



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!

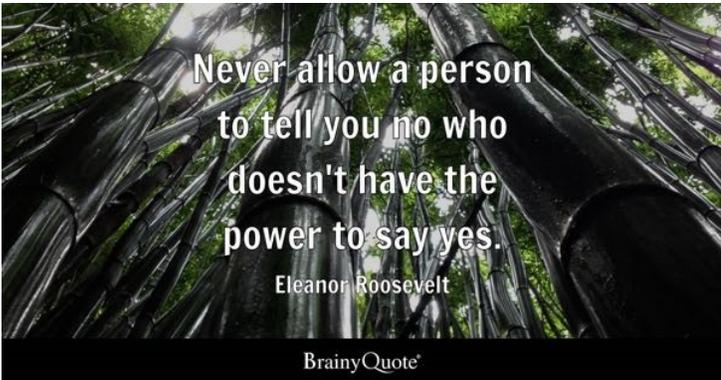
Friday night Bluegrass at Painter Park will begin July 11th, 2025. This 1st Friday night session will be a special time as we plan to have a dedication for the late Police Chief, Bill Davies. More information will follow!

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



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

GRAND CAVERNS



Grand Caverns
Signature 5K Race
Friday, April 25th

SIGNATURE 5K RACE SERIES

SEWER CREDIT FOR FILLING SWIMMING POOLS

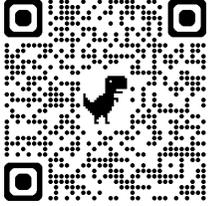
If you are filling a swimming pool this spring/summer and would like a credit for the sewer part of your bill please follow these steps:

1. Call Town Hall (540) 249-5896 opt 2 **BEFORE STARTING** and we will send Public Works to get a meter reading.
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.

Brush Site
CLOSED

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

TEXT ALERTS




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

Grottoes Community Little League



Opening Weekend

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

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 GROTTOTES

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.