

Council and Staff and join them for bagels and coffee.

Grant-Valkaria Day 2007 will continue at **1:00 pm on Saturday, July 28, 2007** at Town Hall and the Grant Historical House Grounds. There will be:

- Hamburgers and Hot Dogs Games
- Live Band
- Door prizes

Be among the first to buy your commemorative Grant-Valkaria First Anniversary Tee Shirt!

All your neighbors will be there! Bring the whole family and enjoy a day on the riverside with your community! Sorry, no pets.

PARTICIPATE ON A TOWN BOARD.....

The Town Council has established various Boards made up of volunteer Grant-Valkaria residents.

Currently the established Boards are:

- Local Planning Agency / Planning and Zoning Advisory Board
- MPO Citizen's Advisory Committee
- Code Enforcement Board
- Audit Committee
- Code Review Committee

Currently, all Boards are filled with the exception of the Code Review Board. Applications are available on the Town website (www.grantvalkaria.org) or at Town Hall. There will be other Boards established in the future and Grant-Valkaria residents can still apply for the current Boards and your application will be held just in case an opening occurs.

Town Board Descriptions

Planning and Zoning Board / Local Planning Agency

This board has seven-voting members, 2 alternate board members, and 1 non-voting School Board member appointed by the School Board. Members serve for 2-year terms. The board acts in an advisory capacity to the Town Council relating to zoning, land use, amendments to Zoning Code, development plans approval, and Comprehensive Plan development and amendments. Approves major building plans as presented by the Building Official. Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm only when there is a zoning action requested.

Planning Organization (MPO) Citizen's Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of twenty-four (24) members, county-wide that represent a broad cross section of citizens interested in the development of an efficient, safe, and cost-effective transportation system. There will be one person appointed to the CAC from Grant-Valkaria. CAC members are appointed by individual members of the MPO Board, with approval of the entire MPO. The CAC conducts their meetings in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on the Monday prior to the MPO Board meetings.

Code Enforcement Board

This Board has seven voting members and two alternate board members. Initially, two members are appointed for 1 year each, three members are appointed for 2 years each, and two members are appointed for 3 years each. The board holds hearings on code violations as presented by the Code Enforcement Officer and issues orders necessary to bring violations into compliance. The Code Enforcement Board meets no more than once per month.

Audit Committee

This Committee will assist in the selection of an accounting firm to conduct the Town's annual financial audit as required by the State of Florida.

Code Review Committee

This Committee will research and review existing Town code of ordinances (which are currently the same as the County code) and codes of other towns to provide the Council with options regarding establishing the Town's own code.

Emergency Response Team

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – A group of volunteers sponsored by Brevard County Emergency Management to help as first responders during an emergency such as hurricanes and fires. Training is provided. Contact Terry Wolfe at EOC@grantvalkaria.org or 772-913-3807.

GRANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT LEAVES LEGACY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

After 50 years of service, for many reasons, the Grant Volunteer Fire Department is in the process of closing its doors and dissolving the corporation. However, the sense of community and dedication of the organization will still live on.

When the Grant VFD decided to dissolve, they carefully and thoughtfully arranged for the assets of the corporation to go to the best of causes – scholarships. The Grant VFD arranged for the sale of the property on Old Dixie Highway and 1st Street. The proceeds of the sale were deposited with an organization called "Brevard Community Foundation". The foundation's sole purpose is to manage charitable funds. The Grant VFD scholarship fund will earn interest each year and that interest will be given to the Grant Community Club to distribute along with the scholarships resulting from the Seafood Festival. The use of the scholarship fund is controlled by the Scholarship Committee of the Grant Community Club, not the foundation.

This year, the Grant Community Club awarded \$45,000 in scholarships to 24 students, and the Grant VFD awarded \$10,000 to 5 students. The Grant VFD scholarships are awarded to students who are working toward careers related to human medicine, nursing, and firefighting.

Contact Jeanie Fields (723-8687) for information on the scholarship programs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COURSE OFFERED

Town Administrator Matt Brock is offering Grant-Valkaria residents a mini-course in local government finance. The purpose of the course is to help all residents understand the overall budget process, in light of the Town currently preparing its first municipal budget. The course is scheduled for two hours, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at Town hall, 5120 US Highway 1, on Tuesday July 10th. Topics of discussion will include the local government budget process, roles and responsibilities, TRIM, sources of revenues, expenditures, assessments, taxes, fees, ad valorem and millage, and many other local government financial issues. It is open to all Town of Grant-Valkaria residents.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?...

Should the Town keep the name "Grant-Valkaria"? It's time to decide.

