It is hard to believe that the year has reached its halfway mark. The first six months of 2020 have been very difficult and there’s no doubt we will face more challenges during the second half of the year and, realistically speaking, beyond. But Knysna and her people have proved that they have the resilience and determination to triumph over adverse conditions, and I believe that by working together and respecting one another we will do so again.

Many of us were shocked when Acting Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz resigned on 28 May. This notice period ended on 11 June. I want to thank Dr Gratz for her contribution during her time as Acting Municipal Manager and wish her success and happiness in future endeavours. At the Council meeting on 11 June Council appointed Dr Louis Scheepers as the new Acting Municipal Manager, replacing Dr Gratz.

Councillor Peter Myers resigned from Council on the same date as Dr Gratz. Cllr Myers has served as Deputy Mayor and Chairperson of various Portfolio Committees during his five-year tenure. He has made a valuable contribution to improving the lives of the people of Ward 10 and Greater Knysna. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family well for the future.

Although our Chief Financial Officer Mr Mbulelo Memani also tendered his resignation on 28 May, I confirm that Mr Memani is still at his post. Measures to mitigate our dire financial situation have been implemented and will reflect in our 2020/2021 tabled budget.

On a more positive note, I am looking forward to logging on and attending the first virtual Knysna Oyster Festival, which will be taking place online from 27 June to 4 July. The organisers have promised us a variety of creative, lifestyle and even sporting events that will be presented through the festival’s social media platforms and YouTube links. We look forward to some great entertainment to escape from our current daily worries and stresses. Thank you and congratulations to everyone involved for thinking ‘out of the oyster shell’, as it were, to keep this fantastic festival alive during these difficult times. Please visit www.knysnaoysterfestival.co.za for detailed information and relevant contact details.

As time goes by and lockdown regulations are relaxed, we must take care not to lapse in our protective measures against the COVID-19 disease. Cases are rising steadily and it is of utmost importance that we keep on practising preventative measures. First and foremost, stay at home whenever possible. When you have to go out, wear your mask, wash your hands and cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Practice social distancing and remember, we take care of each other by taking care of ourselves.

Stay at home, and stay safe.

‘til next month,

ELRICK VAN ASWEGEN, EXECUTIVE MAYOR

KNYSNA HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Congratulations to COPE Councillor Elrick van Aswegen who was elected as Knysna’s new Executive Mayor at a Special Council meeting held on 11 June 2020.

Cllr Van Aswegen was a teacher before he stepped into the political arena and is still affectionately known as “Meneer” within the Hornlee community. He has been involved in Knysna politics since 1993 when he served on the then Transitional Council. He currently also serves as the Councillor for Ward 6.

We wish him well and are looking forward to working with him in these difficult times.
Please take note that until the backlog has been depleted no new applications for learner’s licence and driver’s licence tests will be accepted.

Strict social distancing will be maintained at the centre and the wearing of a face mask and temperature screening will be compulsory for all administrative staff and visitors.

Please make sure you have the relevant documents with you. A list is available on the municipal website at https://www.knysna.gov.za/live-here/customer-care-centre/

10 000 FAMILIES RECEIVED ASSISTANCE AS PART OF OUR SOCIAL RELIEF PROGRAMME WITH ROTARY

To date, the Municipality’s social relief programme has distributed vouchers and food parcels to the value of R3,5 million.

Executive Mayor Elrick van Aswegen said they have received more than 16 000 applications. “We have verified 10 000 so far and no new applications are accepted at the moment,” he explained, “The programme, run in conjunction with Knysna Rotary, continues and we remain committed to assisting our residents. These contributions to those in need are only possible because of your donations – thank you, we appreciate your selflessness!”

The Mayor also thanked the following organisations whose help and assistance, he said, have been invaluable - Badisa Family Care Services, the Department of Social Development,
Gift of Givers, Knysna Education Trust, EPAP, Vineyard Church, Youth for Christ, local Spaza shops and SANParks. “A perfect example showing that together we can do so much more!”

