The Knysna Municipality officially opened its long-awaited upgraded Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) on 4 October 2013.

The R48.4-million upgrade is a major infrastructure milestone, which will address capacity for the immediate future.

Executive mayor Georlene Wolmarans said that Knysna, like other towns in the region, had grown substantially over the past decade but the infrastructure had failed to keep up.

“For us, the issue came to a head in September 2011 when a large amount of sewerage washed into our lagoon, polluting important swimming and recreational areas. While we were already far into the process of obtaining funding and had initiated some upgrading projects, the spill highlighted the vulnerability of our lagoon.”

Extensions and upgrades to the WWTW were tackled project-per-project as funding became available since 2010, culminating in the facility opening on 4 October. Read more on p3.

Nine High Mast Area Lights have been installed in the Knysna Municipal Area over the past few months. The lights, which provide lighting of about 300-metres diameter each, were erected in Hlalani, Sanlam Mall, Dam se Bos North, Edameni, Happy Valley, Kanonkop, Khayalethu Valley, Smutsville (Sedgefield) and Hornlee.

Except in Hornlee, where ward allocation funding was used, the lights were financed by the Western Cape Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) programme.

The municipality hopes to install another eight lights in the near future.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the lights not only provided increased lighting in streets for the purposes of road safety and traffic flow, but also made neighbourhoods safer. “These lights help deter crime and vandalism, and improves the general appearance of residential areas, which ultimately increase the general living standards of our communities.”

In this issue:
- Blue Flag Beaches for Knysna again this summer
- Ward 7 councillor Titi Gombo
- Youth advisor programme revived
- Local Businesses bring warmth to the disabled
Speeding up the delivery of infrastructure, and providing for the maintenance thereof, is a major part of Ward 7 Councillor Titi Gombo’s passionate drive for her community.

But in a complex society with complex problems Councillor Gombo says she has a simple approach. “I care about each and everyone’s living conditions and will not leave a stone unturned to speed up service delivery. I see it as my main task to really hear what issues are at the heart of my people and to then act on it. Finding ways to let the people from my ward know that I’ve heard them and that I care enough to do something about it, is of utmost importance to me.”

She says she was uprooted when she was five years old and then had to move again, to far worse conditions, whenever he pères. Before he had to be carried in and out.

“We are now looking forward to the very important task of building roads in our community. This year we will start an intensive labour project and communities that are in dire need of access will see us paving the way. We will pave until we stopped.”

She says she wants to help build an integrated and viable community and will continue to help better the lives of the people in her Ward. “Frustration understandably sets in when it takes so long to complete or even start projects. It is very important to communicate where we stand and what the reasons are why some projects take so long to get off the ground.”

Contact Councillor Gombo at 072 958 2036 or mgombo@knysna.gov.za

The long-awaited Bongani Bridge connects communities once again. Councillor Gombo is pictured here with Valeneke Kangela and her daughter Angelica, and Leonard Petious.

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The Knysna Municipality has secured Blue Flag status for Brenton-on-Sea and Buffalo Bay beaches for a second consecutive year.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said that while many parties had worked very hard towards this goal, they had an added concern this year when the Kiani Satu went aground in Goukamma Nature Reserve and Marine Protected Area in August. “The situation potentially threatened both beaches. We were in communication with WESSA at the time and they were very supportive. This Blue Flag status means so much more in this context – things could have been very different.”

“The provisions for this status are very strict and we are proud that we could achieve it again, and we are immensely grateful towards everyone who assisted us towards attaining this goal.

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Mayoral Golf Day

The Knysna Municipality hosted the sixth annual Mayoral Golf Day on 10 October. The event raised R220 000 for the Knysna Mayoral Fund, which supports educational and community initiatives.

The Winning team was VPM Surveys. Pictured from left: John Rimbault, Brent Inglis, Rohan Kolker, Marcel de Ridder (sponsor Canon), Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, John Edwards and Peter Berman (sponsor Scratch Golf).

