South Africa’s Springboks are the 2019 Rugby World Cup champions!

Congratulations to the players on bringing the cup home again. Whether you are a rugby enthusiast or not, you cannot deny the sense of camaraderie – or ‘ubuntu’ – still felt throughout the country and our town because of this win.

When congratulating the Bokke after the match, Britain’s Prince Harry said: “I genuinely think that rugby has the ability to unite everyone around the world, and I could not think of a nation that needs it more than you guys right now.” I am in total agreement with the prince. Sport has the ability to bring members of a community together and, on a local level, the residents of Greater Knysna have come together through supporting their sporting heroes.

Knysna has a lot to feel proud of as our sons and daughters represent us on the global sporting stage. 24-year old Warrick Gelant, who plays for The Bulls in Super Rugby, wore the green and gold as a member of the 2019 World Cup squad. Long-time member of the SWD - and local Titans Women’s Rugby Academy teams, 22-year old Prelene Pegram made her debut as a member of the Springboks Women’s team in September. Oakhill School learner Aimee Canny represented South Africa in the 50m and 100m freestyle swimming events at the Junior World Championships held in Hungary in August. And, also from Oakhill School, Blake Govender has been selected to join the Protea E-sports team when they participate in the International E-sport Federation’s 11th World Championships in South Korea in December.

Well done to these spectacular young men and women. Your hard work has paid off and Knysna is proud and privileged to have you represent our country. Your skills show the rest of South Africa, and indeed, the world, that Knysna raises champions.

The end of 2019 is speeding towards us. Make the most of the remaining weeks to finish the year like the Bokke finished their final match.

Best wishes for December,

Dr Sitembele Vatala, Knysna Municipal Manager

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While celebrating Mandela Day on 18 July this year, Knysna Municipality announced the imminent construction of three Breaking New Ground (BNG) housing units, made possible through private partnerships. The first of these homes was handed over to its beneficiary on Monday 28 October.

Sana Morris (59) fell on hard times after losing employment as a farm worker in Karatara. Having had to leave the farm she, her five children and her grandchildren were forced to live on the streets until a ‘Good Samaritan’ offered them temporary shelter.

Cape Island Construction offered to join the Municipality’s Mandela Day initiatives and the community immediately identified Sana as the ideal recipient of this new house. She was overcome with joy and excitement when she received her keys from Knysna Speaker Mertle Gombo and Director of Cape Island Construction John Rimbault.

Knysna Municipal Manager Dr Sitembele Vatala thanked Cape Island Construction and BUCO for their much-appreciated sponsorship. “Thanks to their involvement, we are able to make an enormous difference in the lives of desperate families within Greater Knysna. This shows how municipal and private partnerships can work to the benefit of all.”
“One cannot overstress the importance of maintaining and improving infrastructure: It is critical to the efficient running of any town or area,” says Knysna Municipal Manager Dr Sitembele Vatala. “Providing basic services of consistently high standards remains our top priority. We can only do this if we have a sound base of infrastructure to work from.”

The municipality is continuously maintaining all infrastructure, but please note the following regarding electrification projects and road maintenance:

Electrification

- In Sedgefield (Ward1), overhead lines are being replaced with underground cables. Maintenance is taking place on Eastford’s substation cable and work is being done on the new Brenton substation line, both in Ward 5. In Ward 10, works related to the substation at the municipality’s workshop includes maintenance, a new 320m 22kV link from the Salt River substation and a new 400m 11kV link from the Denmar substation. Work is also being done on the new Shamrock cable and breaker in this ward, as well as maintenance at the Kruisfontein overhead line in Ward 11.

Roads Maintenance

- According to the Roads Maintenance Programme for 2019/2020, re-gravelling and blading took place during September and October in wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9. Roads in wards 9 and 10 were resurfaced during this period, while general road repairs took place in wards 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Roads will be re-gravelled in wards 1 and 10 during November, with blading taking place at the same time in wards 2 and 10. General road repairs will take place in ward 9 in November, with roads being resurfaced in wards 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10 during November and December. Preparations for the season will start in wards 1, 2, 5, 9 and 10 from mid-November through December.

“The implementation of some of these projects might cause slight inconvenience at times,” Vatala concluded. “We ask you to be patient. These kind of works play an integral part in our efforts to provide residents and visitors with the services they expect and deserve.”

