Dear Reader,

The Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies and Knysna Municipality extend their heartfelt sympathies to the families who have lost their loved ones in the recent fires, and to those who have lost properties. The Mayor acknowledges that it must be painful and difficult to lose one’s life possessions in such a horrific manner.

During this tragedy the community banded together, and for this she and the Municipality thanks all.

The fires are now under control and fire crews are constantly monitoring the situation. The Municipality has established Working Groups and are currently conducting various assessments, collecting data and re-establishing infrastructure services as quickly as possible within Greater Knysna. These groups are addressing social issues, ensuring that the affected families are assisted where needed.

Further efforts are going into addressing a long-term reconstruction plan aimed at ensuring that Greater Knysna emerges from this crisis even stronger than before. Teams are actively working on restoring water and electricity to all the affected areas and these basic services will back in place as soon as possible. Follow the Knysna Municipality social media platforms and website to stay updated with verified information.

In closing the Mayor said: “Our thoughts are with all those affected by this devastating event and we thank each and every person who has contributed to alleviating the difficulties faced by our communities during this time.”

From the Mayor’s Desk

BUILDING RUBBLE DUMP SITE

The Knysna Municipality has secured a builders’ rubble waste disposal site on privately owned land off the Simola/Blarricum Heights Road for the next six months.

It is important to note that no hazardous materials such as chemicals and asbestos will be allowed to be dumped on this site.

To get to the dump site, take the Simola Hotel (Salt River) turn-off from the N2 and follow the road until it becomes a dirt road. The tip site is 575m along the gravel road on the left-hand side....
BUILDING RUBBLE DUMP SITE cont.

**Operating hours:**

Monday to Thursday 07:30 till 16:30
Friday from 07:30 to 14:00
Saturday 08:00 till 13:00.

The site charges R25 excluding VAT per cubic meter; Sorting of mixed loads R325 per cubic meter and LDV R40 excluding VAT.

Enviroserve, an accredited company that deals with hazardous waste, may be contacted on 041 466 9621 / 041 466 2747 and/or 072 593 9808. Disposal of Hazardous material will be quantified and estimated then charge out to client by the dump site.

For further information or details regarding the dump site contact 079 184 3616 / 083 305 0343.

WAIVING BUILDING FEES FOR FIRE VICTIMS

On 20 June Knysna Council approved the waiving of various building plan fees for fire victims. This will assist in fast-tracking the process of demolition and building plan applications.

The following fees will be waived:

1. Fees under item 4.5 (connection fees) of the tariffs list
2. Fees under items 5.3 – 5.6 of the tariffs list
3. Fees under item 5.11 (new connections of the tariffs list)
4. Fees under item 7.10 (swimming pool backwash) of the tariffs list
5. Fees under item 15.3.2 (hoarding rental) of the tariffs list
6. Fees under items 15.1 – 15.3 (excluding additions and alterations) of the tariffs list


The Town Planning and Building Department are in the process of compiling a procedure list to assist fire victims. For further information, contact Hennie Smit on 044 302 6319 / hsmit@knysna.gov.za

OFFICIAL BANKING DETAILS FOR THE KNYSNA DISASTER RELIEF:

Nedbank
Account Name: Emergency Fund
Account number: 1147920699
Branch code: 198 765
Reference: Knynafire
International donations: NEDSZAJJ

FIRE DATABASE SURVEY

Residents who have suffered fire damage to their properties are encouraged to report their damage via the following survey. All the information will be captured onto the official Municipal database for processing: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R85GVVG

Businesses may register damaged property on this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XG9WKM5
KNYSNA’S WATER CRISIS CONTINUES

With Greater Knysna not receiving the forecasted rain it so desperately needs, we appeal to all residents and visitors to be mindful of their water usage.

Both the Gouna and Knysna Rivers that feed Knysna’s off channel storage Akkerkloof Dam, have stopped flowing, leaving the water 100mm below weir at the Charlesford extraction point on the Knysna River.

With the water levels so low we are unable to use all of our pumps to feed much-needed water into the balancing Glebe Dam, before being pumped into the Akkerkloof Dam that feeds Knysna with its water.

The Glebe Dam is currently empty and the Akkerkloof Dam is 33 per cent full, which translates into 20 days of water at the current usage of 13.96Ml/day. We desperately need to reduce the town's water consumption as our technical team is only managing to produce only 12.5Ml/day.

With the current drought situation, it is impossible to pump out of the rivers which simply don't have the water, resulting in our dam levels dropping daily.

We are currently in discussions with the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation to secure funding for a second storage dam. Knysna's Desalination plant is up and running and is capable of complimenting the town's traditional sources by a mere 1.368ML/day when running at capacity.

We ask residents who may be experiencing water outages to call our Water Report number 044 302 6331.

“We ask all visitors and residents of Greater Knysna to only use the municipal potable water for human consumption.

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KNYSNA YOUTH DAY EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

The Knysna Municipal Youth Desk and Youth Council hosted an entertainment show as part of the June 16 commemorations under the theme Champions of Hope at Loerie Park. Both the Gouna and Knysna Rivers that feed Knysna’s off channel storage Akkerkloof Dam, have stopped flowing, leaving the water 100mm below weir at the Charlesford extraction point on the Knysna River...

Choir from Ward 4 showcasing their talent at the Youth Day Entertainment Show at Loerie Park on Friday, 16 June
KNYSNA YOUTH DAY EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS cont.

Hundreds of young people from Greater Knysna attended the Youth Day show, with a programme that showcased the diverse talents of the Golden Ticket holders from the Youth Talent Development programme. From a fashion design show, afro group and gospel singers, solo artists to choir performances, DJs and rappers, there was entertainment to suit everyone’s taste, and the crowd certainly enjoyed the performances.

The audience was further entertained by Umhlobo Wenene’s Mafa Bavuma, who was a special guest, motivational speaker and MC of the event.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies addressed the eager audience giving a message of hope and encouraging the youth of Greater Knysna not to give up after the devastating fires which started on June 7.

Enrico Prins, businessman and owner of Enrico Prins Accountants, and Dino Geswindt, Global Youth Ambassador for the Global Volunteer Network (GVN) Foundation, were speakers of the day. They motivated and shared with the youth their life stories on how they became successful.