



Council Chatter

Town of Grottoes, March 2025

Mayor's Corner

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Hello Grottoes Residents!

Time to Spring forward!!! Sunday, March 9th, Daylight Savings time begins, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors! Sunshine and warmer days are on the horizon!

Opening Day for the Grottoes Little League will be kicking off this year's season, on Saturday, April 5th. Additional information can be found online on the GCLL's Facebook Page.

Come out this Baseball season and support the Grottoes Cardinals and Mary Baldwin Universities' Fighting Squirrels! Once again, this is an exciting opportunity to be able to provide the venue for Collegiate Baseball and offer our citizens and surrounding communities the enjoyment of this

All-American Sport! For the LOVE of Baseball!

In recent days, Grottoes' local businesses have been highlighted in the Daily News Record. Top contenders were "Weavers Karate", the "Ye' Olde Coffee House" and the GVFD Community Sunday Lunch events. We also have a brand-new beauty salon, "The Salon on Dogwood". Its Grand opening day was March 1st. Be sure to check it out. It's very exciting to see our businesses thriving. Supporting local business is the heart of it all!

We are in the final stretch with the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) in completing the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is evaluated and updated every 5 years and will provide viable guidance for future growth, development, and infrastructure. Additionally, I would like to welcome aboard, two new Planning Commissioners, Richard Muttai and Brandon Monnett. These recently appointed commissioners are looking forward to serving our community.

Save the date! ~ This year Easter is April 20th ~ Grottoes Easter Egg Hunt is Scheduled for April 12th ~ The Grand Caverns Signature 5K, April, 25th ~ Chief Charlie's Kid's

Fish Day, May 3rd ~ The Grottoes Bluegrass Festival May 14th-17th, GVFD Lawn Party is May 29th-31st, and don't forget National Police week will be May 11th- May 17th, 2025! Plans are also underway for the re-opening of our Grottoes Community Pool! YEAH! So grab your towels and sunscreen!

Our Party in the Park Fund-raising event will be on June 14th. Gates open at 4 PM. More details to come!

Friday night Bluegrass at Painter Park will begin July 11th, 2025. This 1st Friday night session will be a special time as we plan to have a dedication for the late Police Chief, Bill Davies. More information will follow!

As always, if you have questions or there is anything you wish to share with me and/or the Council, please don't hesitate to reach out.

May the Luck of the Irish be with you this St. Patrick's Day! May your Easter be Blessed! And by all means, don't let April Fools get the better of you!!

Your Mayor,

Jo Plaster

Never allow a person
to tell you no who
doesn't have the
power to say yes.

Eleanor Roosevelt

BrainyQuote

Town Manager's Memo

I hope everyone has had a good start to 2025! It's hard to believe it's March, and with that comes warmer weather and outdoor activities. It's been a cold winter, and I know I'm looking forward to being up in the mountains soon chasing trout as the weather begins to warm!

The past few months have been busy here in town, with some new faces on town staff and several projects underway. On the staff side, we've recently hired Nicky Workman as the Town's public works director. Nicky comes to the town with many years of local government experience, and most recently worked for JMU. He has hit the ground running, learning the town's

systems, employees and infrastructure.

Additionally, the town's new wastewater treatment plant operator is Michael Supinger. Michael also brings a wealth of experience in his field as having worked for Harrisonburg-Rockingham Sewer Authority, and most recently as head wastewater operator for the Town of Elkton. Michael is a resident of Grottoes, and we are certainly pleased to have him on staff.

The projects underway this winter include the new entranceway signs (that are currently being finished), the 6th Street water line project that began last week, which will be replacing



a problematic old water line with a new 12-inch line, and the clean up of the brush site by Painter Park. Final grading on the brush site will be completed this spring and will be opened back up to the public as soon as it's ready. Street paving and wastewater plant work will be commencing this spring as well.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kyle D. O'Brien

Library News **Mon-Thurs 10-6pm Fri 10-2pm 540-434-4475 option 3**

Spring greetings from the Grottoes Branch Library! New, expanded hours! We are now open at 10:00 a.m. M-F, for your convenience.