One of the strategic objectives of the Municipal Fire Service is to safeguard property. This is made increasingly difficult as densification hampers proper access to some informal settlements. This increases the risk of damage or loss in case of fires.

Following a risk assessment, it was decided to install fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in structures in the Marikana settlement in Nekkies. Firefighters provided training on the effective use of extinguishers to members of each household. Fire-fighting staff will conduct quarterly inspections to check equipment and provide refresher training on its use.

Students who are currently studying at tertiary or TVET institutions, as well as Grade 12 learners, are now invited to apply for financial assistance towards further studies in 2020. Grants are restricted to full-time students and attendance at SAQA accredited tertiary or TVET institutions. South African citizens residing in the Greater Knysna Municipal Area are eligible to apply.

Application forms are available from the Municipal Offices in Clyde Street and the municipality’s Youth Offices during normal office hours, or on the municipal website at www.knysna.gov.za/government/mayors-office/grants/

Only application forms that have been correctly completed in full will be considered. NO LATE APPLICATIONS will be accepted.

Enquiries: Contact Ms. Kirsty Hofhuis at telephone number 044 302 6355.

Candidates who are not contacted within two months of the closing date may accept that their application was unsuccessful.

CLOSING DATE: 12H00 on MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2020.
Municipal Manager Dr. Sitembele Vatala says that Knysna will once again be flying the Blue Flag on the Brenton-on-Sea beach this summer. "South Africa has participated in the Blue Flag initiative since 2001," he said. "Both beaches at Buffalo Bay and Brenton-on-Sea have claimed this prestigious status before and we are proud to retain this accolade for Brenton."

To achieve ‘Blue Flag’ status, beaches must meet strict international criteria in terms of safety, water quality, clean ablution facilities and attendance of lifeguards. The programme is locally implemented by the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA). It offers benefits that include improved tourism facilities, enhanced management of coastal ecosystems, increased awareness of the coast and capacity-building of coastal municipalities.

“This is a lovely feather in our cap with summer around the corner,” Vatala concluded. "We also extend our congratulations to Thesen Islands Harbour Town, Thesen Islands Marina and Ocean Odyssey for maintaining their Blue Flag status. You all make Greater Knysna proud."

To maintain a healthy estuary, all oil and grease should be kept out of the sewer and stormwater systems. This may be done by practising some easy, good housekeeping. All restaurants, B&Bs, hotels and cafés that prepare food on their premises should have grease traps installed. A register of oil used and sold back to a reputable oil recycling facility should be kept, ensuring no illegal disposal takes place. Recycling your oil has a direct impact on your bottom line, as recycling companies buy your used oil with cash.

Commercial entities need to limit the amount of oil that enters the networks (both stormwater and sewer), by ensuring that cleaners are instructed to remove any oil before washing. A simple grease trap can be installed at home to prevent all grease and solids from going ‘down the drain’. A mere trap in the plug hole can capture a lot of solids, including solidified grease. Wipe the grease away with a paper towel and put the debris and paper towel in the compost. Natural oils and fats can be composted - especially if your compost heap is hot.

Residents of Ward 11 in Hornlee will have the opportunity to elect their new ward councillor during the 4 December by-election. The necessity to elect a new ward councillor follows the resignation of Councillor Donovan Pofadder in October this year.

Residents will be able to cast their votes at one of two voting stations, Sunridge Primary School or the AFM Koinonia Church, between 7am and 9pm.
Level 1 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 hose pipes for gardening and other purposes, and the use of irrigation systems from 18h00 to 19h00 during December to May (summer) and 17h00 to 18h00 during 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.

**A few practical tips for commercial and home grease disposal:**

1. Educate staff and household members. Knowledge is power!
2. Place signage above sinks and dishwashers as reminders.
3. Dry-wipe pots and dishware prior to washing as it will reduce the amount of material going to the grease traps.
4. Use water cooler than 60°C in all sinks. Higher temperatures dissolve grease, which will later solidify in the system.
5. Recycle cooking oil waste through an established, reputable recycling facility.

**WATER RESTRICTIONS**

**GREASE & OIL IN SEWERAGE CONTINUED...**

![Commercial grease trap](image courtesy of Roto-Rooter)