More fun for kids in Smutsville

Children in Smutsville now have their own playground equipment thanks to municipal ward allocation funding that was set aside for this purpose.

Since the 2012/13 financial year, the Knysna Municipality has been allocating R200 000 for each of the ten wards in the Knysna municipal area to spend towards projects that may not be covered in the current Integrated Development Plan (IDP) budget. In addition to the pedestrian walkway at Myoli Beach and speed humps, this playground has been funded by that money.

The community will celebrate the opening of the playground with a Carol by Candlelight function on 16 December from 4pm. Locals are welcome to join in the celebrations.

Ward 1 councillor Irene Grootboom said her ward committee had big plans for the 2013/14 financial year’s funding and looked forward to seeing many of them come to fruition. “We are working very hard towards a recycle swap shop where our kids can exchange recyclables for school stationary and other handy things.”

Neighbourhoods of Ward 1 include Sizamile/Smutsville, Myoli Beach, Cola Beach and The Island.

If you want to donate or participate in Ward 1, please contact Councillor Irene Grootboom on 078 328 4952 or igrootboom@knysna.gov.za.

Council News

Rhoda Kadalie visits Knysna

Well-known columnist, academic and Executive Director of Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre, Rhoda Kadalie hosted a Best Practice Master Class for government and NGOs at the Knysna Municipality on 30 October. The day-long workshop was aimed at sharing and analysing best practices in energy, water and waste management, pollution control and sanitation.

Pictured with Ms Kadalie (in blue) are specialist speakers (from left) John Parkin, David Wilson, Chris Fennemore, Teddy Goudenien and Robert Abbu. Knysna Portfolio Committee Chairman Planning and Development Louise Hart is second from right.

Cuppa for Cansa

The Knysna Municipality supports 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which runs from 21 November to 10 December. If you are a child that is being abused, or if you know of such a child, please contact Childline on 0800 055 555.

Abused women can contact Lifeline on 0861 322 322 or the Stop Gender-Based Violence Helpline on 0800 150 150.

There are Victim Support Rooms in most police stations in the Knysna Municipal Area. However, should there not be someone there to assist when you arrive there, phone FAMS4 on 044 382 5129 and they will make a plan to help you.

The Workshop and Road Show phases of the ISDF have also kicked off. If your organisation or association wants the ISDF to come to you, as long as you are in the Knysna municipal area, they can make a plan. Phone 044 382 6732 or email info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za to make an appointment for such a visit.

It is not too late to register as an interested and affected party. Fill in a form at a library near you or click the ‘register’ link in the ISDF section on the homepage of the municipality website.

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

Locals benefit from food security projects

Communities in Karatara, Fairview and Rheenendal were recently the beneficiaries of a food security project which saw the establishment of 54 food gardens and four chicken coupes.

In this joint project between the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the Knysna Municipality, 50 household gardens and four community gardens were established and included year-long training, installation of rainwater tanks, provision of seedlings, compost, equipment and materials. These communities are also part of the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform’s Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) and one of 15 rural development nodes in the Western Cape.

Pictured here are Western Cape Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Gerrit van Rensburg, Knysna Executive Deputy Mayor Esmé Edge and Mrs Lily Kouma (right), one of the beneficiaries of a food garden.

Update on the ISDF

The Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) hosted a Status Quo Expo at the Knysna Library on 4 November. The expo featured research reports on different aspects of Knysna’s current status, and will serve as a reference for future plans. The plans are available on the ISDF website at www.isdf.co.za or on the ISDF page of the municipality website at www.knysna.gov.za (homepage left below news flash).

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