



Council Chatter

Town of Grottoes, May 2025

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Mayor's Corner

The times, they are fleeting. I want to take a moment to say Thank You for your support and patience as we continue with our planned infrastructure repairs and improvements. A lot has been accomplished over the last 7 years.

In these years we have re-organized and restructured the Town's Administrative Staff, the Public Works Department, our Police Department and our Parks Tourism and Recreation Department. Along with replacing watermain, lines and valves, dredging and updating the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), with the direction of engineers, I can say the course is clear and on track. Not to mention we were the **STATEWIDE WINNER** in the "25th Annual Water Taste Contest." And guess what? We are in the National Contest!

Our Grottoes Pool Grand Opening will be Memorial Day Weekend with the continued contributions and dedication of the Grottoes Pool Preservation Foundation, who had a whopping turnout for their fundraiser at SRES, April 26th. They raised \$11,000 in one night and \$77,000 over the course of the year!!!

The new signage in town is also undoubtedly stunning, with funding from a Rockingham County Community Grant. The First Responders Memorial is almost complete at Town Hall. Both of these projects were completed with the help of Phil Smith and R&L Construction. Much appreciation for our community members!

Congratulations to the Graduation Class of 2025!! Let your light shine!

This year, Mother's Day is on May 11th. I hope each and every Momma has a wonderful Mother's Day!

National Police week begins, Sunday May 11-17th. We Back Our Blue and thank all our service men and women for all they do!

I hope that everyone that attended this year's 30th Chief Charlie's Kid's Fish Day, had a great time too!

~~SAVE THE DATE~~

The Grottoes Bluegrass Festival at Grand Caverns is May 14-17th!

~Please join us at Town Hall ON Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th at 11:30 AM, as we pay tribute to our Fallen Soldiers. The Nicely Family will

pay tribute with a special music performance. God Bless America, our home of the brave!

~Come out to John E. Painter Park May 29-31st for the GVFD Lawn Party!

WE can't forget the Dads out there! June 15th is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to you all!

SAVE THIS DATE!!

The Town's "Party in the Park" event will be June 14th, beginning at 4pm. A venue with live music, food & spirits vendors including Six Oaks BBQ, Ott Street Eats, German Bratwurst, Tops Shaved Ice, The Alpine Goat, Bluestone Vineyard's and Brother's Craft Brewing. Proceeds from this event will go to the Grottoes Parks and Tourism. Details to come!

The stage at Painter Park has been renovated. Roger "Pee Wee" Randall and his crew, who volunteered their time and skills, and has been renamed after the late Police Chief, Bill Davies. The stage dedication will be at the 1st Friday Night Bluegrass, July 11th! You Don't want to miss this!

Your Mayor,

Jo Plaster

"We kept the faith and fought the fight; the glory theirs, the duty ours."

~ Wallace Bruce



Town Manager's Memo

The Town is currently finishing up a couple of very important projects this spring; the 6th Street water line project and the wastewater plant lagoon dredging. The 6th Street project is a critical component to the Town's entire water distribution system, as it is the main line that comes from the elevated tank on the east side of Town and feeds the ground storage tank on Cave Hill. The upgrade of this line from a six-inch cast-iron line to a twelve-inch ductile iron line will contribute to many positives on the Town's distribution system as far as volume and durability. We are excited to bring this entire line online, and it won't be long now until that occurs. Obviously, construction sometimes comes with problems as we saw in late March when a series of watermain breaks happened concurrently due to the construction of the eastern portion of the new line, but those issues are now behind us, and we don't anticipate anything of that magnitude moving forward as this project is completed.

The lagoon project at the wastewater

plant is also wrapping up and is going faster than anticipated. This project will wrap up in May and will provide the Town additional freeboard at the plant moving forward. The southern lagoon was last dredged in 1998, and the northern lagoon has never been dredged, so this was a very important project for the Town, and one that won't have to be done again for some years to come.

The Town has also been working on a complete overhaul of its website over the winter in order to make the site more user-friendly, add additional content and make the site generally overall more pleasing for the Town's residents, prospective businesses and visitors. The new site will be online by the end of May at the latest. We will let you know the exact date as we get closer!

We're also in the process of wrapping up



the fiscal year 2026 annual budget. The proposed budget will be on the website in advance of the public hearing (May 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.). The draft budget is a budget that focuses on keeping costs down and service levels high, while continuing the Town Council's commitment on upgrading the Town's infrastructure.

Finally, you may be aware that the Town has entered into a two-year contract with Meridan for curbside trash pick-up. There is a flier in the newsletter that will address some commonly asked questions. You will be receiving more information regarding this transition as we get closer to July 1, 2025 (when Meridan will be starting). Staff has been working with Meridan and Waste Management on this transition over the winter and are confident that it will be smooth, and the new contract is in the best interest of the Town and its citizens.

