From the Mayor’s Pen

This is breast cancer awareness month and I am sure you have noticed the pink ribbons and other campaigns as part of this initiative. Thank you to our local businesses for showing your support — the Waterfront is a prime example of how one of our top tourism attractions brilliantly shows their support for this worthwhile cause. According to an article on Women24, one in 26 SA women is likely to get breast cancer, across all race groups. White South African women have the highest risk with one in 12 diagnosed positive, while the lifetime risk for coloured and Asian women is one in 18 and the risk for black women is one in 49. It is clear that there is a very good chance that we will be affected, or those close to us.

A scary thought. But then the catchy and encouraging tweet of actress and cancer survivor Fran Drescher (who also founded the early-detection group Cancer Schmancer) is the silver lining to the dark cloud: “If u catch it on arrival, 95% survival.” These are pretty good odds, but early detection is the answer.

So my question to you is — in between all the pink ribbons and clever awareness campaigns — have you made your appointment yet? It is a scary thought that breast cancer may affect your life. Digging your head in the sand, like our neighbouring ostriches, is not the solution. Make sure you get regular screenings. I know mammograms and MRIs are not fun, but they can save your life.

Then there is the other side of this disease — supporting those battling the cancer already. Our local Hospice and CANSA organisations are doing fantastic work. They always need volunteers to help on a variety of levels. Often you do not need any specific qualifications — just time and the willingness to help, e.g. visit patients on a social basis. If you do not have the time, I know they are always looking for donations of certain items. Find out how you can help and assist them.

And lastly, let’s work together to find a cure. Take part in fundraising initiatives, donate to the many extraordinary organisations doing fantastic work in this area, or get involved in a breast cancer walk, run, or other fundraiser. If we all add our bit, we can make a difference! Let October be just the start of an all year long campaign to be pro-active every step of the way.

Georlene Wolmarans • Executive Mayor

IDP Review Community consultation process underway

The Knysna Municipality invites all its residents and stakeholders to participate in its Integrated Development Planning (IDP) Review process by joining the IDP public participation meetings during the month of October 2015. Please see list of remaining meetings elsewhere in this edition.

The Knysna Municipality wants you to become part of the development process of the town. IDP public meetings are one of the ways in which communities can communicate their needs in terms of municipal services. Become part of the solution and strive with us towards our goal to be a town where people and nature prosper.

Next Issue

Knysna welcomes new Chief Financial Officer
opportunities within this community are scarce. This project will create community. As there is very little economic activity, employment community,” said Bouw-Spies. “Rheenendal is classified as a rural “Unemployment remains one of the key challenges facing this area, and we wanted to ensure that everyone was on board and had the community must be involved with what the municipality is doing in their stakeholders before beginning with the upgrades. “I believe that a the municipality conducted many engagements with all affected facilities after initiating this project in 2013.

Young people need and deserve our support, but they cannot rely solely on what they learn in their Life Orientation classes. Originally initiated in 2005, this programme aims to motivate grade 12 learners and to prepare them for their final exams and life after matric.

The participants attended a three day camp designed to temporarily remove them from their everyday environment and daily distractions to achieve in especially the previously disadvantaged areas, I am pleased with this ward’s progress in terms of development.

I have always focussed on youth development and uplifting the community during my extensive career within the spheres of local government. As Mayor I opened the Youth Centres and these are doing remarkably well. This year I partnered with the Aldridge Du Plessis Foundation to present the Step Out in Courage programme to our high school learners. I have utilised R20 000 from my ward allocation budget to fund this programme.

Chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act states that: “A municipality must develop a culture of municipal governance that complements formal representative government with a system of participatory governance, and must for this purpose: encourage, and create conditions for the local community to participate in the affairs of the municipality.”

And speaking of youth, on 24 August we commemorated the fourth anniversary of the devastating bus accident, in which 14 of our children and one adult passed away. While many of us are still grieving, we have to start on the road to acceptance and healing. I have created a path of remembrance that I hope will act as a place where we can celebrate the memories of those who have gone before us, and work towards healing our own hearts. We have planted trees, placed benches and laid a path of stones with words like remember, soul, harmony, love, hope, peace, spirit and joy on them. I believe that these will also act as stepping stones to healing and finding peace within.

