From the Mayor’s Pen

Climate change is affecting the world, but closer to home, prolonged droughts are causing havoc. Towns are without water, crops totally destroyed – a bleak picture and one that we will feel the effects of for some time to come as the country will most likely have to import food, which means increased prices.

As with every dark cloud, there is always a silver lining, and in this case it must be the public jumping in, working together and helping where they can. Water Shortage SA is one example. A spontaneous initiative that sprung up on Facebook, it gained over 22 000 likes and has already delivered two million litres of water in 20 days.

Their motto is “Never sold, never bought, never sponsored, only donated by South Africans for South Africans”. They said the word was spread via social media, where people could both make an appeal for aid and also respond to calls for assistance.

How it works is that people post on Facebook that they have water to donate and someone else would reply saying they are passing through that area. No one is in charge - the leadership has come from people wanting to help. I was very proud to see residents in the Greater Knysna area had also contributed.

It’s not just water that was donated, I’ve also seen numerous pictures of truckloads of donated feed for animals transported to drought stricken areas all over South Africa.

I believe these initiatives are showing the true hearts of the majority of South Africans, not the cheap racial slurs that we’ve seen in the media recently. We are a rainbow nation with the ability to stand together, help each other and if we can continue this Ubuntu in all aspects of our lives, we will truly create the country Nelson Mandela envisaged.

In Knysna we are fortunate not to have water shedding as yet, but the continuous heat is wreaking havoc with our supplies, so please use water sparingly! Think how you can save, re-use and be water wise. We have started the construction of a new water reservoir which will give us more storage capacity, but that will only be completed later in the year, and our rivers are running low.

Municipal elections are around the corner and voter registration is open. As important as Ubuntu is for building a country to be proud of, so is democracy. This is the time where your voice can contribute to the future of the country. Every vote counts and all residents, especially the youth, must realize that decisions made now will influence your future – be part of it! Make sure you register and vote. It is your constitutional right!

Voter registration will take place on 5 & 6 March 2016 – let’s also work together in this process to create a place where people and nature can prosper!

Georlene Wolmarans • Executive Mayor

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**WASTE REMOVAL DAYS - KNYSNA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Areas</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Concordia East, Bongani, Kanonkop, Dam-se-Bos, Edamini, Olweni, Robolo, Wittokasie, Flenters, Greenfields, Knoetzie, Heuwelkruiin, Hornlee-West, Welbedacht, The Point, Paradise, Knysna Heights, Eastford Downs, Brenton-on-Lake, Brenton-on-Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Bo-Dorp, Concordia West, Jood-se-Kamp, Nekkies, Ou Pad, Entambeni, Hlalani, Hornlee East, Green Pastures, Eastford Country Estate, Eastford Glen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Costa Sarda, Fisher Haven, Hunters Home, Rexford, Onderdorp, Sparrebosch, Pesula, Thesen Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Industrial Area, Leisure Island, The Heads, Khayalethu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Old Place, Belvidere, Westford</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The municipality said farewell to its well-loved and long-serving Solid Waste Manager, John Jaftha (62), who took early retirement at the end of December 2015 after 38 years of excellent service to the residents of Knysna Municipality.

Mr. Jaftha has been an employee of Knysna Municipality since 1977, when he started out as a Health Inspector in the Department of Health and Housing. “The department consisted of three health officials, including myself, three nursing sisters, one nursing assistant who was responsible for primary health care, one housing superintendent and four housing inspectors”.

“I worked as an environmental health practitioner until the restructuring of local authorities in 2002 when I was asked to manage waste management. It had always formed part of the department and I had been involved with it since the early eighties.”

Ward Focus: Ward 8, Councillor: Ntombizanele Jantjies

Ward 8 includes the areas of Ou Bigai, Fraaisig, Rykmanshoogte in the South and Concordia and Jood-se-Kamp in the North.

Living in these various areas are communities that have different needs. When I became Ward Councillor in 2011, my main goal was to ensure that the interests of all my constituents were represented in Council, and I still make a point of understanding the varying needs of Ward 8.

I believe that development can only be a success once the community takes ownership of and participates fully in its own growth. Research has proven that community ownership of development efforts and participation enhances project effectiveness and aids decision-making. For that reason, it is my task to not only listen, but to hear and understand when people in my community express their concerns and opinions on development in their area, as well as their own personal development.

Ward 8 community members actively participated in the Integrated Development Plan process. In response to the requests received, the following has been achieved in Ward 8:

**2014/15 FINANCIAL YEAR**
- Two high mast lights were installed at Ethembeni and Kanonkop at an approximate installation cost of R330 000 each.
- In May 2015 the municipality commenced with upgrading 1.5m wide sidewalks in Chungwa Street. The project was completed in June at a cost of R200 000.

**2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR**
- Another high mast light will be placed at Concordia South.
- The upgrading of storm water channels and the construction of a play park, valued at R350 000, is in the planning phase and scheduled to commence in May. The storm water channel will be upgraded in such a manner that it will accommodate a play park on the field opposite the road from Thembelitsa Primary School.
- Guardrails will be installed at high risk areas in the ward. A tender was advertised and a service provider will be appointed in due course.
- Continuation of paving of sidewalks in Chungwa Street is scheduled to take place from March.

Council has also budgeted R1 million for the upgrade of Stubatsi Street in Jood-se-Kamp. The current gravel road is in a bad condition. This road will be paved in order to manage the storm water requirements. This labour intensive project is set to commence soon and create much needed jobs for local community members.

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans explained that the old reservoir’s capacity could not keep up with the increasing number of households. “The northern areas of Knysna have been growing rapidly over the last decade. The old reservoir is currently serving Dam-se-Bos, Oupad, Nekkies and Hlalani. It is under severe pressure due to the high water demand and the population growth.”

The first phase of the project entails the construction of a new 1.5 megalitre circular reinforced concrete reservoir. The second phase includes a route crossing the N2 for the water main and a sewer main line as per the recommendations of the environmental assessment.

“Infrastructure development remains one of our top priorities as it allows newly formed, and growing communities, to receive service delivery. Quality infrastructure can lead to a better future for the residents of Knysna as they will receive better services. It also paves the way for more projects for integrated human settlements to transpire. We will continue with our efforts to build a town conducive to improving the quality of life of residents, and creating a town where people and nature prosper.”

The R5.3 million construction of a new reservoir in Dam-se-Bos, funded by the Provincial Department of Integrated Human Settlements, is expected to be completed by June 2016.

The municipality said farewell to its well-loved and long-serving Solid Waste Manager, John Jaftha (62), who took early retirement at the end of December 2015 after 38 years of excellent service to the residents of Knysna Municipality.

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“I worked as an environmental health practitioner until the restructuring of local authorities in 2002 when I was asked to manage waste management. It had always formed part of the department and I had been involved with it since the early eighties.”
Knysna Municipality invites nominations for members of the public to be appointed to the Knysna Municipal Planning Tribunal (KMPT). The KMPT will consist of municipal officials and external members who have demonstrable knowledge, experience and preferably qualifications in any of the disciplines of spatial planning, land use management or land development, or the laws relating thereto. The period of appointment will be three years and a person is welcome to nominate him/herself.

A town where people and nature prosper can only exist where steps are taken to ensure that our most vulnerable, yet most valuable, members of the community are afforded the opportunity to provide for their families.

The Community Work Programme (CWP) is taking the necessary steps to provide opportunities for many of our people. In partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Dhladhla Foundation, we will provide 500 individuals with the opportunity to create a decent life for them and their families with regular, part time work.

The number of job opportunities per ward are as follows:

WARDS 1; 2 & 5: 50 workers respectively
WARDS 3; 4; 7 & 8: 55 workers respectively
WARDS 6 & 9: 65 workers respectively

This community driven project, while labour intensive, will provide invaluable hours of work experience and potentially favourable references. This means that participants who make the most of this opportunity will be able to apply for permanent, gainful employment at the end of their temporary work – with an endorsement from Knysna Municipality.

In this way the CWP will not only provide temporary employment, but will create the potential for real eradication of poverty with the possibility of permanent employment awaiting candidates upon completion of this programme.

As far as practically possible, all water and electricity meters are read on a monthly basis. Our meter readers are at times not able to read your water meter due to the following:

- Locked gates
- Vicious dogs
- Meters covered with soil, water or vegetation
- Property owners denying them access.
- Vehicles parked over meters, etc.

The non-reading of your meter will result in an estimate of your consumption and, in turn, will lead to over- or under billed accounts. Kindly note that in terms of our Water Bylaw, you as the property owner or tenant cannot deny our meter readers access in the execution of their duties. In the future, the meter reader will leave a note in your post box to inform you of the non-reading of your water meter. A fee will be charged to your account should there be no response to our request for access.

Our meter readers are easily identifiable by their uniforms, or ask to see the ID card that will be in their possession at all times.

We would like to make a friendly, yet urgent, appeal to all consumers to ensure that their meters are accessible to be read at all times. You are welcome to contact the Municipality’s customer accounts or meter reading sections for any queries at 044 302 6558, 044 302 6597 or 044 302 6408.

Consumers can also take their own readings and phone it in to the aforesaid numbers.

I was responsible for overseeing the management of waste services, which includes refuse collection, street cleaning, sanitation, public toilets and cemeteries,” he said.

In 1999 Knysna became the first town in South Africa to implement the Waste-by-Rail System, for which the town received an Achievement Award in 2000. This system transported waste-to-waste disposal or recycling facilities by train. Knysna was also amongst the top achievers in refuse removal services in a national survey conducted by National Government in 2011.

Apart from his interest in service delivery, Mr. Jaftha was also involved in tennis and rugby as an administrator. He served on both sports bodies’ executive board committees at regional level until 1996. He was also involved in “Die Werkswinkel” for the disabled in Hornlee for many years as a member of the management committee.

“As a retiree, I am looking forward to spending more time gardening, cycling and getting back to fishing. Photography is another hobby of mine and I will have plenty of time to take photos now. Golfing is a new hobby and I received a set of golf clubs from my colleagues as a retirement gift,” he concluded.

Community Services Chairperson, Irene Grootboom, said it was a pleasure having Mr. Jaftha work at Knysna Municipality. “He has been a great colleague and the town will certainly miss his knowledge of and passion for service delivery. Few people have contributed so extensively and so significantly to our community. The 38 years he has invested in our town are recognised and appreciated. We wish him and his wife Sylvia a happy and peaceful retirement and all the best in his future endeavours.”
**New MUNICIPAL MOBI app to IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY**

A new mobile community application that offers residents access to information and a platform for lodging complaints will soon be in operation in the greater Knysna municipal area.

The new app will provide residents with access to a wide range of data and services such as information about the municipality and emergency contact details. It will also allow users to receive alerts related to municipal services such as electricity, water, and roads. Customers will also be able to access their municipal accounts.

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans said the app is one of many initiatives aimed at turning Knysna into a smart town. “It will improve customer care and communication and is designed to integrate a range of our services. It is a responsive service delivery tool that enables the municipality to interact with our customers in real-time. I encourage all our residents to download it once it is available. It will not only benefit those with smartphones, but any type of mobile device with a web browser.”

**WATER ALERT!**

The water demand in our greater municipal area has been extremely high. Residents and businesses must please reduce consumption to avoid water shedding. Our rivers are running low and we must be aware of how vulnerable our water resources are, and need to use water sparingly.

Water restrictions are still in place and, should the demand not decrease, the municipality will implement stricter measures. Water restrictions are as follows: even street numbers may water gardens on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 18:00 & 19:00. Odd street numbers may water gardens on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 18:00 & 19:00.

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans wants to remind residents that we are in the midst of the worst drought in decades. “It has been confirmed that 2015 was the driest year on record. Water is a very scarce resource and that is the reason we plead with residents to continue to use water sparingly throughout the hot and dry summer months. Using water wisely will not only save you money on your water and energy bills, but will help to extend the availability of the existing supply of water.”

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**DATES TO REMEMBER - MUNICIPAL MEETINGS 2016**

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<th>Committee/Affiliation</th>
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<td>Planning, Development &amp; Infrastructure Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Ward Committee: Ward 4</td>
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<td>1 March</td>
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<td>10 March</td>
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<td>10 March</td>
<td>Ward Committee: Ward 1</td>
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<td>15 March</td>
<td>Ward Committee: Ward 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Ward Committee: Ward 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
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**DATES TO REMEMBER - COMMEMORATIVE DAYS & EVENTS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
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<td>26 – 29 Feb</td>
<td>GR 300 &amp; GR Lite</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>Knysna Celtic Festival</td>
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<td>5 March</td>
<td>Club 702 Music Extravaganza</td>
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