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



Happy Spring from Grottoes Library!

Thanks to all our patrons who celebrated Easter at the library by finding hidden eggs and getting free books. Close to 100 books went out to our local patrons. Keep reading!

Summer Reading at the library begins in June. This year's theme is *Color Our World*. Visit mrlib.org to sign up. Fun and games for adults and youth. Earn prizes for reading, with winners every week. Pick up prizes at your local Grottoes branch.

CircleTime meets Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Join us outside, under the shade trees in front of the library, for songs, stories, flannel board fun and games geared especially for our youngest readers. We will move inside (Council Chambers room) during inclement weather. Special themed story times all summer.

Join us on **July 30th** for a special "Colorful World of Seuss" story time celebration, led by Mark and Cheryl Keeler, to mark the end of Summer Reading Games. Meet the Cat In The Hat and get a free Seuss book!

Mostly Books (adult book club) meets 1st Monday of each month at 10:00am. Join us to share what you've been reading with this eclectic group of readers.

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

Happy Reading, *Peggy Counts*, Branch Manager

From the Chief's Desk...

The temperatures are starting to get warmer, and with that comes yard cleanup. Please remember it's a class 1 misdemeanor to blow lawn clippings into the roadway. Please be a good citizen by taking the time and clean up the grass or other debris.

Just a reminder when walking your pet in town or in town parks, please pick up any solid waste that is left behind. There are several stations located in town parks for the disposal of solid waste. Please be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your pets.

PLEASE
CLEAN UP
AFTER
YOUR PET



Park Place

Happy Spring from your Parks Department.

We've got a couple special events on the horizon, first, the Grottoes Bluegrass Festival is coming up on May 15th – 17th. This year they've added an additional full day of music, so be sure to swing by for great food and great music!

Next, we've got our annual Cave and Karst Expo on June 7th. This free to attend event always has great activities for the kids and lots to learn during National Cave Week. Lastly, Party in the Park will take place on June 14th with all the same fun as in previous years.

Austin Shank

Director of Parks & Tourism



Grottoes Rescue Squad



Happy Spring! The annual fund drive of the GRS will begin the second week of May. This fund drive assists with the purchases of equipment, medical supplies and sending our members to training programs such as EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic. This year, you will be able to donate using a debit or credit card if you wish. Be on the lookout for the mailers soon. We are always in need of new volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about the rescue squad, stop by the station anytime or go to www.rescue20.org. We appreciate your continued support.



Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department

GROTTOES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT **ANNUAL LAWN PARTY**

May 29-31, 2025 * John E. Painter Park, 1100 20TH St., Grottoes

Famous Lawn Party Chicken starting at 4:00 pm daily

FunTime Amusements Is Back on the Midway This Year with Rides, Games and Concessions

Rides Open 5:00 - 10:00 pm; Armbands for rides will be \$20/person/night

Great Food, Music Each Night, 50/50 Bingo, Homemade Ice Cream, & Cake Wheel
Cake Donations Requested (can be dropped off at the Fire Station)

Port Republic Ruritan Club Dime Pitch * Dixie Pony & Train Rides Friday - Saturday nights (not included in arm band price)

Summer Bash Raffle Tickets will be available for sale each night \$50.00 each

Veteran's Appreciation Night, Free Dinner with ID Thursday Night 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Annual Fireman's Parade Saturday Evening, Line-Up 4:00 pm Moves 5:00 pm

Starts at Corner of 6th and Forest, Ends at the Lawn Party Grounds on 20th St.

No Pre-Registration, Check In at the corner of 6th and Forest

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK www.grottoesfire.com OR CALL 540-249-5911

Upcoming Events:

May 18th

Sunday Lunch

Parmesan Crusted Chicken Breast

June 15th

Sunday Lunch

Father's Day

Fried Tenderloin w/Pan Gravy

July 20th

No Sunday Lunch

August 17th

Sunday Lunch

Fried Cubed Steak w/ Pan Gravy

August 23rd

Summer Bash Raffle

@ Fire Department

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 community room on the fourth Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SIGN UP TODAY!

Opportunities to help with special events throughout the year. Visit the NEWS tab on our website.

www.townofgrottoes.com

Brush Site Open

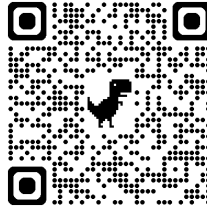
May 7th

June 7th

June 11th

July 5th

TEXT ALERTS



**MUSIC *FOOD
BREWRIES *WINE**



**JUNE 14TH, 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

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.