The Grant-Valkaria Town Charter, accepted by the residents by referendum on July 25, 2006, states the following regarding the Town name:

Article X Transition, Section 10.01(b) *"The town name used in this charter is "Town of Grant-Valkaria." As a first act of home rule and to ensure community participation, residents will have the opportunity to select their town name. The elected town council shall set the procedures for the residents' selection of the town name within 6 months after the first town council meeting."*

During the incorporation process the name "Grant-Valkaria" was used because it captured the identity of both communities. However, the community members who developed the Town Charter determined that when the Town was established it would be appropriate to allow the Town's residents to have an opportunity to select the name of the Town.

From discussions with residents at Council meetings, the Council is aware that many residents are satisfied with the name "Grant-Valkaria". However, every opportunity must be given to all residents to formally state their desired name.

During Town Council meetings, over the past few months, the Town Council has discussed and developed a method to follow in order to provide the opportunity for the residents to select a new name **if a new name is desired**.

Basic Question – Straw Poll

The name selection process will start with a letter sent to all Grant-Valkaria households asking a simple question – "Do you want the name of our Town to remain "Grant-Valkaria" - YES or NO ?" The "straw poll" method is a more informal method as compared to a ballot sent to registered voters. The "straw poll" will allow as many residents as possible to participate in this first decision. This "straw poll" letter will be mailed out on or about July 9, 2007 and residents will have 30 days to return their answers. The responses from the residents will let the Council know which path the residents want to take. Do they want to keep the name as it is or do they want to choose another?

The Council will also hold a series of meetings during which the residents can discuss changing or not changing the name. Based on the "straw poll" and the series of meetings, prior to September 30, the Council will either vote to keep the name "Grant-Valkaria" or start the process of selecting a new name.

Let's Keep the Name "Grant-Valkaria"

If the straw poll and series of meetings indicate to the Council that the residents would like to keep the name "Grant-Valkaria", then at a regular meeting, the Council will vote on keeping the name. The vote will require 5 of the 7 Council members to vote to keep the name. A mailing and emails will be sent to inform the residents of the decision.

Let's Change the Name

If the straw poll and series of meetings indicate to the Council that the residents would like to change the name of the Town, then residents will be asked to submit suggested names for the Town. Each suggestion must be submitted with the signatures of 25 registered voters who live in the Town. A series of meetings will be held by the Council for residents to comment on and help select 3 names from those submitted. Those 3 names will be placed on an official ballot for referendum no later than the general election November 2008. The name selected by the registered voters in that referendum will be the final, official name of the Town.

To start the discussion, below are some advantages and disadvantages to keeping the name "Grant-Valkaria"

Advantages

- Grant-Valkaria preserves the identity of both communities
- Grant-Valkaria preserves the history of both communities
- Grant-Valkaria symbolizes the joining together of the two communities
- Grant-Valkaria has become widely known and used
- Grant-Valkaria is used on all State, County and Town documentation
- There may be costs associated with changing the name on State and County documentation

Disadvantages

- Grant-Valkaria is a long name

Participate!

This is an important decision for our Town. The Town's name will reflect the pride and character of our community. The straw poll will allow everyone to participate in this decision. When you receive your straw poll letter, all

members of your family can discuss the question and come up with the family's unified answer to the Council – YES, we would like to keep the name, "Grant-Valkaria" or NO, we would like to change the name.

The Council will hold a series of meetings to discuss the Town name – try to attend at least one and make your comments known.

Discussion of the Town name will be held during the regular Town Council meetings in July and August. Details of the meetings will be included with the straw poll letter.

If you have comments or questions on the Town name selection process, please call Town Hall (951-1380) and speak to our Town Administrator, Matt Brock or our Town Clerk, Sue Krueger. You can also leave a message at Town Hall for any Town Council member, or you can reach them by email.

Remember – watch your mail after July 9 – your straw poll letter will be arriving!!

SUGGESTED HURRICANE PREPARATIONS

- Prepare to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours after a storm passes. Have food, water, medicine, and other supplies on hand.
- Trim trees now and secure outdoor objects before high winds arrive.
- Have emergency supplies on hand and an emergency plan that includes an evacuation route and planned destination.
- Be ready to follow evacuation orders issued by Brevard County. Evacuations usually affect barrier islands, mobile home areas, and flood-prone areas.
- Register information about anyone in your home with special medical or evacuation needs with Brevard County Emergency Management (637-6670).
- Make plans for pets. Animals may not be allowed in many shelters, except for guide dogs.
- Consider flood insurance for protection against damages from rising water. Flood insurance cannot be secured as a storm approaches.