What a privilege it is to provide the foreword to this edition of the Council News. Greater Knysna is facing a few political challenges at the moment, but I can assure you that these will have no impact on service delivery. Delivering basic services of high standards remains one of this administration’s top priorities.

Knysna has an approved Integrated Development Plan and 2019/2020 Budget. These must be implemented and, as Municipal Manager, it is my responsibility to ensure that this happens. The practical aspects of this implementation fall to the administration and officials, whom I aim to lead to success in doing so.

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and November brings us ‘Movember’. This movement raises awareness of various men’s health issues such as prostate and testicular cancer, and men’s suicide. Heritage Day reminded us to celebrate the different cultures that make up our society – one of the few things our cultures all have in common is men’s reluctance to talk about their health issues. You don’t need to grow out your moustache or beard in November, but do educate yourself on what you can do to better look after your health.

This issue will address the activation of the water management devices. There is no need to worry if one has not yet been installed at your household – phase two of this project will be rolled out in due course. Please keep an eye on the press for more information.

December is around the corner and we are all working hard in preparation for the arrival of our seasonal guests. We are doing everything we can to ensure that they – and you, our residents - enjoy a peaceful, stress-free summer. Good luck to every one of those of you who are also putting in that extra effort before closing for season.

Best wishes for November,
Dr Sitembele Vatala, Knysna Municipal Manager

Mpumelelo Nzuzo has joined the administration as the Senior Manager: Project Management Office. In this position, he will be responsible for managing capital projects and programmes, ensuring that they reach their desired outcomes on time and within budget, whilst adhering to prescribed quality standards.

Mr Nzuzo comes to us from the Sundays River Municipality where he was the Director: Infrastructure Planning and Development. He achieved his diploma in Civil Engineering at the Walter Sisulu University and studied B-Tech Civil Engineering (Transportation) at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University after matriculating from Khanyisa High School in Mthatha.

“I was raised in a village named Viedgesville in Mthatha,” he said. “Here I completed my junior secondary studies at Xhugxwala Junior Secondary School. I have, however, fallen in love with Knysna and look forward to building a life here with my wife and two boys. They will be joining me here after the boys’ November examinations.”

Mr Nzuzo, who enjoys DIY-projects and would have liked to be an inventor, has set goals in his sights for his unit.

“In the short-term, I want to increase the human resource capacity of this section by absorbing highly-skilled and motivated personnel who will be able to drive the implementation of all municipal projects. Standard Operating Procedures must be developed in the medium-term, with tools and techniques that will ensure speedy implementation of projects to meet fiscal targets. Then this unit will participate in the development of long-term infrastructure development plans and strategies.”

Knysna Municipality looks forward to welcoming the rest of the Nzuzo family, and wishes them many years of happiness as active members of our community.

From the MM’s Desk

All Sections Office Hours:
Tel: +27 (0)44 302 6300
Emergencies 24 hours
Tel: +27 (0)44 302 8911
Give us your feedback:
tips@knysna.gov.za
knysna@knysna.gov.za
Customer Services:
SMS: 44453
customercare@knysna.gov.za

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Knysna Municipality is urging all residents to abide by the relevant bylaws when planning their **Guy Fawkes celebrations for 5 November**.

Municipal Manager Dr Sitembele Vatala said there will be zero tolerance shown with regards to illegal activities.

“We have put measures in place to curb illegal activities and Law Enforcement Officers will be on patrol during the day and evening. Officers are confiscating any fireworks found at retail outlets and are removing items that may be burned in public, such as tyres. They will continue to do so until after 06 November.”

“Eight officers will be on duty within Greater Knysna from 03 November, focussing on known hotspots until 06 November. The officer in charge of Law Enforcement is Gavin Williams. Please do not hesitate to contact him on 060 998 7379 if you have any queries, or wish to report illegal activities.”

Guy Fawkes celebrations have caused damage to private and municipal property in previous years, and disrupted pet behaviour. Vatala urged pet owners to make the necessary arrangements to keep their pets safe.

“We will do our best to curb illegal activities, but please keep pets indoors where possible. Animals are easily frightened by fireworks and may become distressed. Their natural response is to try and escape which, as we have seen in the past, may lead to tragic consequences.”

Acting Knysna Municipal Manager Mbulelo Memani received the resignation letter of Ward 11 Councillor Donovan Pofadder on Tuesday 15 October. His resignation was affective immediately.

We thank Mr Pofadder for his selfless service to the residents of Ward 11 and wish him all the best with his future endeavours.

Fighting the scourge of fires in and around our communities is the primary function of the Knysna Fire Services. But they also strive to provide a safer environment for residents, visitors and municipal staff by creating awareness of the dangers associated with fire in our communities.

They also believe in connecting with the communities they serve. Our local fire fighters recently conducted door-to-door visits in some of our neighbourhoods to help communities understand that fires can be prevented. Fridge magnets with important numbers were distributed to these homes.

