Dear readers,

I agree with the writer Leo Tolstoy when he said: “Spring is the time for plans and projects.”

While celebrating a new season and beginnings, it is fitting that construction of the new 600m² Khayalethu public library, valued at R8 million, began during Book Week (September 3 – 9). This library will provide the approximately 13 000 residents of Bongani, Concordia West, Khayalethu, Nekkies and Dam-se-Bos easier access to the wealth of information housed in books.

September also celebrates tourism, our heritage and our trees and forests. Tourism Month highlights the importance of this sector in our economy and our Knysna Tourism Information Office doors remain open. The well-informed staff is at hand to assist in sharing any information on our beautiful area with tourists visiting greater Knysna.

This year’s global Tourism Month’s theme is Tourism and the Digital Transformation. Our tourism office launched a mobile phone photography and videography competition for the locals, aimed at promoting the beauty of greater Knysna. The winners are to be announced on International Tourism Day, 27 September.

I trust that all our residents are taking full advantage of Heritage Month this year. I urge you to recognise all aspects of our South African culture. Share your creative expression in music, historical inheritance, language, and the food we eat. Also, don’t forget to light the fire on 24 September for National Braai Day.

We joined hands with SANParks in celebration of Arbor Month and planted Cape Ash, Outeniqua Yellowwood and Milkwood trees in Rio Road, where many trees were destroyed during the Knysna fires.

Heading into October, let us be kind to one another. Keeping in mind that October is Mental Health Awareness month, we should all play our parts in reducing the stigma and discrimination to which people with mental illnesses are often subjected.

As Aesop said, “no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.”

Mark Willemse
Executive Mayor
Mr Boshoff said that he aims to ensure that all communities receive a quality service from the municipality. “This service can and will only get better when delivered in partnership with our communities, with a municipality whose officials are accountable to the communities they serve.”

Mr Boshoff joins Knysna Municipality from Drakenstein Municipality where he served as Executive Director: Community Services. He currently holds a BA Honours Degree and MA Degree in Development Studies from the University of the Western Cape. He obtained an MBA from Regensys Business School and his Municipal Competency Compliance as Accounting Officer was completed at Stellenbosch University in 2017.

“Community Services is the main touchpoint with residents regarding service delivery,” he said. “It is my overarching goal to continue to improve service delivery concerning waste management - especially the expansion of recycling projects and educating our communities about the importance of keeping our living spaces clean and hygienic. It goes hand in hand with more visible and effective law enforcement of municipal bylaws, as well as the provision of sport and recreational facilities.”

“We must address the dual challenges of identifying land for landfill sites and cemeteries - challenges that are not unique to Knysna. I also aim to improve our response to disasters by increasing the necessary capacity and resources. The provision of quality services to underprivileged and informal areas is imperative in the short and longer term. This lies close to my heart and is something I will vigorously pursue during my term at Knysna Municipality.”

Born in Caledon, Mr Boshoff is passionate about rugby and a keen runner. “I try to get to the gym on a regular basis and enjoy hiking. I look forward to exploring the famous and beautiful hiking trails of the area.”

Mayor Willemsen thanked the various officials who acted in these directorial positions while they were vacant. “When acting as a director, one does not leave your regular responsibilities behind; you more work and responsibility. Thank you to everyone who was willing – and very able – to serve the administration and your community in this way.”

“Knysna Municipality has a culture of putting service delivery to the community first,” Mayor Willemsen concluded. “We strive to be inclusive, innovative and inspired. Moreover, I am confident that our new additions will not only fit in perfectly but enhance our ability to serve our people.”

SEPTEMBER IS TOURISM MONTH

With International Tourism Month’s theme Tourism and the Digital Transformation in mind, the Knysna Tourism Information Office will be running a mobile phone photography and videography competition for locals. The community is invited to capture and share its favourite local experiences and locations. In doing so, it will promote our beautiful destination as well as our economy.

The categories are:

- Adventure and activities in greater Knysna – mobile phone photograph.
- Food and culture – mobile phone photograph.
- A short mobile phone film representing the greater Knysna area.

The best short films will be combined to create a video showcasing the paradise we live in the world.

Winners are to be announced on International Tourism Day, 27 September 2018. Contact Belinda Hobson for more information on prizes and how to enter: 0443825510 or bhobson@knysna.gov.za.
Construction has started on a new, R8 million public library in Khayalethu. The 600m² building will cater to the approximately 13 000 residents in Bongani, Concordia West, Khayalethu, Nekkies and Dam-se-Bos.

Mayoral Committee member Councillor Welcome Salaze, portfolio: Community Services, said that the current library could no longer satisfy the needs of a growing community. “Council resolved to construct a new library next to the Khayalethu community hall to address this issue.”

“The state-of-the-art building will offer study facilities, access to information technology, a children’s story time area and much more. It’ll promote a culture of learning and reading. Construction is expected to be completed by December this year, with the official opening scheduled for February 2019.”

Knysna Municipality received another award at the prestigious annual Govan Mbeki Awards, held in Cape Town on Friday 31 August. These awards honour those who have performed best in the integrated human settlements sector of local government.

Knysna Executive Mayor Mark Willemse said they are delighted to once again receive this recognition. “This is the seventh time that our municipality receives this prestigious award since the launch of the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards in 2008.”

The municipality was announced as Second Runner Up in the category Best Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme for its Witlokasie Project.

During the June 2017 Knysna fires, sections of White Location were destroyed. The Witlokasie Project was initiated immediately after the fires. The emergency site was deemed suitable for future permanent development and residents were relocated to a temporary informal settlement. The upgrade included installation of street lighting and electrical reticulation to allow for household electricity supply, connection of sewerage systems to existing municipal infrastructure and construction of retaining walls and gabions to prevent possible soil slip due to the steep terrain.

Willemse thanked the municipality’s housing team. “This is a great acknowledgement from Provincial Government, who is responsible for housing as per schedule 4 of our constitution. This demonstrates that our Integrated Human Settlements Department is providing high quality services. I want to convey my gratitude to the team, whose hard work and commitment has made a real difference in the lives of our residents.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUNICIPAL MEETINGS 2018</th>
<th>MUNICIPAL MEETINGS 2018 CONTINUED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>27 Sept</strong> Ordinary Council Meeting</td>
<td><strong>17 Oct</strong> Technical Services Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 Oct</strong> Finance &amp; Governance Committee</td>
<td><strong>31 Oct</strong> Special Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16 Oct</strong> Community Services Committee</td>
<td><strong>24 Sept</strong> Heritage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17 Oct</strong> Planning &amp; IHS Committee</td>
<td><strong>COMMEMORATIVE DAYS &amp; EVENTS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Khayalethu Construction of New Library Underway

Knysna Municipality Receives Another Housing Accolade

MUNICIPAL MEETINGS 2018 CONTINUED