We have come to the end of 2019. It has been a full and productive year for us as a municipality, and I hope that it has been a productive and successful year for you too. As you will see from the rest of this newsletter, that doesn’t mean that we’ll be resting on our laurels while everyone else is enjoying their time off.

The increase of traffic in town is probably one of the most frustrating aspects of the holiday season for many residents. Please be considerate and patient with all other road users during this busy time. Losing your temper might just lead to an avoidable accident, which will surely tarnish your whole holiday. Our traffic services and point duty officers will try to make your commute as easy as stress-free as possible.

When driving, please adhere to the rules of the road. Do not drink and drive and do not speed. A zero-tolerance policy will be adhered to when prosecuting offenders. Don’t be the cause of your own, your family’s or another family’s misery this summer.

The mercury is sure to rise this season. Have fun keeping cool, but remember that level 1 water restrictions are in place. These are set out within this newsletter.

We supported the United Nation’s worldwide 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign from 25 November until 10 December. This is, however, a cause that this administration supports throughout the entire year. This type of violence has made headline news in South Africa too many times in 2019 – even just one report is one too many. Violence against any person is a vile, unnecessary act. We have the opportunity and responsibility to raise the next generation to respect one another and to abhor violence of any kind.

Respect for one’s self - and for others - is also the only way in which we will be able to rid the world of HIV and Aids. World Aids Day was commemorated on 1 December, as was the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. A disability is not a sentence, and I appreciate and applaud persons with disabilities who are still contributing to society, or who are living their lives to their fullest.

And on the subject of appreciation, we are grateful to those members of staff who will be working throughout a period when many of us will be resting, relaxing and having a good time. Thank you for your sacrifice. Your dedication means that our residents and visitors may enjoy their holiday, knowing that services will still be delivered.

To those who celebrate a religious commemoration during this period, may it bring you peace and joy. And may 2020 bring us all happiness and success.

Best wishes
Dr Sitembele Vatala
Knysna Municipal Manager

Knysna, home of 2019 IRB World Cup Winner, Warrick Gelant

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

inclusive, innovative, inspired

www.knysna.gov.za
Please note that our offices will close at 13h30 on Friday 20 December 2019 and reopen at 07h30 on Monday 6 January 2020.

The Customer Care Centre in Main Street, Knysna, will be open from 08h00 to 12h00 on 23, 24, 27, 30 and 31 December 2019, and 2 and 3 January 2020.

All essential and emergency services will be delivered.

For enquiries or emergencies, please contact the Knysna Fire Department on 044 302 8911.

According to Knysna Municipal Manager Dr Sitembele Vatala, the municipality has an Integrated Seasonal Readiness Plan (ISRP) in place.

“The ISRP will be implemented from 1 November until 31 January,” he said. “It focusses on the delivery of a number of services, including traffic management, law enforcement, fire and rescue, parks and recreation and waste management.”

“The ISRP defines clear responsibilities of relevant municipal sections,” Vatala continued. “Effective implementation of this plan will promote a safe environment for residents and visitors, ensuring that services are delivered throughout the busy season.”

Traffic

“Summer is always a busy time in Knysna, and we do not expect this year to be any different,” he said. “While we welcome our visitors, we have to make provision for the increase in vehicles on our roads. Temporary point duty officers will be deployed to relieve traffic congestion.”

Seasonal celebrations are often associated with traffic accidents, and the ISRP aims to curb these incidents as zero tolerance will be shown to traffic offenders. The Municipal Traffic Section will participate in joint operations between traffic officials, law enforcement officers, fire officials and the South African Police Services to promote traffic management and general compliance.

“Special attention will be given to moving violations, speed monitoring, roadworthiness, defective lights, public transport, visibility of pedestrians at night, driver fatigue and visible policing,” said Vatala. “Incidents of driving under the influence spike during this period and our officials will conduct alcohol blitzes as well as vehicle stops and checks. They will also assist with the enforcement of selected, critical by-laws, offences and contraventions.”

Law Enforcement

“Our Law Enforcement Officers will be performing their regular duties with the assistance of newly trained officers,” said the Municipal Manager. “15 new officials have been appointed for the next 12 months, with another 30 having been appointed as seasonal officers.”

These officials will enforce municipal by-laws. They will also assist in combating crime by participating in special operations with SAPS, Traffic- and other relevant departments. They will create a safe environment for residents, visitors and businesses. They will also patrol Greater Knysna’s beaches and public recreational areas, ensuring that everyone enjoys a safe and secure summer.