**Contact the Fire & Rescue Services on 044 302 8911.**

With assistance from Knysna Municipality, 28 students have graduated in different operational training programmes, and are now skilled in invasive plant management. Phambili Skills, a Knysna-based company with over 20 years of experience in the forestry and invasive plant management sector, provided the training.

The graduates were trained in chainsaw operation, herbicide application, plant identification, first aid, health & safety and wildfire suppression.
The process of activating the 7500 prepaid water meters commenced on 23 October. Municipal Manager Dr Sitembele Vatala said that the prepaid system functions similarly to the electrical prepaid system.

“User Interface Units (UIU) have been provided to all households where the system has been installed, and units can be bought at the same pre-paid vendors that sell electricity.”

**Personalised Activation**

Field workers will visit each household to activate the water meter and to demonstrate how the system will work. You can only make purchases once your meter has been activated by a fieldworker. If our teams have inadvertently passed your property, contact Sakhikhaya at 067 175 7765, or via email at admin.knysna@sakhikhaya.co.za.

**Free allocations**

All indigent and pensioner households will receive 6kl free water, with other households receiving 3kl free per month as per council resolution. Unused free credits will not be carried over to the next month.

**No daily charges**

There will be no daily charges. The basic water tariff will be included in the monthly services accounts.

**The User Interface Unit (UIU)**

Refer to the reverse side (back) of the UIU. Punch in the symbols and numbers as indicated.

**Where to find your meter number**

Press #994# on your UIU, or check the white barcoded sticker on your water management device.

Can’t make a purchase?
Please contact Ontec at their George Office on 044 8735474.

**Tamper free**

Vatala stressed that the smart water meter must not be tampered with.

“Not only is it illegal, but the meter will shut down if tampered with, interrupting supply. Residents will have to wait for the meter to be fixed – at their cost - before supply can be restored,” he warned.

**Benefits all round**

Vatala concluded by saying that the prepaid system has benefits for all parties involved. “Users are now in control of their monthly usage and billing and they are notified of any water leakages. From our perspective it decreases the number of disputed accounts, improves the managing of water resources and assists Council with long term planning. We hope to have the system installed in all wards soon, and phase two will commence shortly.”

**HOUSING DEPARTMENT ENGAGE COMMUNITIES**

**Proposed housing developments for Sedgefield**

Knysna Municipality Director of Integrated Human Settlements Mr. Joel Mkunqwana engaged the community of Sedgefield on proposed housing typologies for Erven 5046, 3861, 3866, 3917, 3918, 5010, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1877, 1879, 3535 and 3536 Sedgefield. This well attended engagement held on 15 October at the Sedgefield Community Hall, forms part of processes that must be followed before a key infrastructure project of this nature kicks off.

The housing team shared the project proposals with interested residents of Sedgefield. The planned development of Breaking New Ground, FLISP, PHP and GAP houses aims to address issues of housing in the area where backyard dwellers and people living in informal settlements will be accommodated...
The Greater Knysna Municipality’s youth and sport desks presented the annual Netball Spring Tournament on 12 October at the Hornlee Sportsfield.

The event started in August to celebrate the achievements of women in sports and hosted training clinics for newly established teams from areas such as Diepwalle and Brackenhill.

There are three different divisions in the tournament: the Junior League, the Development League and the Senior League. Knysna Loeries were the winners of the Junior League Cup this year, with Thunders winning the Development League and Atlantic A winning the Senior League Cup.

Established in 2018, this event will become a sporting highlight on our annual events calendar.

Water restrictions now apply. Level 1 water restrictions allow:

- for the watering of gardens for one hour 3 days a week;
- or the use of hosepipes for gardening and other purposes, and the use of irrigation systems from 18h00 to 19h00 from December to May (summer) and 17h00 to 18h00 from June to November (winter) as follows:
  - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – residents with even street numbers;
  - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays – residents with odd street numbers;
- that residents still obtain permission from the Director: Technical Services before filling swimming pools and undertaking maintenance; and
- report water leaks and water abuse to 044 302 6331 (o/h) or 060 998 7000.

The meeting was in an effort to strengthen community engagement, encourage ownership of these projects by communities and promote transparency, active citizenship and consultation.

Knysna’s Integrated Human Settlements Department formally announced the approval of a new Breaking New Ground (BNG) housing project for Hornlee (Wards 6 and 11) during a meeting held on 21 October. Following an open and transparent bidding process, JPB Construction and Civils has been appointed to construct 155 BNG houses.

Director: Integrated Human Settlements Joel Mkunqwana gave details of key features of the house designs, including options for people living with disabilities. Two Community Liaison Officers will be appointed from within the local community and act as points of contact between the municipality, the construction company and the community.

A questions and answers session provided members of the community with a clear understanding of how the project will be executed.

R32 million BNG housing project for Hornlee made official

Municipal Netball Spring Tournament