



# Council Chatter

Town of Grottoes

May 2023

## Mayor's Corner

Baseball season is here! Summer is right around the corner! There is a lot to do in the month of May and there's a lot to celebrate and honor.

Congratulations to the Graduation Class of 2023!! May all the lights shine on your accomplishments and your future endeavors!

This year, Mother's Day is on May 14<sup>th</sup>. I hope each and every Momma has a wonderful Mother's Day!

National Police week begins, Sunday May 14-20<sup>th</sup>. We Back Our Blue and thank all of our service men and woman for all they do!

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

Be sure to mark your calendars! Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> is also the Town's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Small Business Saturday. Patrons will each be entered into a drawing at each participating local business. Shop local! Support local.

Please join us at Town Hall this Memorial Day, Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM, as we pay tribute to our Fallen Soldiers. This year's guest speaker is our very own Commonwealth's Attorney, Marsha Garst and the Nicely Family will pay tribute with a special music performance. God Bless America, our home of the brave!

Let's not forget the Dad's out there! June 18<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to you all!

Come out to John E. Painter Park June 1st-3rd for the GVFD Lawn Party!

**SAVE THE DATE!!** The Town's Party in the Park event will be June 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2pm. There's going to be live music and fireworks!!! A food and refreshment venue that includes Log Cabin BBQ, Pale Fire Brewing Co., Bluestone Vineyard's and Brother's Craft Brewing. All proceeds from this event will go to the Grottoes Parks and Recreation! Details to come!

As a reminder, the days are getting warmer and humid, please keep yourselves well hydrated and remember, it's ok to take breaks.

Lastly, if you are interested in serving our community in a larger capacity, there are still vacancies on the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning and Appeals. Please come by Town Hall and fill out an application or visit the Town's website and download one there.

<https://www.ci.grottoes.va.us>. Remember, sometimes it's not you that makes the call, it's the call that has chooses you.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me or your fellow council with your thoughts and feedback.

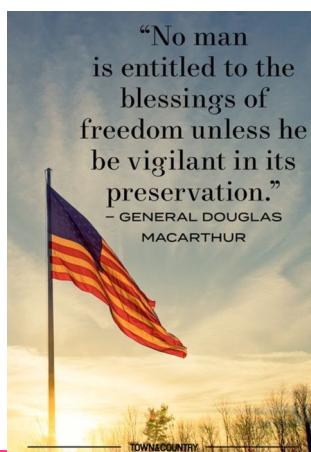
Your Mayor,  
Jo Plaster

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Saturday, May 20th



## Town Manager's Message

A top priority of our Council and staff, is to improve the town's aging water infrastructure. Through the receipt of federal money from the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, we have been able to work on some much-needed water line replacement projects.

Most of the water service lines in town are 2 inches in diameter and made from galvanized steel and was put in place around the 1960s. Over time the steel will rust or become pitted, and leaks will occur. WE are focusing our funding and attention on areas where repeated leaks are known. One section of pipe along Aspen Avenue from 2nd Street to Grand Caverns Blvd, to Kellow Ave, is an area where leaks occur often and simultaneously. Therefore, work has been underway to replace that section of water line. Next on the list for replacement, and the addition of some fire hydrants, is along 7th Street from Birch Ave to Dogwood Ave, and also the 300 block of 13th Street.

As you see work in Town, please be aware that it may cause water service interruptions but that it will result in more reliable service and will improve the overall system.

## Library News **Mon-Thurs 1-6pm Fri 11-2pm 540-434-4475 option 3**

**Summer Reading Program** at the library begins in June. This year's theme is *All Together Now*. Visit [mrlib.org](http://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. Mark your calendar for two special programs, suitable for all ages.

**6/21** – 11:00am - *Pint Sized Polkas* – bringing the happy back to the library. Dance with us into the Summer Reading Program and learn about the magic of music.

**7/19** – 11:00am – Bright Star Theatre presents *Operation Kindness: A Captain Friendship Adventure*.

**Teen Tuesday** kicks off in July. Tweens and teens (12-17 year olds) may join us for special activities just for teens every Tuesday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm through July and August.



**CircleTime** is held on Wednesdays at 11:00 am. Join us outside on the patio in front of the library, for songs, stories, flannel board fun and games especially for our youngest readers. Special community helpers themed story times all summer.

**Mostly Books** (adult book club) meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month. Join us to share what you've been reading with this eclectic group of readers.

## From the Chief's Desk..

Spring is here, and with the warmer months come the start of Lawn Mowing season. We at the police department receive a lot of complaints this time of year due to grass in the roadway. According to Virginia State Code 18.2-324, "nor shall any person throw or deposit or cause to be deposited upon any highway any soil, sand, mud, gravel or other substances so as to create a hazard to the traveling public." You can be with a charged Class 1 misdemeanor for leaving any substance that may cause a hazard on the roadway. In town we have a lot of citizens that ride bicycles and

motorcycles, grass in the roadway may cause the rider to wreck and be injured. Let's all do our part in keeping the roadways clear of grass clippings.

Officers with the Grottoes Police department have been contacting some home owners that have vehicles that are considered

"Inoperable vehicles" Some of the citizens may not know that we have a Town Ordinance that prohibits having these vehicles in plain view. According to the Town Ordinance Chapter 53 an inoperable vehicle is defined as follows:



**INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE —** Any one or more of the following:

- A. Any motor vehicle which is not in operating condition;
- B. Any motor vehicle which for a period of 60 days or longer has been partially or totally disassembled by the removal of tires, wheels, the engine, or other essential parts required for operation of the vehicle; or
- C. Any motor vehicle on which there are displayed neither valid license plates nor a valid inspection decal.