I have always encouraged Ward 5 community members to participate actively in the municipal process, such as the Integrated Development Plan. It is the only way to ensure that people take ownership of their own community development. And it is through working together that we can create a town where people and nature prosper.

**Rheenendal Sports Field Upgrade**

Work on the R2.3 million upgrade of the Rheenendal sports field, a project expected to be completed by the end of February 2016, has begun. Knysna Municipality had appointed a contractor to investigate the feasibility of upgrading and adding multi-purpose community facilities after initiating this project in 2013.

Speaker and Ward 5 Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies explained that the municipality conducted many engagements with all affected stakeholders before beginning with the upgrades. “I believe that a community must be involved with what the municipality is doing in their area, and we wanted to ensure that everyone was on board and had the same vision of the planned development.”

Some of the planned works include: the repositioning and replacing of precast walls and fencing; layer works and grading of the rugby field; replacing the ablution facilities, sanitaryware, wall, floor and electrical wiring; construction of a caretaker’s residence; various paving work; and the construction of a security room.

“Unemployment remains one of the key challenges facing this community,” said Bouw-Spies. “Rheenendal is classified as a rural community. As there is very little economic activity, employment opportunities within this community are scarce. This project will create temporary employment opportunities for a number of local community members, which is sure to make a difference in their lives, as well as that of their family members and the rest of the community.”

“I trust that the community will take ownership of this facility and will guard it against vandalism,” she concluded. “When we take care of our resources and facilities and ensure that they remain in good condition, we are taking another step towards creating a town where people and nature prosper.”
Public participation leads to results

“I strongly believe that the community must be involved in the municipal processes that affect their areas,” said Ward 5 Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies. “Through our public participation engagements in Ward 5, we have managed to address many of the community’s requests.”

Bouw-Spies said that R94 500 was spent on new paving at the Rheenendal Community Hall during the 2014/15 financial year. The project began on 10 June this year, was completed on 30 June and created temporary employment for 10 members of the local community. Another 10 individuals were temporarily employed during the June 2015 upgrading of the sidewalks in Dassie Street in Rheenendal. R99 560 was spent on this project.

The previous timber walkways in Brenton on Sea were upgraded and new plastic benches were installed along the Fisherman’s Walk. Work was also done on the Brenton footbridge in June of this year, at a cost of R21 670.

Rheenendal takes part in the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (RDLR) was mandated by the President of South Africa to develop a Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP). Rheenendal has been identified as one of the participating rural areas within the greater Knysna municipal area. As a result, the RDLR has budgeted R5.8 million to upgrade gravel roads in Rheenendal. A contractor has been appointed and work is scheduled to commence in mid-October 2015.

“Unemployment is always a major concern,” said Ward 5 Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies. “I am delighted that the RDLR has provided funds for this labour intensive project as it will not only develop the area, but provide much needed temporary employment opportunities for local community members.”

Lapland Informal Settlement upgraded

Lapland consists of 31 informal structures and when it rains heavily these structures became flooded and families have to be temporarily relocated. After engagements with the relevant stakeholders, R723 324.80 has been made available for upgrading Lapland.

To date these funds have facilitated the construction of 31 new Wendy-houses, the provision of portable toilets, the upgrading of the drainage system, construction of an access road and the installation of stormwater channels. Electrification work will also begin towards the end of the current financial year.

Remember the Community Entrepreneurship Market Day at the Rheenendal Sport Field (in front of the library) on 7 November!

Western Cape to assist motorists during eNaTIS transition period

Motorists in the Western Cape are advised that renewal notices for motor vehicle licences will not be sent via the South African Post Office while the National Department of Transport (NDOT) is in the process of transferring the Electronic National Traffic Information System (eNaTIS) to the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC). The eNaTIS system is currently managed centrally at the NDOT, which includes the issuing of Motor Vehicle Licence (MVL2) renewal notices. This transition period will directly affect the thousands of motorists in the province who were due to renew their licence discs by the end of September 2015.