The programme excludes residents who receive UIF, pensions and grants.

Residents and businesses interested in supporting the Humanitarian and Social Relief Programme are invited to make financial donations to the Rotary Club of Knysna, who will regulate and manage the funds accordingly.

Their banking details are:

Rotary Club of Knysna
Nedbank, Knysna
Current Account: 1089027257
Branch Code: 198765
SWIFT Code: NEDSZAJJ
Reference: Surname – C19 Food
Email: covid-19@knysnarotary.co.za

REGISTER FOR MUNICIPAL E-SERVICES

Do you know about the Municipality’s online services? Once registered, you can receive your accounts via email or view your accounts online through the portal on the Municipal website. An SMS service delivering your statement balance is also available.

To register for the email service, send an email to accounts@knysna.gov.za.

To register for the online service, visit the municipal website at https://www.knysna.gov.za/live-here/customer-care-centre/pay-accounts/ and click on the “login to your account” link.

Complete the info as requested.

The online service offers enhanced support to residents and ratepayers. Once registered, residents may access their municipal account no matter where they are, as long as they have access to email or our website.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN RATES AND SERVICES REBATES EXTENDED

The closing date for applications for senior citizen rates and services rebates has been extended to 15 July. This includes applications for rebates for persons declared medically unfit to work.

Senior residents 60 years and older may apply, as well as individuals that have been declared medically unfit to work. Residents earning more than R5400 but less than R15 000 per month may also qualify for a rebate of between 5% - 80% on rates.

Pensioner rebates are also available and pensioners with an income between R15 001 to R40 000 per annum may also register for a rebate on services only, subject to Council approval of the budget.

The new closing date is 15 July 2020.

For enquiries or assistance with the completion of forms, please contact Gail Windvogel at gwindvogel@knysna.gov.za, Nolufefe George at ngeorge@knysna.gov.za or visit Credit Control at our Queen Street Offices.
## COMMEMORATIVE DAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 July</td>
<td>Mandela Day</td>
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## WATER RESTRICTIONS

Winter Level 1 water restrictions now apply allowing:

- Watering of gardens for one hour, 3 days a week;
- The use of hosepipes for gardening and other purposes, and the use of irrigation systems from 17h00 to 18h00 during June to November as follows:
  - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – residents with even street numbers;
  - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays – residents with odd street numbers; and
- Residents must still obtain permission from the Director: Technical Services before filling swimming pools and undertaking maintenance.

Please report water leaks and water abuse to 044 302 6331 (o/h) or 060 998 7000.

## OYSTER FESTIVAL GOES VIRTUAL

24 June – 4 July Visit knysnaoysterfestival.co.za for more

## INDIGENT REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL REBATES ON RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES

Owners of rateable properties may, subject to certain conditions, apply for a rebate on annual rates and service charges.

Applications must meet the following criteria:

1. Combined gross household income must not exceed three (3) times the Government Social Pension;
2. Applications must be accompanied with a certified copy of ID, proof of income or affidavit of unemployment; and
3. In the case of a deceased estate, a death certificate and electricity prepaid token must be submitted.

Closing date for applications has been extended to 15 July 2020.

For enquiries or assistance with the completion of forms, please contact Gail Windvogel at gwindvogel@knysna.gov.za, Nolufefe George at ngeorge@knysna.gov.za or visit Credit Control at our Queen Street Offices.

## MUNICIPAL MEETINGS 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 July</td>
<td>Governance &amp; Economic Development Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 July</td>
<td>Community Services Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 July</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<td>8 July</td>
<td>Technical Services Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 July</td>
<td>Integrated Human Settlements Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 July</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Development Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>Mayoral Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Ordinary Council Meeting</td>
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22 July

27 June (8 am)

KNYSNA FOREST VIRTUAL RACE

27 June (9-11 am)

VIRTUAL KNYSNA CYCLE TOUR

27 June (2 pm)

KNYSNA YACHT CLUB VIRTUAL REGATTA

29 June (7-8 pm)

VIRTUAL FAMILY FUN TRIVIA