Dear readers,

Knysna was once again thrust into mourning at the end of October when raging fires claimed the lives of nine of our residents. We hold the family, friends and colleagues of those who lost their lives in our thoughts and prayers. May you find comfort and strength to face the difficult months ahead.

I thank all firefighters, volunteers and municipal officials for their help during this time. The people of Knysna have again shown their character by putting the needs of others ahead of their own.

The holiday season is nearly upon us. We are working hard at preparing our beautiful area before our visitors arrive. Thank you to our Directors, especially the newly appointed Community Services Director Gary Boshoff, for ensuring that our visitors will once again find Knysna to be a clean, working town that will remain that way throughout the season. To all our members of staff who will be spending their festive season ensuring that others enjoy theirs: thank you. I am incredibly proud of all our municipal officials for their hard work.

At the end of this month, we will be officially opening our Blue Flag beaches. This programme promotes sustainable development and challenges us to achieve high standards in the four categories of water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety. These beaches: Buffel's Bay and Brenton-on-Sea, must follow strict criteria as set out by the international coordinators of Blue Flag, the Foundation for Environmental Education.

I ask our residents and visitors to follow the Blue Flag rules and regulations that will be displayed at all our Blue Flag beaches.

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children kicks off on 25 November. This epidemic has spread through society, sparing no social group or class. Each of us must stand up and speak out to protect those who remain vulnerable. As Ahaida Mahmood said, “There are two kinds of males – men who stand up for women’s rights and cowards.” I ask all Knysna’s men not to be cowards.

Until next month ...

Mark Willemse, Executive Mayor
Knysna municipality has expanded its fleet by acquiring a R2 million refuse truck.

Mayoral Committee member for Community Services Councillor Monwabisi Salaze said, “This new truck is a great investment. It will serve the greater Knysna municipal area by transporting waste material from Knysna to PetroSA in Mossel Bay. This function had previously been outsourced at a cost which has now been significantly cut.”

The specialised truck was custom-made for Knysna Municipality over approximately eight months. This heavy-duty hook-lift 6x4 truck with a 4 axle drawbar roll-on trailer has its own hydraulic hook lift hoist system. The Solid Waste Department is in the process of training its staff in its highly specialised operating procedures.

Many projects nearing completion will ensure a happier holiday season for all. The brand new, 237m², R2 million Clubhouse at the Hornlee sports grounds is one of those projects. The new clubhouse can host visiting teams and private functions and has two offices for administration purposes.

Mayoral Committee member for Community Services Cllr Welcome Salaze said the completion of this project will fill a great need at the Hornlee sport field. “Since the re-opening of the grounds in June 2015, it has hosted hundreds of sporting games and events. A clubhouse was sorely missed, and Council decided to construct a new building.”

“This building will offer the same great attributes that other clubhouses offer, including a new kitchen and braai area. We are very excited about this project and look forward to officially opening the facility.”

Construction is expected to be completed by December this year. Well done to all for reaching completion in time for the season.”

The Youth Desk, in partnership with the Cape Access Centre, held its first graduation ceremony for 20 deserving students at the Hornlee Library on 30 October.

The graduates have completed their Basic Computer Literacy Course as well as the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) course, a computer literacy certification programme provided by the European Computer Driving Licence Foundation.

Deputy Executive Mayor and Ward 6 Councillor Elrick van Aswegen, Director: Community Services Gary Boshoff, and officials from the Western Cape’s Department of Local Government and the Cape Access E-Centre
The Council said goodbye to DA PR Councillor Martin Young, who resigned on 2 November. Mr Young first became a PR Councillor for the Democratic Alliance after the local government elections of August 2016. He served as a member of the Community Services Portfolio Committee where he made a valuable contribution to improving the lives of the people of Greater Knysna. We thank him for his service and wish him well for the future.

Van Aswegen expressed his gratitude towards the Youth desk for ensuring that such skills development projects enjoy priority in its operations. “I am glad we have a Youth Desk run by young people who are forward-thinking and always coming up with innovative ideas. Thanks to the partnership between the Youth Desk and e-Centre you have your ICDL certificates. We can have the infrastructure and run projects but, when we do not have dedicated people running them, we are bound to fail.”

The Hornlee E-Centre membership has risen from eight members at its inception in 2016 to a current membership of 1825. Preparations to run another Basic Computer Literacy Course are underway, and members of the public are encouraged to visit the Centre at the Hornlee Library for further information. Queries may also be directed to the Hornlee Youth Advisor Cazlin Goldberg at 044 302 6528 or cgoldberg@knysna.gov.za.

Over 600 children were recently educated about how to care for domestic animals and the importance of working together to safeguard our environment - which is reliant on biodiversity. The Dog Show was thoroughly appreciated at Hornlee Primary, and the Great Eden to Addo Adventure was well received by the learners at Concordia High.

Knysna Municipality’s Environmental Department and Lunchbox Theatre made this initiative to engage children through live theatre a reality. It makes use of the age-old tradition of learning through storytelling, with great humour sprinkled throughout the serious messages to keep the young audience engaged.

This children’s programme was part of the Environmental Department’s World Animal and World Habitat Day educational initiatives.

Thank you

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Water restrictions are still in place within the greater Knysna municipal area, despite recent rainfall. Residents and businesses are encouraged to conserve water continuously.

Water saving tips in and around the house/business:

- **Turn the tap off** while washing your face, brushing your teeth or shaving.
- **Showering** can use up to **20 litres** of water per minute.

- **Taking a two-minute shower a day** instead of a bath will save up to **400 litres** a week.
- **Fix a leaking toilet!** It could waste up to **100 000 litres** in one year.

- **Save 20%** of total water consumption. Fill a 2-litre cold drink bottle with water & sand (weight), and put into the cistern.
- **Use grey water** (used water from baths, washing machines and other safe sources) to flush your toilet.

- **Showering** can use up to **20 litres** of water per minute.

- **Don’t flush the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects, etc in the trash. Save 12 litres of water per flush.**

- **Don’t fill kettles to the brim** – just enough for your needs. This will reduce your electricity bill too.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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