Local businesses bring warmth to the disabled

Spending long hours working in a cold and clammy workshop can be demotivating at the least. During her visits to Die Werkswinkel in Horneke, Ward 9 Councillor Michelle Wasserman decided it was time to make a plan to heat the place up. Willem Klopper and John Metelerkamp were more than happy to donate towards this worthy cause. Kloppers donated a slow-combustion wood-burning fireplace and the Metelerkamp family donated the flues and provided free installation. If you can donate fire wood, please call Pastor Edwin Pedro on 078 631 5500.

The applicable time frame will be December 2013 and January 2014. She emphasised that the municipality would again work with residents to ensure that people could walk their dogs at allocated times, outside designated swimming areas and on leashes at all times.

Blue Flag is an international coastal management programme that accredits beaches that meet standards of excellence in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and information as well as safety and services. In South Africa the programme is implemented by the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA).

Investigations regarding this will commence shortly.

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) programme has contributed R34-million towards this project, the remainder of which had been part of municipal capital expenditure over three years.

The municipality intends more upgrades as soon as possible. The converting of the Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Unit will increase the capacity with another 2Ml/day, which should then provide capacity until 2018-2020. If other aspects of sewer flows can be better managed, capacity may be extended for some more years.

Longer term plans include the relocation of the WWTW. Investigations regarding this will commence shortly.
The Knysna Municipality has recently appointed four new youth advisors to assist local young people with skills development and job creation opportunities.

Situated centrally at community centres in Rheenendal, Khayalethu, Smutsville and Hornlee, the four young women will act as a connection point between local government and its youth.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said a youth programme had existed within the municipality some years ago, but lost impetus due to lack of funding and support.

“Renewed provincial and national focus on social and youth issues have made funding and support more accessible and the municipality decided to revive the programme. Overseen by Head Disaster Management and Social Services, Richard Meyer, the municipality plans to expand its youth and social programmes significantly over the next few years. Our first step was to reopen our main youth centres as they are an important link to our young people, but we would like to see this function grow so that it can become a useful resource that will make an important positive impact on the lives and futures of our youth,” said Waring.

Open weekdays to youth between the ages of 16 and 35, initial services include assistance with compiling CVs and applications to tertiary institutions, bursaries and jobs.

Hornlee: Alisha Hermanus, Housing Office, Sunridge Street, 7.30am-4.30pm, Phone 044 302 6528, hornleeydc@knysna.gov.za
Khayalethu: Busisiwe Mningiswa, Housing Office, Chungwa Street, 8am-5pm, Phone 044 382 6732 or khayalethuydc@knysna.gov.za
Rheenendal: Devoline Koopman, Main Street, Rheenendal, 9am-6pm, Phone 044 302 6354, rheenendalydc@knysna.gov.za
Smutsville/Sizamile: Edna Thomson, Community Centre, Rooikrans Lane, 10am-7pm, Phone 044 302 6330, smutsvilleydc@knysna.gov.za

Help Knysna reinvent itself
Become part of the Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) community interactive process and register today. This is your chance to share your ideas on how to turn the Knysna municipal area into a thriving economy. More information on how to get involved at www.knysna.gov.za
(on the homepage left below the news flash)
Register via the above website, by filling in a form at a library near you or by mailing: isdf@knysna.gov.za
or info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za
Knysna Manager Economic Development Ilse van Schalkwyk: 044 302 1646 or ivanschalkwyk@knysna.gov.za
Knysna Creative Heads: 044 382 6732 or info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za

IMPORTANT DATE: 4 November 2013 at Knysna Library
Woodmill Walk Centre – status quo feedback meeting

Wills Week!
The week of 7-11 October was National Wills Week. Aimed at raising awareness of the importance of making a will, the initiative was hosted in Knysna on 9 October at Sunridge Primary. Councillor Michelle Wasserman, an attorney herself, arranged for Zwaai Kruger of Kruger & Co. Attorneys to assist locals in drawing up their wills free of charge.

Bridge over troubled sand dunes
Finally the foot bridge over the sand dunes at the top of Aloe Street has been replaced.

Connecting Groenvale with the communities of Sizamile/Smutsville, the bridge not only provides safe passage to residents but also safeguards dunes from erosion.

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