## Park Place

Turns out the mild weather was here to stay! The parks are in full bloom. If you haven't yet, stop by Grand Caverns Park and check out the bluebells along the walking path, or better yet, climb up the hiking trail and see the *ridiculous* number of redbuds.

Just like the last newsletter, spring-time means special events. First up, the Grottoes Bluegrass Festival returns on May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Come learn more about it by grabbing a flyer either at Town Hall or at the Stone Lodge. Next up, a brand new event we'll bring back annually, National Cave Week at Grand Caverns from June 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>!! This year it coincides

with our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a National Natural Landmark so we'll try and make a big deal about it during the week. We'll do a little something throughout the week, stay posted for those details, but Friday and Saturday we've got big plans. Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> the Grottoes First Baptist Church is sponsoring a family moving night at Grand Caverns Park starting at dark. The movie? It has got to be about caves ... so come on out for The Journey to the Middle of the Earth



starting at dusk! The big finale for the week will be our Cave Expo on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. We'll have an obstacle course through the treetops to test your caving ability, crack your own 4 million year old geode (and take it home), build a bat box, and learn from a long list of our partners from across the region. We'll have a food truck, C & C Country Cookin', so you can stay awhile. More details will be shared on our Facebook page and website, stay posted!

## Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department

### 1948 GVFD IN THE MAKING - REFLECTIONS OF 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Fourth in a series of articles preparing for GVFD 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2023.*

Summer of 1948 was approaching and work on the one-bay fire station, on Aspen Avenue, was in full swing. Land and building materials were donated and many citizens helped in the construction, with GVFD president Bern Castle, supervising. In other preparations for fire service, the department divided the town into three fire zones. Then as arranged, Duplan boiler house employees, who worked 24/7, would answer the emergency fire calls for GVFD. After receiving a call, the siren at the factory would sound signals indicating the location of the fire. Also, a trip was made to Hahn Motor Company in Hamburg, PA, by several GVFD members, to check the progress of the anxiously awaited fire truck. Delivery was projected for midsummer 1948.

#### Mark Your Calendar....

**GVFD's Lawn Party - Thursday - Saturday, June 1 - June 3 at John Painter Park. Check website for more details.**

**Fireman's Parade will be Saturday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m.**



### Information from the Rockingham County Director of Elections

If you move/change your address, please remember to update your voter registration information. This is an easy process and may be accomplished when you renew your driver's license through DMV. Another convenient method for updating your information is online through this secure website: [vote.virginia.elections.gov](http://vote.virginia.elections.gov).

Elections are held every November, with the upcoming election being Tuesday, November 7. All polling locations are open from 6 AM – 7 PM on Election Day.

In Rockingham County, the **November 2023** ballot will include: Virginia Senate, Virginia House of Delegates (33<sup>rd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, and 35<sup>th</sup> Districts), Constitutional Offices: Circuit Court Clerk, Commonwealth's Attorney, Commissioner of the Revenue, Sheriff, Treasurer; and, Board of Supervisors (Districts 2, 4 and 5), School Board (Districts 2, 4 and 5); Soil & Water Conservation District Directors (2 seats); Dayton Town Council (Special Election); and the Broadway Town election. In person or by mail absentee voting begins 45 days prior to every election. If you have questions, please contact the Rockingham County Voter Registrar's Office by calling 540-564-3055.



## 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](http://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)



## Brush Site Open

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

May 6th & 10th

June 3rd & 7th

July 1st & 5th

**NO DUMPING** along  
the street & grass  
clippings only!

## Party in the Park

June 24th

Begins 2 pm

at

John Painter Park

More information  
will be posted to our  
Facebook page

**JOIN US**

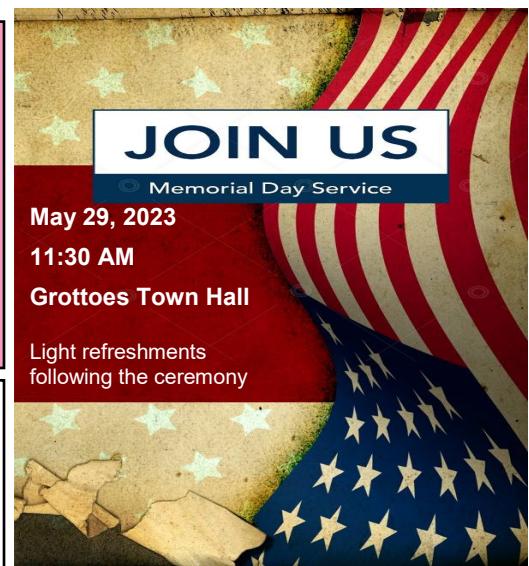
Memorial Day Service

**May 29, 2023**

**11:30 AM**

**Grottoes Town Hall**

Light refreshments  
following the ceremony



## 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

## FILLING A POOL?

If you are filling a pool with 5,000 gallons or more and would like to receive a discount on sewer, call the Town Office FIRST. We will come out and get a meter reading. When the pool fill is complete, call the Town Office back. We will take a 2nd reading. A credit will be applied to your next billing.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES!

## 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

Dylan Nicely, Chairman  
Michael Kohl  
René Ehlenfeldt  
Darrel Baker  
Eddie Chittum  
Gleamer Sullivan  
*Vacancy*

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

### Board Of Zoning Appeals

Dylan Nicely  
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.