



Council Chatter

Town of Grottoes

March 2022

Mayor's Corner

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Bring on spring! We've had a doozy of a winter for sure! For those who may have fallen short of their New Year's resolution, bear in mind that since March brings forth the first day of Spring and is foretold to be the start of new beginnings, you can give that resolution another shot!

Sunday, March 13th Day-light Savings begins, so don't forget to set your clocks forward and may the "Luck of the Irish," be with you this St. Patrick's Day!

Did you know...? March's full moon is called the "Worm Moon" and it will reach peak illumination at 3:20 AM, on Friday, March 18, 2022. The name "Worm Moon," which was thought to originate from its reference to earthworms that appear as the soil warms in spring, enticing robins and other birds to feed; a true sign of spring! Be on the lookout as this brilliantly bright Moon rises above the horizon that evening!

Baseball season is upon us! Opening Day weekend for the Grottoes Little League

will be kicking off this year's season, March 26th & March 27th! Additional information can be found online on the GCLL's Facebook Page.

Moreover, I want to wish each and every one a Happy Easter and joyous spring season. This year Easter is April 17th. If you've ever wondered how Easter's date is determined... Easter is traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon and is officially called "Paschal Full Moon," meaning, "Passover," and occurs on or just after the spring equinox in March. If the full moon happens to be on a Sunday, then Easter will be that following Sunday.

In closing, February 1st, 2022 our community experienced a great sadness in the loss of Bridgewater College's Officers, John Painter (Our very own Former Grottoes Police Chief) and Officer J.J. Jefferson. Chief Painter served our town for 18 years and he and Officer Jefferson will be sadly missed and remembered as true heroes, forever. Please continue to keep their Fam-

ilies in your prayers as well as our community. Together we will heal, but we must never forget the sacrifices of our Men and Women in Blue who start each shift with our safety and lives at the helm of their own. National Police week will be May 11th - May 16th, 2022.

"There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called, tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live."
Dalai Lama

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

Your Mayor,

Jo Plaster

Town Manager's Message

As the weather begins to warm and the number of daylight hours increases, more outdoor projects begin. Please keep in mind that construction and/or structural changes to your property (including for example putting up a fence or building or constructing or placing an out-building) require that you receive a zoning permit from town administration. If a building permit is required, you will be instructed to obtain one from Rockingham County.

It is important that regulations such as size and location of buildings on properties, height and location of fences, etc., are followed. This helps

assure that neighbors don't intrude on others' properties, that all residents are held to the same standards, and that underground town



utilities such as water and sewer infrastructure are not covered or impeded upon.

Assuring you are aware of the location of your property lines is also important. The town has many unimproved streets and alleyways that are grass and can appear to a landowner to be part of their yard. If you have any questions or concerns about your property, its boundaries or your upcoming projects, please feel free to contact me at 540-249-0437 or townmanager@ci.grottoes.va.us

Stefanie McAlister

Library News

Mon-Thurs 1-6pm

Fri 11-2pm

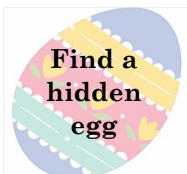
540-434-4475 option 3

Spring Greetings from the Grottoes Library!

Now is the time to check out the newest books from your favorite authors. Find new releases from Nora Roberts, CJ Box, Mitch Albom, Danielle Steel, MC Beaton, Laura Childs, Richard Osman, James Patterson, and others. New arrivals every week!

Mostly Books (Grottoes Library Adult Book Club) continues to meet on the first Monday of each month. Our next meetings will be on March 7 and April 4. Join us for inspiration for your next read.

CircleTime begins a new 9 week block (March 23 – May 18) for our youngest readers. Join us every Wednesday, during this time, at 11:00 am for songs with guitar, flannel board games and read aloud stories. Weather permitting, CircleTime will be held on the outside patio.



Plan now to bring in the kids for Easter Fun! Each week during April, 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. What could be better than Easter egg hunting and free books to read?

Peggy Counts
Branch Manager

From the Chief's Desk...

Chief Charlie's annual Kids Fish Day is back this year! Please join the Grottoes Police Department along with Grottoes Fire and Rescue and AirCare5 on Saturday April 2nd from 9am-2pm at Mountain View 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 will also be dedicating Lawhorne Pond this day to former Grottoes Police Chief Charlie Lawhorne. We look forward to seeing you there!

Park Place

We're looking forward to spring here in the Parks & Tourism Department! I can't wait to experience spring in Grand Caverns Park, particularly on our hiking trails. I'd strongly recommend checking them out on any of the nice days we're starting to get.

I do have a few things I wanted to share with everyone. First, we've created a new specialty tour in Grand Caverns we're calling "History Tours". If you've been on one of our regular tours, then please know this is a whole new, highly informative experience. Our Senior Staff Historian, Jeffery Schroeder, is hosting these tours on the first Monday of each month. These 2-hour long tours will delve into what

Grand Caverns was like for tourists and locals alike throughout the 1800s. We even have custom-made authentic candle lanterns for guests to use so they can experience what tours felt like back before Grand Caverns was electrified.



Second, we'll be hosting an Easter Egg hunt in Grand Caverns Park on April 9th starting at 10:30 am. We'll have easter egg hunts in different areas of the park for 4 & under, 5-7,

and 8-10 years old. There will be free door prizes and face painting, and pony rides (for a fee). So plan on spending some of the day with us in celebration of springtime and easter at Grand Caverns.

The last two things to mention are friendly reminders. Picnic shelters in both parks opened for public booking on the 1st of March. Also, Pool Passes will be available for purchase on April 1st.

The hustle and bustle of spring is already upon us, we hope to see you out in the parks making the most of it!

Austin Shank
Parks/ Tourism Director

Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department

As always the members of GVFD thank everyone for the ongoing support from this great community. We especially want to thank the students at South River Elementary School for the "Thank You" valentines. We were touched by their love and recognition of the different roles the volunteer firemen perform in our small community.

Becoming a volunteer fire fighter is a challenging and rewarding way to serve your community, gain work experience, or start a career path in the fire service. If you are at least 16 years old and are interested in how you can serve your community at Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department, call Chief Andrew Holloway at 540-271-0351.

Having a wedding, reception, banquet, graduation or birthday party? Consider renting our spacious Facility Hall for your special event. Contact Brent

Powell, 540-209-5408 for availability and rates.

We are happy to return to more "normal" fundraising this year. We are still in the planning stages but please mark your calendars for our upcoming events listed below. More will be shared in future articles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY SUNDAY LUNCH

ALL MEALS \$11.00

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (OR UNTIL SOLD OUT)

MARCH 20th Cole Slaw, Cubed Steak, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Dessert, Tea or Coffee

MARCH 26th Spring Gun Party

APRIL 8th & 9th Chicken & Fries in the Park – start serving at 4:00 pm both days

APRIL 17th Happy Easter – There Will Be No Sunday Lunch

MAY 14th Chicken & Fries in the Park – start serving at 4:00 pm

MAY 15th Cole Slaw, Lawn Party Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Dessert, Tea or Coffee

SPRING GUN PARTY

March 26, 2022

109 3rd St Grottoes, VA

\$100.00 per ticket

only 300 tickets to be sold

6:00 Kimber 1911 .45 Custom LW
6:05 Weatherby Vanguard 7mm-08
06:10 Ruger AR .556
06:15 Browning A Bolt 12g Slug
06:20 Taurus .38 special
06:25 Smith & Wesson 9mm
06:30 Glock 43X Delux 9mm
06:35 Smith & Wesson Body Guard .380
06:40 Ruger 10/22 Takedown GO WILD .22
06:45 Winchester Super X Walnut 12g
06:50 Mossberg 930 12g Turkey
06:55 Ruger .357 Magnum
07:00 Taurus GX4 9mm
07:05 Savage .22 Magnum
07:10 Weatherby Vanguard 6.5 Creedmor
07:15 Smith & Wesson Body Guard .380 w/ laser
07:20 CVA Scout .350 Legend (Cerakote)
07:25 Tikka T3X Lite 30.06
07:30 CVA Wolf .50 Stainless w/Scope
07:35 Ruger American .243 GO WILD
07:40 Baikal Double Barrel 30.06
07:45 Savage Mark II .22
07:50 Rock Island .38 special
07:55 Smith & Wesson SD40VE .40
08:00 Savage Renegade .12g Turkey

Town of Grottoes

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

Phone: 540-249-5896
Fax: 540-249-5726
www.ci.grottoes.va.us

ERMA Food Pantry Grottoes United Methodist Church

located at 300 4th St.

Every Monday

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For more information call
540-249-5893

(Food Bank is closed on the
5th Monday and holidays)



GRAND CAVERNS



SIGNATURE 5K RACE SERIES

Grand Caverns
Signature 5K Race
Friday, April 29th

Brush Site Open

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Mar. 5th & 9th

Apr. 2nd & 13th

May 7th & 11th

Community Yard Sale Saturday May 7th

call 249-5896 to
add your address
to our directory.
Must live in town

Grottoes Community Little League

Opening Weekend

March 25-27
Mountain View Park



Attention Grottoes Veterans

The Grottoes Veteran's Group
is looking for veterans and vol-
unteers to assist with the Grot-
toes Memorial Day and Veter-
an's Day Ceremonies. For more
information please contact the
town office at 249-5896.



UTILITY BILL CUSTOMERS Go Paperless

You can now enroll in auto-pay

To set up an automatic draft for your utility
payment please stop by Town Hall with the
following information:

1. Bank name and address
2. Routing Number
3. Bank Account Number
4. Type of banking account
5. Your email address

A copy of
a voided
check is
acceptable

Once set up, you will receive a utility bill
statement via email but no longer mailed a
bill. Your payment will be automatically
transferred from your bank account each
on the 3rd of February, April, June, August,
Oct. and Dec.

If your email or bank info changes—Please contact us

Help Serve your Town!

We have vacancies on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Complete a
volunteer application to help serve your Town. For more information call 249-5896.

Grottoes Town Officials

Town Council

Jo Plaster, Mayor

David Raynes

Tim Leeth

Mark Sterling

Michael Kohl

Jim Justis

Joshua Bailey

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

Justin Neitzey, Chairman

Michael Kohl

Dylan Nicely

Nathan Foerster

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Planning Commission Meets the
last Tuesday of the odd months at
7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Board Of Zoning Appeals

Justin Neitzey

David Gorjup

Christa Hall

Vacancy

Vacancy

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