Check out new books and graphic novels, movies, free Frontier Culture Museum passes, free Explore More Discovery Museum passes, free American Shakespeare Center passes, free computer use, free WIFI, Notary Services and much more!

Summer Reading Games begin in June 2025! Join us each week for:

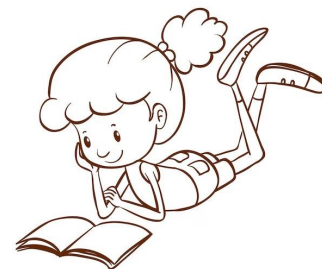
CIRCLETIME - Fun for our youngest readers. Each Wednesday at 10:00 am. (new time!) Songs, flannel board games and read aloud stories.

MOSTLY BOOKS - First Monday of each month. Find inspiration for your next read at this lively adult book club. Next meetings are March 3, April 7 and May 5.

AFTERSCHOOL FUN - Each Thursday at 4pm. Keva Lab, Board Games, Lego Club and Dogs2Read2. Fun for all ages!

Plan now to bring in the kids for Easter Fun! Each week during April (up to Easter Sunday), your child can search and find an Easter egg hidden in the Library and exchange it for a **FREE BOOK**. Your child can choose from a large selection of gently used books.

Mark your calendar - Library closed for staff training on Friday, April 25, 2025.



Happy Reading, *Peggy Counts*, Branch Manager

From the Chief's Desk...

Spring is just right around the corner and with spring comes more outdoor activities and an increase in Golf Cart traffic. A reminder to everyone that golf cart inspections are due by April 15, 2025. Inspection stickers will be available for purchase beginning March 17, 2025, at Town Hall. If you have a newly purchased golf cart or need to renew your golf cart license, please contact the police department so that an officer can inspect your golf cart. Golf Cart registration forms can be found on the Town of Grottoes website.

Chief Charlie's annual Kids Fish Day is May 3rd. Please join the Grottoes Police Department along with Grottoes Fire and Rescue from 9am-2pm at Painter Park for this event. We will have free food, prizes, raffles and more! The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will stock Lawhorne Pond with trout. Prizes will be awarded for children ages 3-15. Some of the winning catches are for; Largest fish,



smallest fish, and the first person in their age group to reach the trout limit of 6. The Police Department will provide fishing poles for the children to use. This event is completely free to the community, we do ask that all children be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Children ages 3-9 will fish from 9am-11am and children ages 10-15 will fish from around 11:30-2:00pm. No registration is required. We look forward to seeing you there!

Park Place

I, for one, am excited for springtime in Grottoes. Both Parks come alive in April and May with redbuds, dogwoods, and bluebells all vying for our attention. The walking/hiking trails should become increasingly popular, be sure to take a break from the world



and soak up some of our local greenery.

Our annual, free to attend, Easter Egg Hunt will be hosted in Grand Caverns Park on April 12th, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. If you've been to these before you'll know the egg hunt starts *promptly* at 10:00 am. We've had a couple hundred kids in attendance the last few years which means 3,000 eggs are collected at an astonishing rate. We'll have games and prizes after the egg hunt, so you're encouraged to stick around for the whole timeframe.

Friendly reminder that picnic shelters in both parks opened for public booking on March 1st. And most excitingly, the Grand Caverns Community pool is scheduled to open on Memorial Day

weekend. Pool passes will go on sale very soon, so stay tuned to Town social media accounts and our webpages.

Lastly, and this is a silly thing to have to say in a newsletter *sigh* but, I guess here it goes.

Always. Pick. Up. Your. Dog's. Poop.

I mean, no one enjoys doing it, obviously... but seriously, right on the walking trail!? At this point it seems suspiciously deliberate... who's leaves landmines in public parks? Look, we've got doggie poop bags all over both parks, you don't even need to bring your own.