Parks and recreation

“Service providers will cut the grass in all wards to maintain neatness,” Vatala ensured. “All public amenities had been attended to by the end of September, with all benches having been repaired and painted. A maintenance team will inspect and repair all defects on our boardwalks and playparks on a weekly basis. Our dedicated officials will be on standby to clean all public facilities on a daily basis between 1 December and 15 January.”

Rules of summer

Do’s:
• enjoy the beaches and public amenities; and
• respect the property and privacy of homeowners in the areas where you party.

Don’ts:
• drink alcohol and drive; and
• drink alcohol on beaches and in other public spaces.

Not allowed:
• busses in areas with limited space;
• tents or overnighting on public land;
• loud music from private sound systems in public spaces;
• waterside revelling spilling onto the private properties of others; and
• drunkenness and associated unruly behaviour in streets and public places.
Dogs on Blue Flag beaches:

Brenton-on-Sea received full Blue Flag status and Buffalo Bay was awarded pilot status. Please respect the conditions of this international accolade, applicable from 1 December 2019 to 31 January 2020.

• Please walk dogs outside designated spaces before 9am and after 5pm.
• Pet-friendly zone Brenton: 300 metres west of the second lifesaving flag.
• Pet-friendly zone Buffalo Bay: east of the last beach residence.
• Dogs must be on leashes at all times.
• Both beaches may be accessed via normal routes.
• Please clean up after your dogs and dispose of waste bags in the correct bins.

Report issues to the following contact numbers: Traffic 060 998 6808; Law Enforcement 060 998 7379; Beach Control 060 998 7047 or after hours at 044 302 8911.

As the amount of household waste generated generally doubles during the holiday season, additional refuse collection staff will be appointed over this period. Refuse will be collected from all areas at least once per week, as per the schedule to the right. Bags must be placed outside by 6am on the day of collection. Recyclables and household refuse will be collected on the same day.

“The street cleaning teams are always busy sweeping or collecting litter from residential and central business district (CBD) streets,” said Municipal Manager Dr Vatala. “The CBD, recreational facilities and beaches will be cleaned on a daily basis. Operational hours will be extended during this time and additional staff will be employed to assist where needed. We will appoint 60 members from our unemployed database, representing all wards.”

Maintenance will be performed at all public restroom facilities throughout the municipal area. Additional staff will monitor restrooms throughout season and additional toilets will be sourced for recreational facilities. Clearing of illegal dumping will take place along with grass cutting.

Note that collection in the Northern areas will take place as follows:

• Ou Pad, Hlalani, Edameni, Kanonkop, Victor Molosi Village, Emfeleni and Concordia will be on Thursday 26 December and Tuesday 31 December 2019.

Note: No refuse removal will take place on Christmas and New Year’s Day. Alternative refuse collection days will be on 24 December and 31 December 2019.

For more information with regards to your collection contact the Waste Management office during office hours at 044 302 6405—after hours at 044 302 8911.

Report illegal dumping at 060 998 7055.
WATER RESTRICTIONS

Level 1 water restrictions now apply. Level 1 water restrictions allow:

- for the watering of gardens for one hour three 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.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Important numbers to keep close at hand.

Municipal numbers:

Emergency services: 044 302 8911 (all hours)
All sections: 044 302 6300 (office hours)
Water leaks: 044 302 6331 (office hours)
Water abuse: 060 998 7000
Illegal dumping: 081 556 9374
Land invasion: 060 998 7002
Customer complaints: 044 302 6594 / sms 44453 / email customercare@knysna.gov.za

Other numbers:

SA Police Service: 044 302 6608/9 or 044 302 6677 or 10111
Provincial traffic: 044 382 5525 or 062 024 8673
Provincial hospital: 044 302 8400
Provincial ambulance: 10177 or 112
Private hospital: 044 302 5200
ER24: 084 124
NSRI: 082 990 5956

COMMEMORATIVE DAYS & EVENTS

25 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS DAY

26 DECEMBER
DAY OF GOODWILL

28 DECEMBER
KNYSNA ROTARY SPLASH

1 JANUARY 2020
NEW YEAR'S DAY

DATES TO REMEMBER

Municipal Meetings 2020

29 JANUARY ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

4 FEBRUARY GOVERNANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY FINANCE COMMITTEE

6 FEBRUARY INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMMITTEE

11 FEBRUARY COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

12 FEBRUARY TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

13 FEBRUARY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE