Dear residents

Thank you all for your well wishes. Your support is helping me through this health scare, and I appreciate your concern. I am on the mend and hope to make a full recovery soon.

I was quite literally heartbroken at not being able to join in all the fun of the Knysna Oyster Festival. The festival and its many events were a great success by all accounts. In its new guise as a festival driven by locals, for locals, it is sure to provide many years of fun and merriment – and a welcome injection into our local economy. A heartfelt thank you to the organisers and sponsors of the events, all the workers and, very importantly, to all of you who supported and enjoyed the festival.

We are committed to listening to our residents and working on continuously improving our service delivery. One very visible example of this is the laying of new piping to improve our provision of potable water. While it does cause temporary frustration on the roads where work is taking place, these roads will be resealed, an added bonus making for a better road surface in the affected areas.

Nelson Mandela International Day or, as we know it, Madiba Day, once again celebrated this great man’s legacy on 18 July. The Madiba Day campaign message is: “Nelson Mandela has fought social injustice for 67 years. We’re asking you to start with 67 minutes.”

Every one of us has the innate potential to change the world. Even if we change only one person’s world, we can make an impact. Mandela Day asks us to spend 67 minutes of every 18 July volunteering in service of the community. Whilst Mandela Month gives us the opportunity to actively do good during the entire month of July, we surely should all be fighting poverty and promoting peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity every day. Thank you for doing your part in building an inspired, innovative and inclusive Knysna.

South Africa’s history is rich in heroes who fought for what is right. We will celebrate another pivotal day in our history on 9 August. Approximately 20 000 women marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria on this day in 1956, petitioning against the inhumane pass laws of that time. While thanking those women for the impact they had on South Africa’s future, we also celebrate and appreciate the other strong women in our lives.

Women in South Africa, and indeed across the world, are still faced with multiple injustices. We need to ensure that the laws set to protect women’s rights are upheld at all times – and do everything in our power to protect and uplift our mothers and daughters. You are the nurturers of our new South Africa, and we salute you for your many sacrifices.

‘Til next month ...

MARK WILLEMSE, EXECUTIVE MAYOR

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Reflecting on the past financial year

In our previous edition, we introduced the 2019/2020 budget for Greater Knysna. But what happened the previous year? one may ask. Today we wish to highlight a few outstanding triumphs achieved by the Knysna Municipality during the 2018/2019 year.

All top management positions have been filled with the appointments of directors Community, Corporate Services and Technical Services, and Dr Vatala as Municipal Manager.

Sedgefield’s Wastewater Treatment Works received a R19.5 million upgrade, and a R1.9 million upgrade to the Knysna CBD sewer reticulation system was recently initiated.

The Heads’ water network was upgraded at a cost close to R4 million.

Phase two of the Roads Maintenance System is underway.

Our vehicle fleet has expanded with the acquisition of a new fire engine and refuse truck, valued at R3.6 and R2 million respectively. The investment in the refuse truck has cut costs significantly as this function was previously outsourced at great expense.

The Knysna Municipality aimed to create 324 employment opportunities under the Expanded Public Works Programme. This target was exceeded and the 500 opportunities created earned the Municipality an Accolade for Excellence from the Western Cape Department of Public Works.

The construction of a new, R2 million sport clubhouse in Hornlee is soon to be completed.

The Municipality has broken ground on the construction of the 600m² Khayalethu Public Library worth R8 million. The Rudolf Balie Modular Library was opened. Our Library services continue to present various programmes throughout the year.

Knysna Municipality was named as second runners-up in the Govan Mbeki Awards for Best Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme category for the Witlokasie Project. Through the Title Deed Restoration Project forty houses were handed over in Happy Valley and 11 title deeds in Karatara.

Council recognised that these objectives are made possible by continued financial support of Greater Knysna ratepayers and wish to thank every ratepayer who regularly pays their municipal account.
Parks department transforming municipal gardens

We are thrilled to announce that our Parks Department rejuvenated over 50 municipal garden beds and have planted more than 130 trees under the department’s new ‘greening’ initiative. The initiative aims to invest in the natural and recreational areas, with plans to restore the natural beauty of all Greater Knysna neighbourhoods. Cyclists, runners and those on foot can already admire the newly planted indigenous Yellowwood trees planted along the walkway on George Rex Drive.

Creating new neighbourhood gardens and playgrounds is not just for today - these efforts will ensure that future generations inherit a town that is more vibrant, more beautiful, and more inclusive than before. It is important for the municipality, property owners and other private partners to be innovative and collaborative in developing gardens and open spaces that will continue to hold significant future value.

Garden spaces which have recently been rejuvenated need to be respected and given the chance to establish. All municipal by-laws regarding littering and nuisance of pets need to be adhered to by all community members to allow these spaces to develop as best as possible.

As a top-tourist destination, Knysna has an amazing tapestry of natural areas, pristine beaches, beautiful open spaces and recreational parks – all designed to create an important relationship between its people and nature. The beautification and improvement of public gardens and spaces will no doubt play a crucial role in the economic development of Knysna. The municipality is inspired and excited by its Parks Department’s ongoing prioritization of the town’s gardens and public open spaces. It is important to remember and consider that the community is not living in isolation from nature. We are integrated into our natural environment and need to celebrate and respect our natural heritage of incredible biodiversity. For this reason, 98% of species selected are indigenous and water-wise to provide insects and wildlife with a source of forage.

The Parks Department will continue with tree planting and garden bed rejuvenation, extending into outlying areas such as Brenton, Belvedere and Sedgefield, in time to come. Greened and rejuvenated spaces will inspire and develop a sense of pride in the town that we call home and a respect for the environment within our community.

Commemorative days & events

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<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 AUGUST</td>
<td>NATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY</td>
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<td>10 AUGUST</td>
<td>SOX 3-DAY TRAIL RUN, MILLWOOD HUT</td>
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Remember to make use of the Knysna Municipality App
Smme Incubator successfully growing small business, boosting the economy and creating jobs.

Contact Ntombekaya Sibali at 044 302 6359 or email nsibali@knysna.gov.za for more information on the SMME Incubator programme.

Baristo Siyabonga Tweta & Barman Simthembile Mpikwa saw a gap in the market and chose this busy road for their first venture.

In the pipeline is the addition of Tshisa Nyama - "making a braai" - to offer customers something to eat while they wait.

39B SISULU STREET WHITE LOCATION

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