– Sincerely, Everyone.

Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department

The Grottoes Volunteer Fire Dept. wishes to thank everyone for their ongoing support from our community. Mark your calendars for our upcoming events.

Please note **RIDES WILL RETURN** to our

Annual Lawn Party, May 29th - 31st



March 7th & 8th

Chicken & Fries in the Park, starts 4:00 pm (Drive-Thru @ John Painter Park)

March 16th

Fried Cubed Steak w/Pan Gravy

March 22nd

Gun Raffle @ Fire Dept.

April 4th – 5th

Chicken & Fries in the Park, starts 4:00 pm @ John Painter Park

April 20th

No Sunday Lunch – Happy Easter

May 18th

Sunday Lunch – Entrée to be determined

May 29th – 31st

Annual Lawn Party – John Painter Park (Food, Cake Wheel, Bingo, Music, Dime Pitch & Rides will return in 2025)

SPRING GUN PARTY

March 22, 2025

109 3rd St Grottoes, VA

\$100.00 per ticket

only 300 tickets to be sold

Town of Grottoes

601 Dogwood Avenue
P.O. Box 146
Grottoes, VA 24441

Phone: 540-249-5896

www.TownOfGrottoes.com



The Rockingham County
Recreation Department

Senior Citizens

BINGO

for the Grottoes area is
held at the Grottoes
Town Hall in the commu-
nity room on the fourth
Monday of each month
from 10:00 a.m. until

GRAND CAVERNS



SIGNATURE 5K RACE SERIES

Grand Caverns

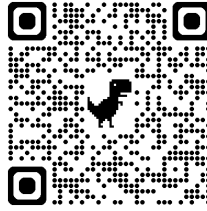
Signature 5K Race
Friday, April 25th

Brush Site

CLOSED

*Please take all brush
and yard clippings
to the Rockingham
County Landfill.*

TEXT ALERTS



Grottoes Community Little League



April 5, 2025
John E. Painter Park



Grottoes Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 10th

To be added to the list please
contact Town Hall

(540) 249-5896 opt 2

must live in town limits

SEWER CREDIT FOR FILLING SWIMMING POOLS

If you are filling a swimming pool this
spring/summer and would like a credit for
the sewer part of your bill please follow
these steps:

1. Call Town Hall (540) 249-5896 opt 2
BEFORE STARTING and we will
send Public Works to get a meter read-
ing.
2. Fill pool. In order to receive a credit, it
must be over 5000 gallons used.
3. Call Town Hall again to get a closing
read. Must be done within 5 business
days.
4. Not applicable for gardens/watering.

Neighborhood Primary Care Clinic

Formerly Known As Mobile Primary Care Clinic

Hosted By:
Grottoes Fire
Department

109 3rd Street
Grottoes VA, 24441



Second Tuesday of Each Month

10:00am - 2:00pm

Registration closes at 1:00pm

NEVER MISS AN EVENT IN GROTTOES

You can subscribe to the Town Calendar and add it to your Outlook, Google, etc.

Visit www.townofgrottoes.com/calendar and click SUBSCRIBE

Grottoes Town Officials

Town Council

Jo Plaster, Mayor
David Raynes
Michael Kohl
Jim Justis
Joshua Bailey
Eddie Chittum
Maite Taylor

Planning Commission

Dylan Nicely
Michael Kohl
Darrel Baker
René Ehlenfeldt
Brooke Haas
Brandon Monnett
Richard Muttai

Board Of Zoning Appeals

Dylan Nicely
David Gorjup
Christa Hall
Vacant
Mark Keeler

Town Council meets the second
Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers. A work
session will begin at 6:00 p.m., if
needed.

Planning Commission Meets the
last Tuesday of the odd months at
6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

BZA meets the third Tuesday of the
month, when needed, at 7:00 p.m. in
the Council Chambers.