Motorists are urged to be proactive in checking their licence disc expiry dates, and ensure that they renew by 22 October 2015 to avoid penalties. Affected motorists residing outside of the City of Cape Town can contact the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works at its Provincial Service Centre for assistance on:

Contact Number: 0860 212 414
SMS: 31022
Send “Please Call Me”: 079 769 1207
Fax: 021 483 7216
E-mail: service@westerncape.gov.za

Alternatively, vehicle owners can also visit the Knysna Municipality’s registration section in Main Street, Knysna with their South African Identity (ID) document or valid Driving Licence Card, and complete a green ALV form for licence renewal at the counter.
Message from the Executive Mayor to the 
**Matric Class of 2015**

**Dear Matrics**

You are at the end of a very important era of your life - well done for reaching this key milestone. The exams coming up are key to the opportunities that lie ahead and this may be the most significant time of the last 12 years. Study hard for these last few weeks and you will reap the rewards - it is not long to go!

While your options may have been limited to a variety of subjects this far, from here on your future is in your hands. Anything is possible! There will be some up and downs, but if you persist towards your dream you will wake up one day to find that it is within reach.

No matter what – remember to love, laugh and enjoy every day and keep the saying that “Life is about the journey, not the destination” in mind. Sometimes we are so set on the end goal that we miss all the other experiences on the road, and it is often these experiences that makes the journey worthwhile!

Good luck, and remember, the harder you work the easier it gets.

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**Municipality looking to buy vacant land for a new cemetery**

The Knysna Municipality is looking for vacant land for the use of cemeteries and has issued tender T57/2015 inviting property owners to submit offers to purchase property.

Municipal Manager Grant Easton said they are very close to capacity at the existing facilities. “The existing graveyard in Vigilance and Barracuda Streets is reaching capacity and we need to find alternative options. We need to cater for about 18 000 burials over a period of 45 years and are looking for suitable land to buy in the Knysna Municipal area.”

He continued to say that obviously the land must meet certain criteria as specified in the tender document. “The first being that it must be within the Knysna Municipal area. A geo-hydrology investigation will have to be done to look at soil excavatability, soil permeability, site drainage, topography and basal buffer zone. It is also important that the site is a safe distance from potable water resources.”

Other obvious important factors that will influence suitability are traffic flow, accessibility by communities and the availability of civil services. “A minimum size of about 11Ha would be ideal and we would obviously take into consideration the position of the land in context with key biodiversity areas,” said Easton.

As legally required, the acquisition of the new sites will be done as part of a formal tender process (T57/2015). Once a short-list of a maximum of 5 suppliers of appropriate land is identified, keeping in mind the specific nature of cemetery services, such as inter alia Environmental Requirements, Heritage Requirements and Land Use Requirements, the following governance framework will apply:

- The Municipality will conclude a land availability agreement with the short-listed suppliers to ensure availability of land to determine its feasibility;
- The Municipality will, at own cost, conduct the aforesaid feasibility analysis and the potential suppliers must make the land available to the Municipality for assessment;
- Once the most appropriate land has been determined, the suppliers will be informed;
- The Municipality will then apply for the required Environmental Impact Assessment and other prescribed approvals;
- Once approvals have been obtained, the Municipality will, via its attorneys, purchase the land from the identified supplier.

All tenders must be submitted by 12h00 on 20 January 2016 and tender documents can be requested via e-mail from the following address: mmato@knysna.gov.za at no cost. For enquiries or more information, please contact Mr. John Jaftha on (044) 302 6407 or email jjaftha@knysna.gov.za.

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**New Facebook page for the municipality**

The Knysna Municipality launched its new Facebook page in October. Knysna Municipal Manager Grant Easton said that this addition to the municipality's communication portals is aimed at better communicating the services of the municipality. Like us on www.facebook.com/knysnamunicipality. Please note this is the only official Knysna Municipality Facebook page.