

Council Chatter

May2020

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Mayor's Corner

I hope everyone is staying happy and healthy during this time. I know that I am anxious for things to resume so we can enjoy the beautiful spring weather with family and friends at our beautiful parks or local restaurants. I do want to thank our local businesses for the compliance and offerings to our citizens during this time. It has certainly caused us to think of new ways to do things and to be supportive to each other through social distancing. Our Town Council has continued to meet and allow citizens to participate through the ZOOM meeting. We will

continue to do this until the restrictions are lifted and we can safely meet again and invite citizens in. I do want to let everyone know that all town hosted events have been cancelled through May 11 at this time. We will evaluate all of this again at our Council Meeting on May 11th.

On April 30th, Bob Smith, known as "WasteWater Bob" retired from the town after 21 years. He has been a true asset to the town and will greatly be missed. Thank you to Bob for all he has done for us and the Waste Water plant. I also want to

recognize Cheryl Keeler, town librarian. She also retired on April 30 and has been part of the Town Hall building since 2000 when we opened the new building and the Grottoes Branch library opened. The kids and citizens in town are going to miss Cheryl and her activities! Thank you to Cheryl for all she has done for us!

Again, I hope you and your family are doing well! I wish each of you a Happy Memorial Day and hope you are able to be outside enjoying the sunshine!

Emily Holloway
Mayor



South River Elementary School

2020 - 2021

Pre-K Registration

Preschool registrations call SRES at (540) 249-4001. Interviews will be scheduled this summer.

Kindergarten

2020-2021 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Kindergarten sign ups online at <https://register.rockingham.k12.va.us>

Manager's Message

Hello there everyone!

Since my last note to everyone things have drastically changed in our world. COVID-19 has brought with it many restrictions and alterations to how we typically go about business and live our lives. It is important that we continue to listen to our health officials. I hope that we are nearing the end like all of you, however only working together will we be able to see the end sooner than later.

Spring brush pick-up will begin on May 18th. There are new regulations for Brush Pick up this year. We ask that brush be placed in bundles and tied with twine. All bundles



should not exceed 60 pounds in weight, 6 feet in length, and 2 feet in width. Brush limbs should not exceed 6" in diameter. Our Town workers are very important to us and these requirements will ensure that brush pick-up is done in a safer, easier, and more efficient manner while still providing brush pick-up service to all Grottoes residents. Please put your bundles out beside the roadway and the Town will pick up. This is a very busy time of year for our maintenance staff and we appreciate your patience as we work on Brush Pick-up. If you have questions regarding this service please contact the Town office at 249-5896.

I would also like to thank our Waste Water Operator Bob Smith, known as Wastewater Bob, for his time working for the Town.

Wastewater Bob retired on April 30th. Bob has worked for the Town running our Treatment plant for 20 years and is an incredible person. Thank you Bob for your service to our Town. I'd also like to welcome our new Operator, Scott Balsley.

Lastly, we are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation. Some Town events have had to be canceled and we will continue to update on our website and Facebook page as we near future events.

I hope everyone enjoys the warmer weather. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give me a call at (540) 249-5896 or email at ngarrison@ci.grottoes.va.us

Nathan Garrison
Town Manager

Library News: M-F 1-6 pm 540-434-4475 option 3 www.mrlib.org

My dear library friends: I hope you are well as we make our way through the uncertainty of this pandemic. I am sad not to see you - and as I had made the difficult decision to retire at the end of April—I'll not be seeing you at the library when it reopens at a future date.

When I made that decision, the world had not yet been opened by Covid-19. As I grieve my departure, I wish to thank you for the deep magic you have created with me over the years since our opening in December 2000. Something very touching and delightful has happened here at the Grottoes Branch, and I am grateful to have been a part of it.

I am happy to report that Jon Hilbert, MRL's branch coordinator, will be serving as interim manager. He knows and appreciates the Grottoes Branch. And Peggy will be here to provide a familiar face, too.

All the best to you wonderful people,

Cheryl

Cheryl Keeler
Grottoes Branch Manager



Grottoes Rescue Squad

Greetings from Grottoes Rescue Squad,

As we navigate the COVID-19 crisis together, we would like to take a moment to remind you to please **DO NOT** wait to call 911 if you are experiencing a medical emergency. Seeking help immediately during a medical emergency is always the best and safest option. Your local emergency services and local hospitals are doing everything needed to ensure your safety during this global pandemic. Information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the CDC webpage <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Until at least June 10, the social hall is not available for rent. THANK YOU to everyone in our community who has donated food, PPE, hand sanitizer and just sent cards of thanks during this time. It is greatly appreciated. Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY

WHEN TO CALL 911:

| CALL 911 IF YOU: | | | Do NOT call 911 if you: |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| HAVE DIFFICULTY BREATHING | HAVE A HIGH FEVER | HAVE SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK OR STROKE | Want information about COVID-19 |
| HAVE SUDDEN SEVERE PAIN | HAVE AN ALLERGIC REACTION | ARE CONFUSED, DISORIENTED, OR DIZZY | Need a ride to the doctor's office |
| | | | Want to get tested |
| | | | Have mild symptoms |

From the Police Chief

With the recent actions of business and schools being closed, there has been more outside activity from citizens and visitors within the town. While it is good to see everyone out enjoying the spring weather and practicing proper social distancing, we want everyone to keep in mind that some of our neighbors are unable to get outside to do so. We encourage residents to check on neighbors while keeping safe and

continue reassuring one other to stay positive through this unusual time. Also, we would like everyone to keep in mind of possible scams that may arise. One that has been brought to our attention, requests that you to go to a specific website for financial assistance during this pandemic. Do not go to these sites because these are fraudulent. Keep in mind that no one



from the government is going to call to solicit financial aid from you in exchange for any kind of testing or services. Please do not give personal or bank information to anyone that is attempting to offer these services to you. Contact the police department at 540-249-5707 if this does occur.

Thomas James
Police Chief

Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department

*Unfortunately, everything is cancelled until further notice.
Please check our website for updates.*

website address - grottoesfire.com

Park Place

In these uncertain times, it's nice to still have the parks open! We appreciate everyone practicing social distancing and being mindful about the 9-person limit and ask that you continue to do these things. While Grand Caverns is closed until further notice, our walking trails, hiking trails, and fishing opportunities remain available in both parks.

Shelter and tour reservations have been suspended until further notice. If you need to reschedule or request a refund on a shelter or tour, please call us at 540-249-5705 or email me at acollier@ci.grottoes.va.us.

While we would hate to have to cancel our planned upcoming events, we will always put the safety of our residents and visitors first. Stay tuned to the Town of Grottoes and Grand Caverns Facebook pages for updates regarding town and park planned summer events, or give us a call.

Our brand new swimming pool is looking great and is almost complete! The new beach style entry, steps, ADA lift, and water features are sure to provide fun for everyone. The pool will more than likely not be opening on Memorial Day Weekend as normal, but we are hopeful that we will be able

to open at some point this summer. Keep an eye on our Grand Caverns Facebook page or give us a call for updates! Pool passes will go on sale once we announce an opening date.

That's it for now! Stay safe and healthy out there, everyone!

Ashley Collier
Tourism & Parks Director



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

Pending Events due to Covid-19

Watch website and Facebook for updates!

ERMA Food Pantry

**Grottoes United
Methodist Church**
located at 300 4th St.
(corner of 4th St & Cherry Ave)
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 major holidays)

Brush Site Open

June 6th 8 am - 12 pm
July 11th 8 am - 12 pm

If you have questions please
contact the Town during
regular business hours at
249-5896

- May 23 - Grand Caverns Pool Opening - Watch Grand Caverns website and/or facebook for updates for the pool to open
- May 25 - Memorial Day Ceremony - Watch the Town website and/ or facebook for updates
- June 6 - Street Dance - Watch the Town website and/or facebook for updates

Grottoes Cardinals

Is tentatively planning to
start their season on June
12th, if the Governor's
Order allows. Please
continue to check their
website and facebook page
for updates.

Grottoes Community Little League

Local Little League Administrator,
who oversees Little League in the
Shenandoah Valley, stated they are
aiming for a June 12th start. Please
continue to check their website
and facebook page for updates.

Pedal, Push Parade

July 4th at 10:00 am

6th Street, Grottoes

Please check the Town's website
(calendar section) for any
changes of the event

Grottoes Town Officials

Town Council

Emily Holloway, Mayor
David Raynes
Mark Keeler
Joshua Bailey
Tim Leeth
C.W. Stephenson
Jo Plaster

Planning Commission

Justin Neitzey, Chair
Jen Smith, Vice – Chair
Mark Keeler
David Bradley
Kevin Campbell
Miriam Miller
Nathan Forester

Board of Zoning Appeals

Margie Mayes, Chair
Justin Neitzey
Ellen Showers
David Gorjup
Christa Hall

Council meets the Second Monday of
the month at 7:00 pm in the Council
Chambers of the Town Hall. Council
may also hold a workshop at 6:00 pm
prior to the monthly meeting.

Planning Commission meets the last
Tuesday of the odd months at 7:00 pm
in the Council Chambers of the Town
Hall.

BZA meets the Third Tuesday of the
month (when needed) at 7:00 pm in
the Council Chambers of the Town
Hall.