Bylaw to regulate outdoor advertising

The Bylaw on the Regulation of Outdoor Advertising, Heritage and Building Aesthetics was approved by Council on 28 November 2013. Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the bylaw sought to conserve the character and aesthetic quality of the built environment in greater Knysna. “Development and growth over the past decade has had implications on the aesthetic value of the town. From solar panels and satellite dishes to advertising banners and elaborately painted buildings, the profile of the town has changed and hence the old bylaw had to be adapted to address new challenges. “Once gazetted, the new bylaw will work towards a well-maintained and attractive townscape and landscape, conserve and enhance the historic and traditional character of the town, address communication needs, contribute to the conservation of tourism resources, and promote public safety and welfare. The long term results will include a proper platform from which greater Knysna can be marketed and a sustainable settlement which may ultimately lead to increased property values and economic investment.”

While an outdoor advertising levy will apply to all properties where business is conducted, up to 100% of the levy could be waived if businesses comply with stipulations in the bylaw. The cost of the levy will be determined and applied in the 2013/2014 budget and applicable from July 2014. Until then, application for signage tariffs remains.

The bylaw is applicable throughout the jurisdiction of the Knysna Municipality. Once Gazetted, the bylaw will be available in the ‘Document Library’ of the ‘Information Centre’ on the municipal website www.knysna.gov.za

Business community of Sedgefield donates medical equipment

The Knysna Municipality thanks the business community of Sedgefield for donating much-needed medical equipment for the town’s Emergency Response Vehicle. The funds were raised by the monthly Boerie Bash, a business networking and fundraising initiative. The R2226 raised bought four ventilator masks, a stretcher, stretcher straps and head blocks. Pictured here from left: Protection Services manager Manon McDonald recently.

NEW TRAFFIC VEHICLES

Traffic law enforcement resources got a major boost with the acquisition of five new Nissan Jukes that replace five VW Golfs that have more than 200 000km on the clock. The two-wheel drive, turbo charged, 1.6 litre four cylinder petrol engine vehicles, fitted with a six-speed manual drive, are part of the Municipality’s normal replacement programme and were chosen for their high visibility and performance. “These pursuit vehicles are equipped to handle all road surfaces and conditions and are economic. The normal budgeting and tender processes were followed,” said Municipal Manager Lauren Waring.

Each vehicle have been assigned two drivers who were chosen for their commitment, diligence and driving ability. Four vehicles will be utilised in Knysna and one in Sedgefield. The old vehicles were sold on tender.

FESTIVE SEASON MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The Knysna Municipality welcomes all our visitors to the greater Knysna area, and of course our locals who know there is no better place to be! 2013 had its challenges and you have chosen the perfect place to relax, unwind and connect with nature. We trust that your time off will be rejuvenating, peaceful and safe.

Of course, the essential services do not stop working when you stop. Everything is in place to ensure that you can celebrate without stress. In fact, the additional pressure on our resources will be handled by extra and efficient staff that will ensure that traffic runs smoothly and that services, from water to electricity, and all the other things we don’t always think about will be available. We would like to thank each and every one who will be working behind the scenes that will keep our town running the way it should.

I also appeal to visitors to assist us in preserving the things that make our municipal area so special: the natural environment and its people. You can help by using water and electricity sparingly, and abiding by traffic rules and municipal bylaws such as not littering and not drinking on beaches and at public amenities.

We are determined to enter 2014 with new energy and a positive attitude. We have a solution-oriented mindset and are excited by our challenges and the work we need to do to face them. The Knysna Council and Municipality reiterate our commitment to the advancement of our town and its people. I wish you joy and peace for this holiday season and for the year ahead. May Christmas be a blessed time, filled with love and may you make beautiful memories. May you return to your places of work truly rejuvenated and inspired.

Georlene Wolmarans
Executive Mayor

WATER WISE

While the Garden Route has had good rains over the past few months, the main sources of water in the Knysna Municipal area are rivers, and are therefore always vulnerable. Municipal water restrictions remain in place: Even street numbers 6pm-7pm on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. Odd street numbers 6pm to 7pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Municipal water leaks can be reported to 044 302 1601.

Be green this summer

The natural surroundings of our area are one of the many reasons why thousands of people flock here every holiday. Knysna was one of the first municipalities in the country to introduce a recycling programme as part of its waste collection schedule and have been doing so since 2000. It is very easy to recycle in Knysna.

Collect transparent bags at: Waste Management Department in Clyde Street Municipal Offices or Sedgefield Municipal Service Centre, Tarentaal Street

On public holidays - Knysna Fire Department, Waterfront Drive, Knysna or Sedgefield Fire Department, Main Street, Sedgefield.

Garden refuse bags are blue and can be obtained from municipal service centres at a cost of R58 for a packet of ten heavy duty blue bags. Only two blue bags filled with garden waste are permitted per property per week. Enquiries at Waste Management on 044 302 6405.