FROM THE EXECUTIVE
MAYOR’S DESK

We have experienced the bitter cold of winter during August, paired with rain and strong winds. I hope you were lucky enough to wrap up in front of a heater or fireplace at home, with a roof over your head and a warm meal on your plate. Many of our residents are not that lucky and I urge you to consider donating some warm clothes or bedding, as well as food, to any of the deserving charitable organisations in Knysna, if you are able to do so.

South Africa has moved to level two of the National Lockdown. The relevant regulations and associated activities are sure to have a beneficial effect on our economy and I wish all business owners, employers and employees the best of success. The tourism industry in particular is now allowed to operate more freely and, as this is the driving force behind our economy, a resurgence in trade will surely trickle down to all aspects of economic activity in Knysna.

The Municipality’s biggest focus at the moment is one that should be everyone’s common goal – the post COVID-19 economic recovery of Greater Knysna. My office will be the driving force behind designing a strategy aimed at facilitating this recovery. This strategic reboot entails developing innovative ideas, adopting a culture of change and nurturing talents and capabilities as we rebuild. We will have to work together towards sustainable economic growth and I invite residents to contribute towards this goal. Suggestions that are in the best interest of our town should be emailed to tips@knysna.gov.za.

Many social restrictions have also been lifted or eased in Level 2. Please adhere to those restrictions that are still in place. Nobody knows much about how this virus evolves and we definitely do not want to experience a second wave of infections if we can avoid it. Always wear your mask when in public. Wash your hands regularly and keep a safe distance of at least 1,5m between yourself and others at all times. The lifting of restrictions does not imply that the virus has left us. Please remain vigilant regarding your own safety, as well as the safety of those around you.

‘National Braai Day’ is around the corner on 24 September. While we will be able to enjoy this favourite pastime with a few friends or family members, keep in mind that this is Heritage Day. We should all consider and celebrate the variety of rich cultures, traditions and beliefs that make us all proudly South African.

We have weathered many storms together. We shall make it through the squall of COVID-19 and all of the ways in which it has impacted our economy and society. Let’s stay the course together.

‘til next month, stay safe

ELRICK VAN ASWEGEN
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN?

“We have embarked on a campaign to mobilise households, the business sector and government to pay for municipal services,” said Acting Municipal Manager Dr Louis Scheepers. “We are all required by law to pay for municipal services that have been rendered or services that have been consumed. This campaign aims to ensure not only compliance to these laws, but to create a culture of civic responsibility throughout all communities.”

Give us your feedback:
tips@knysna.gov.za
knysna@knysna.gov.za

Customer Services:
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customercare@knysna.gov.za

All Sections Office Hours:
Tel: +27 (0)44 302 6300
Emergencies 24 hours
Tel: +27 (0)44 302 8911

inclusive, innovative, inspired

www.knysna.gov.za
Regular and on time payments of accounts, even if you do not receive a statement, is necessary for the continued delivery of municipal services. Residents whose accounts are in arrears are encouraged to settle their debts by paying through any of the easy-payment channels available, or to contact the Municipality to discuss the possibility of making payment arrangements.

Municipalities provide core services that are essential components of the right to dignity as enshrined in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Revenue generated from rates and service collection is used to fund the delivery of these services - which are to the benefit of the whole community. “This revenue allows us to make sure that traffic lights are fixed when necessary, that potholes are filled, potable water is delivered and – load shedding aside – electricity is supplied uninterrupted,” said Dr Scheepers. “Non-payment of municipal accounts goes against the spirit of building the Knysna we all want and deserve.”

“There must be constructive dialogue between Local Government and the community regarding service delivery complaints,” he continued. “Residents who are unsatisfied with the delivery of service should communicate with the Municipality. We can resolve any dispute related to service delivery if we work together. Unruly, illegal protest action will not achieve the intended result.”

“We call on those who can afford to continue paying for municipal services to do so – it is the responsible thing to do,” he concluded. “Our ultimate goal is to create a Local Government system that is developmental, responsive, efficient, effective and accountable.”

GREY STREET PROJECT SCHEDULE AMENDED

A revised works schedule aims to have completed blocks one to four of Knysna Municipality’s Grey Street Project before the December season kicks off.

“Work on block five, from Nelson Street to Main Road, will only commence in the new year,” said Acting Municipal Manager Dr Louis Scheepers. “This means that all of Grey Street will be open during our peak traffic season.”

“Should the contractor not be able to guarantee that surfacing of the section between Rawson and Nelson Streets will be completed by 1 December, work on this block will also only start in 2021 to ensure that one of our busiest streets remains open to traffic during one of our busiest seasons,” Dr Scheepers explained.

After consultation with affected businesses, the Municipality has agreed that reconstruction of block three would begin almost a month in advance. “This effectively buys us more time to complete scheduled works before the December break,” Dr Scheepers advised. “Whilst also allowing ‘catch up time’ for days lost due to inclement weather conditions or other unforeseen factors that may delay the project.”

