



LOCAL

POSTAL CUSTOMER



Christmas comes but once a year,
 Let's get together for some holiday cheer!

We cordially invite all Grant-Valkaria residents and families to join us while we trim our tree for all to see. There will be a live tree to decorate, ornaments to sign, music, free homemade cookies, hot chocolate and cider. But best of all don't forget to bring the kids for a special visit from Jolly Olde Saint Nick.

Please Join Us For Our Annual Grant-Valkaria Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration
Sunday December 3, 2017
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. at
Fisherman's Landing
5795 Highway 1



COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR 2017!

| | |
|--|--|
| November 22nd- 24 th | Historical House closed for Thanksgiving |
| November 23 rd | Thanksgiving Day (Town Hall Closed) |
| November 30 th | Kid's Christmas Play Rehearsal |
| November 30 th – December 3 rd | Historical House Christmas Open House (10am-6pm) |
| December 2 nd | Treasure Coast Marina's Children's Christmas Event |
| December 3 rd | Grant-Valkaria's Christmas Tree Lighting (4pm-6pm) |
| December 7 th | Kid's Christmas Play Rehearsal |
| December 14 th | Kid's Christmas Play Rehearsal |
| December 15 th | Children's Christmas Party 7pm (Grant Community Center) |
| December 15 th | Historical House Closed until 1/16/18 |
| December 15 th | Online Registration for Mayor's Fitness Challenge Begins |
| December 25 th | Christmas Day (Town Hall Closed) |
| December 25 th – January 2 nd | Town Hall closed in observance of Holidays |
| January 6 th | Work Parties begin for Seafood Festival |
| February 3 rd | Mayor's Fitness Challenge Begins |

2017 Holiday Schedule

Town Hall will be closed for the following holiday dates:

- Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving Day
- Sunday, December 23rd through January 1st in observance of Christmas and New Year's.

IN THIS EDITION

Annual Tree Lighting.....Pg. 1
 Angel Tree.....Pg. 2
 Christmas at the Historical House.....Pg. 2
 Waste Pro Holiday Schedule.....Pg. 2
 Children's Christmas Event.....Pg. 3
 Grant Historical Society.....Pg. 3
 Children's Christmas Party.....Pg. 4
 Seafood Festival 2018.....Pg. 4
 Mayor's Fitness Challenge.....Pg. 4
 Home Rule Threatened.....Pg.5
 Listing of Ordinances.....Pg. 6
 Open Board Positions.....Pg. 6
 Keep In Touch.....Pg. 7
 Event Calendar.....Pg. 8

Be an Angel, Give the Gift of Christmas

This Christmas Season Town Hall has joined with the Salvation Army to place an Angel Tree in our Lobby. The Angel Tree Program is a program created by the Salvation Army that matches low income families with members of the community in order to provide gifts for children and seniors that may not receive gifts without the program. The Salvation Army does face to face interviews to determine eligibility and wish list items and clothing sizes are placed on the Angels for the community to sponsor. Gift List wishes are preferences. Gifts must remain unwrapped and the top two portions of the angel should be attached. All Angel Gifts must be returned by Monday, December 4, 2017.

Christmas at the Grant Historical House

Looking for a unique one of a kind Christmas gift? Visit the Grant Historical House (Bensen House) located at 5795 Highway 1. Talented volunteers have worked hard and created amazing handcrafted items you won't see anywhere else. These items include homemade jellies and fresh baked goods. The Christmas open house will be held November 30th through December 3rd. Come visit us from 10 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The house will remain open until December 15th. We look forward to seeing you! Please keep in mind that the Historical House will close December 16th and re-open Wednesday, January 17th and resume normal day and hours, which are, Wednesday – Friday from 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.



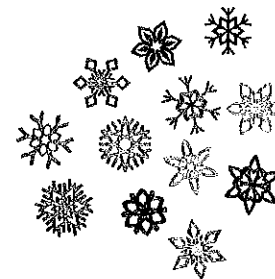
Waste Pro Holiday Schedule

Waste Pro will be observing the following holidays this season:
Thursday November 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving, and Monday December 25th in observance of Christmas. Any disposal and collection service that would have been regularly provided on these days will be provided the next scheduled collection day.

Head on down to the Treasure Coast Marina for the children's Christmas event

Come see Santa arrive by boat!

There will be movies & popcorn on the beach, Christmas crafts, a bounce house & slide along with a reindeer food factory, refreshments & gifts with Santa

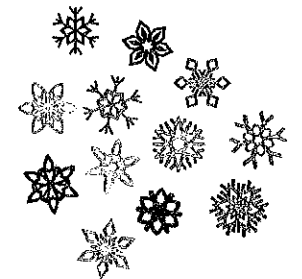


Saturday, December 2, 2017

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Treasure Coast Marina

5185 Highway 1



Make it a Season of Giving

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Sea Tow & Toys for Tots "STUFF A BOAT" food drive.
For more information call 321-733-3390

A message from the Grant Historical Society

The Grant Historical Society is seeking donations or help to repair and maintain the Grant Historical House throughout the year. The Grant Historical Society is grateful to all of our sponsors and volunteers for helping us preserve our beautiful Historical House for all to enjoy. This is part of your town and history. We are a 501 3c, a non-profit organization. We have been approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, charitable organization. We can supply our tax number upon request. Please help us and make a charitable donation which can be deducted from your taxes. Checks should be made out to Grant Historical House, and mailed to PO Box 55, Grant, FL, 32949

Grant Community Center's Children's Christmas Party

December 15, 2017 at 7 P.M.

Tis' the season to be jolly!

Please R.S.V.P to Nancy at 321-951-0583 by December 10, 2017 for any child wishing to participate and bring a finger food snack for all to enjoy.



Rehearsals for the Children's Christmas play will be November 30th, December 7th, & December 14th at 6 P.M. at the Grant Community Center for any child who would like to be a part of the celebration.

Mayor's Fitness Challenge



The Town is participating in the 2018 Mayor's Fitness Challenge. Registration begins online December 15 and the challenge runs from Feb. 3 – April 28, 2018. We will be competing against other towns and cities in Brevard County to see who can log the most minutes of exercise and there will be two individual \$500 prizes for the top male and female participants who have the greatest percentage of weight loss.

If you don't already receive our emails regarding town meetings and events, please call Rebekah at 321-951-1380 and ask to be added to the "Newschannel" email distribution list so we can send you the latest information. We will be emailing the registration link and more information as soon as we get it so stay tuned!

GRANT HISTORICAL HOUSE MEETINGS

Interested in the historical house? Meetings are held the third Monday of the month starting at 6:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome!

Questions? Call Nancy at 321-951-0583

THE SEAFOOD FESTIVAL IS APPROACHING FAST!

If you would like to volunteer work parties for the festival will be held every Saturday, starting January 6, 2018. Lunch is provided.

GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER

Come join us and find out what is going on first hand.

Meeting are held the second Monday of the month at 6:30pm.

HOME RULE THREATENED BY STATE LEGISLATURE

Florida House Bill 17 was introduced last year by Representative Randy Fine. The purpose of the bill was to remove "unnecessary regulations on business and a patchwork of local ordinances that stifle business", but it was worded so vaguely that most municipal attorneys (including ours) felt that local governments would be prevented from imposing any control over a wide range of local issues, including zoning, noise ordinances, architectural standards, and basic safety requirements. The bill did not pass, but a new bill may be introduced in this session and may have even stronger support.

Among the five tenets of the First Amendment is the right of citizens to petition their government. Local municipal governments are the closest, most accessible form of government for the average citizen. They meet regularly – at least once a month – while the state legislature is in session once a year for three months. Local government officials are directly answerable to their citizens, state officials are more remote. Local officials are aware of how issues affect their communities directly, and how they are different from other communities. State officials see only a "one size fits all" approach to all issues.

As an example, in 2013, in the town of West, Texas, the West Fertilizer Company plant caught fire. As firemen battled the blaze, the plant – filled with anhydrous ammonia and ammonium nitrate – exploded with a force close to 10 tons of TNT. Fifteen people were killed, 200 hundred were injured, and hundreds of buildings were heavily damaged or destroyed. Among those buildings were a school, nursing home, and apartment building – all of which were located in close proximity to the plant.

Over the years, the Texas State Legislature made it illegal for local municipalities to regulate the zoning or safety of these plants. Cities and Towns lost all control over regulating the location of these plants, and municipalities cannot require safety systems such as fire alarms, fire suppression systems, or even fire exits. To make matters worse, there is not a state wide fire code to take the place of local regulations.

After the explosion, the Attorney General of Texas went to Federal Court to get exemptions from the U.S. law that requires chemical companies to keep an inventory of hazardous materials, called a Tier Two report. This report was previously classified as public information, and was readily available to the general public, reporters, and local officials. Citing the need to prevent terrorist acts, Texas was successful in removing the public record status of these reports, leaving public disclosure a voluntary act for the companies.

The consequences of this reared its head in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. In the small town of Crosby, the Arkema chemical storage facility lost power, and then lost its backup generators and its cooling system for volatile organic peroxides. Arkema refused to release its Tier Two report, causing confusion and disagreement between FEMA, the EPA, local officials, and state officials as to the toxicity and danger posed by the fumes from the resultant fires and explosions.

