or contact the following public libraries for further comment:

www.knysna.gov.za
Customer Services:
SSM: 44451

Contact us: ALL SECTIONS OFFICE
HOURS: Telephone: +27 (0)44 302 6300
Facsimile: +27 (0)44 302 6333
EMERGENCIES ALL
HOURS: Telephone: +27 (0)44 302 9111
Email: knysna@knysna.gov.za
Website: www.knysna.gov.za
www.slowfestival.co.za

Taking it Slow ... Sedgefield’s plans underway for 5th Slow Festival

Preparations for Sedgefield’s 5th Slow Festival are well on its way and locals and visitors can again look forward to some “good old-fashioned fun” the festival is known for.

Taking place over Easter weekend from the 18th to 20th of April the programme will include old favourites with some exciting new additions. Some of the items on the programme include the Spar Goukamma Traverse presented by Vivoherofest; Soetheby’s Slow Biking Competition; a Family Ski Trail Run; the Adcock Ingram “ Anything That Floats”, and new on the programme, the Slow Players’ Welcome Tennis Day and the Windpomp Dinner Dance Social. There are loads of activities for kids, but the Easter Bunny Beach Run and the Sand Sculpting Challenge are not to be missed.

Visit www.slowfestival.co.za for more information.

Picture – Sedgefield’s 5th Slow Festival hosts an exciting programme for old and young.