To facilitate the flow of traffic, portions of the road will be opened whilst work on the sidewalks and other areas continues. The project does not only concern the rebuilding of the road, but also that of the intersections, sidewalks and parking bays, the replacement of the old water pipeline and a general ‘sprucing up’ of Grey Street.

“We are pleased with the work conducted thus far,” Dr Scheepers concluded, “And will be proud to deliver a new and improved Grey Street to our residents and visitors upon completion of this project. Thank you to all road-users for your patience. We appreciate your support and cooperation in dealing with the slight inconveniences caused by these temporary road closures. We all look forward to the returns this investment in our town will bring.”

Any affected persons are invited to contact Blyne Miller on site to address and resolve concerns. The amended programme is available below.

The Grey Street Project forms part of the Municipality’s Central Business District Renewal Program. It is funded internally for the 2019/20 financial year, with a budget of R17 million. Construction started in February this year and the contract completion date is set for July 2021.
## GREY STREET CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

### REVISION 1 (Updated 05.08. 2020)

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*to be confirmed subject to progress on locks 2 & 3

NOTE: No new construction work to start in December 2020

## 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.

## MUNICIPALITY LEASES PROPERTY FOR NEW HORNLEE CLINIC

The Hornlee Taxi Rank will be leased to the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works for the establishment of a new clinic in Hornlee. The municipality is within its rights to negotiate directly with the Department, as it is an organ of state. The department will be responsible for the costs involved, as well as any and all other incidental costs.

Knysna Municipality looks forward to this new partnership and will keep the community of Hornlee and Greater Knysna up to date with the progress of their new clinic. The Garden Route Taxi Association lodged the only comment/complaint received during the public participation process, but it must be noted that this rank had not been used since it was completed.
Knysna Municipality celebrated the women within the organisation during Women’s Month. In this edition we will showcase two remarkable female staff members who are both passionate about their work and highly committed to creating an inclusive, innovative and inspired Greater Knysna.

Katrina Marais:

63-year-old Katrina Marais - or ‘Aunt Barbie’ as she is affectionately known - does great work in trying to keep the streets of Knysna clean. “I am a warm-hearted, loving person,” she said. “I love my job because it affords me an opportunity to meet a lot of people, especially here in Templeman Square. They give me positive feedback regarding my work and this has kept me motivated for the past 16 years.”

A wife, mother to two daughters, and grand-mother of four, Katrina says she enjoys her work regardless of its nature. “I have learnt to adapt to the different weather conditions while performing my duties. Being a nature-lover makes it easy for me to work as a street cleaner as I contribute towards keeping our town beautiful,” she said.

Katrina is the proud recipient of two consecutive Best Performing Employee awards in her section (2013 & 2014). Members of the public who observed her dedication and good work ethic nominated her for one of these.

She said that it is tough being a woman in South Africa these days as they are still being mistreated by their male counterparts. Her main worry as a mother to girls is their safety, and she feels an obligation to protect her children and grandchildren at all times.

“I am proud to be the woman and mother that I am today, who lived to inspire my children, to be a role-model and to see them grow;” she concluded.

Kirsty Hofhuis:

Kirsty Hofhuis is the personal assistant to the Executive Mayor and has served under four councillors in this position: Cllr. Eleanore Bouw Spies (DA), Cllr. Mark Willems (DA), Cllr. Aubrey Tsengwa (ANC) and now Cllr. Ricky van Aswegen (COPE).

“They are each so unique with different legacies left behind. We have amazing leaders in our town and they have all taught me so much,” said Hofhuis.

Kirsty is adaptable, resilient, a mother hen and often a saving grace. She is a walking encyclopaedia of the organization and always only a phone-call away. She is a mother and a wife. When she is not acting as the right-hand to the first citizen of the town and/or a supporting role to Council, she runs the animal rescue group Sedgefield Animals Matter.

“This team amazes me every day,” she says. “We focus on the spaying and neutering of animals, as well as vaccinations and feeding. We don’t even have holding kennels so, when we do have emergencies, we make use of foster pools. I do all my SAM work after hours. I have no words when it comes to my family. They are the best support system I could ever ask for. I can’t do what I do without their encouragement.”

Hofhuis was crowned Sedgefield Slow Festival’s Most Outstanding Community Member in 2017. Words she lives by: “I am a voice for the voiceless, you have one day or day one, it’s your choice.”

South Africa has been celebrating Women’s Month since 1994. The month pays tribute to the more than 20 000 women who, on 9 August 1956, marched to the Union Building in protests against the extension of the Pass Laws. Keep an eye out for more remarkable ‘Women of Worth’ in the September edition.

To receive your monthly account via email or sms send an email to accounts@knysna.gov.za