While these incidents are extreme examples of what can happen when a state legislature prevents local municipalities from exercising their responsibilities and duties to their residents, it's not hard to imagine less extreme, but equally serious situations arising from these types of state policies.

Please call or contact Florida State Representative Randy Fine and Florida State Senator Debbie Mayfield if you are concerned at what a bill of this nature could do to your ability to have your voice heard concerning issues that affect our community. We incorporated so we could have control over the destiny and future of our community; A Bill of this nature will remove that control. Please watch our Legislative Alerts on our website, www.grantvalkaria.org, to stay up to date on these matters.

This article authored by Town Council Member Pat Bryan and approved by the Town Council.

LISTING OF ALL ORDINANCES RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN

The following Ordinances have been adopted by the Town Council.
They are available for public review at Town Hall located at
1449 Valkaria Rd, Grant Valkaria, Florida 32950.

The Ordinances are also available on the Town website at www.grantvalkaria.org

| Ordinance No. | Description |
|---------------|--|
| 2017-04 | Sign Moratorium Extension |
| 2017-05 | Rezone: Grapefruit Scuba, LLC |
| 2017-06 | Rezone: Shady Creek Ridge, LLC |
| 2017-07 | Rezone: Bonnie Allan |
| 2017-08 | Moratorium on effects of HB 687 Advanced Infrastructure Deployment Act |
| 2017-09 | Sign Code |
| 2017-10 | Amendment to Ord. 2017-01 Medical Marijuana Moratorium |

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN:

The Trails and Greenways Committee, along with the Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency are looking for new alternate members! Please be advised that you must be a registered voter within the Town as well as a resident of the Town for at least 6 months. If you are interested in volunteering on either board you may pick up an application at Town Hall located at 1449 Valkaria Rd. Grant Valkaria, Fl. 32950 or online at www.grantvalkaria.org.

THE SANDHILL BUGLE

Is published *quarterly* by the Town of Grant-Valkaria
1449 Valkaria Rd.
Grant-Valkaria, FL. 32950
321-951-1380
Editor-in-Chief
Jessica Keenan
Contributing Editors
Rick Hood, Town Administrator
Rebekah Raddon, Town Clerk
Jason Mahaney, Assistant to the
Town Administrator

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AND HELP US
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU**

The **Town Newsletter** will be published quarterly and mailed to all households in Grant-Valkaria. If you live in Grant-Valkaria and don't receive the letter, please call Town Hall (321) 951-1380.

The **Town Website** is www.grantvalkaria.org.

The **Town Hall location and mailing address:** 1449 Valkaria Road, Grant-Valkaria, Florida 32950.

The **Town Hall phone number is:** (321) 951-1380
The **Town Hall fax number is:** (321) 956-5660

The **Town Hall Bulletin Board** is located at Town Hall, in the Park. Meeting notices and important announcements will be posted there.

The regular **Town Council Meetings** are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Town Hall. If a special meeting is scheduled or the date, place or time of regular meetings changes, the changes will be posted on the Bulletin Board and sent out to the Town Email List.

To contact Council Members:

All Council Members: GVC@grantvalkaria.org
Mayor Del Yonts: DYonts@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Dan Robino: DRobino@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Lisette Kolar: LKolar@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Pat Bryan: PBryan@grantvalkaria.org
Vice Mayor Cathy DeMott: CDeMott@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Dan Faden: DFaden@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Tom Sammon: TSammon@grantvalkaria.org

To contact our Town Administrator, Rick Hood: TownAdmin@grantvalkaria.org
To contact our Town Clerk, Rebekah Raddon: Clerk@grantvalkaria.org
To contact our Administrative Assistant Jessica Keenan: Info@grantvalkaria.org
To contact our Assistant to the Town Administrator, Jason Mahaney: Jmahaney@grantvalkaria.org

The regular **Local Planning Agency/ Planning and Zoning Board** meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 p.m. If a special meeting is scheduled or the date, place or time of regular meetings changes, the changes will be posted on the Bulletin Board and sent out to the Town Email List.

The **Town Charter, Town Council minutes** and pending and adopted **ordinances** and **resolutions** are available for your review on the Town website, or at Town Hall.

Please call, email, or visit Town Hall with any ideas you may have – this is **your** community!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Zumba fitness classes are being offered Tuesday & Thursday at 7pm. Please contact Lisa at 321-213-0571 for details.
- The Grant Community Library is open Tuesday from 10am-4pm, Thursday from 6pm-7:30pm and Saturday from 10am-12pm. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Gert Jackson at 321-733-0636
- That as a resident you can become a member of the Grant Community Club. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Come make a difference, share your ideas and get involved.
- The Bensen House is a wonderful place to visit and full of interesting history. Stop by and visit the Bensen House located at 5795 S. Highway 1, Grant-Valkaria, FL. 32949.