



TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA

Sandhill Bugle



Volume 5, No. 3 • November 2011

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Rick Hood - Town Administrator

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! It's hard to believe that another year has passed by us by so quickly. 2011 was a good year but it has also been a busy year for staff.

We have adopted our Comprehensive Plan which now must be approved by the State. This will guide the growth of the Town until the year 2025 and sets the tone for the land development regulations. The Planning and Zoning Board and the Town Council have been working on this for 4 years. Our next step will be to rewrite the land develop regulations which are the rules that govern the growth in Town. Right now we operate under the old county regulations.

We have adopted an ordinance that allows golf carts on certain town roads and an ordinance that changes the regulations for accessory structures. Another milestone for the town is that we hired an engineering firm to perform a master drainage study of the entire Town. When complete, we will have more information on the Town's drainage system than most other Towns. This will be extremely valuable in improving the overall system of the Town and will enable us to begin improvements annually. We have been lucky with no hurricanes again this past year but we experienced enough rain events to demonstrate that improvements are necessary.

We hosted the Grant-Valkaria Day picnic, the Volunteer Appreciation Day dinner, and will be hosting the Christmas tree lighting on December 4th. Although we were not he

hosts, the Grant Seafood Festival, the BBQ Fest, and the Valkaria Airfest were all held in Town again this past year with record attendance at all events.

We have graded approximately 360,000 feet of unpaved roads, cleaned 20,000 feet of ditches and cut and mulched another 10,000 feet of drainage swales, and have cut 40,000 feet of Brazilian pepper trees. We have just completed a drainage pipe replacement under Valkaria Road and repaired numerous headwalls, drainage structures, and many feet of edge repair on paved roads. Overall, I think we are staying ahead of the problems.

We adopted yet another annual budget without raising taxes, a feat that no one else has been able to accomplish. There have been four rezonings and two site plans approved. A half-dozen new homes have been permitted as well as numerous fences, driveways, sheds and accessory buildings. We are truly in the process of identifying who we are.

I have used the word **we** many, many times in this article. I use it because there is no better way to describe the number of people who are responsible for your local government. You have the Town Council, the Planning and Zoning Board, the Code Enforcement Board, 3 full time staff members, 1 part-time staff member and numerous volunteers.

Grant-Valkaria truly is a unique Town, I encourage you to get involved, submit your name for a board appointment, volunteer at one of our events, and participate in the planning and zoning board

or council meetings. Together we can make Grant-Valkaria even better in 2012.

2011-2012 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Town hall will be closed for the following holiday dates:

- Thursday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving
- Thursday, December 22nd and Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas
- Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day
- Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

Pamela Conner, Brevard County Sheriff's Office

- Dress casually and comfortably
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry
- Shop during daylight hours, if possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Don't dangle your handbag from your shoulder. Keep your purse tucked tightly under your arm or better yet, don't even carry a purse, use a fanny pack (facing front). Having your hands free makes shopping easier and eliminates the possibility of leaving your purse behind or having it stolen.
- If you do carry a purse make sure it's closed/zipped/snapped shut.
- Purses left in a shopping cart even for a second, can be snatched and gone in a blink or what we often see this time of year, is distraction thefts! Distraction thieves love seeing purses sitting in a buggy, one comes up asking where something is and while you answer and turn away, the other thief grabs your wallet/purse, etc. Don't be an easy target!!
- Avoid carrying your checkbook, cash and credit cards all together in one wallet, because a thief who gets the entire wallet/purse, can cash checks with your identification and run up a large credit card bill in a short amount of time. Keep your keys separate too.
- Don't "flash" large rolls of money in public. You never know who's watching!
- Place your money around in different pockets. That way a pick-pocket can't clean you out in one fell swoop.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.

- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be aware of any strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Consolidate as many packages as possible or make several trips to your car to deposit packages in the trunk. Don't allow yourself to become so burdened down with packages that you become a tempting target.
- Always park where there is plenty of light, not only around your car, but also from your car to the mall or store entrance.
- Once your car is parked, familiarize yourself with its location so you can find it without delay.
- Use the trunk of your car to keep your packages out of sight.
- Don't hesitate to ask for a security escort if you feel unsafe.
- Have your keys in your hand before you go to your car.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings!

Don't forget to report suspicious activity, accurately and immediately. Criminals like to use the busy holidays to catch us off guard, so be prepared for any situation and be AWARE of your surroundings!

Note from Commander Joe Ambrose:

During the Holiday season it is so important to be aware of your surroundings and pay close attention to your personal belongings. Don't forget to lock the interior door into your residence secure your garage door, and your vehicles. Most residential crime is a "crime of opportunity."

I hope the tips provided to you are helpful and please don't hesitate to call us if need arises. The employees of the South Precinct are proud to serve you.

Please contact the Brevard County Sheriff's Office South Precinct at (321) 253-6658 or (772) 664-1015 if you ever need us.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE WHICH MEANS TRAVELING IS NEAR! SEE WHAT YOUR LOCAL CITIZENS ON PATROL CAN DO FOR YOU...

The Citizens on Patrol work hard throughout the Town to ensure that residents' homes and families are safe. These individuals volunteer to ensure that you can feel comfortable leaving your home while you are away on vacation or even have someone check on a family member that may live alone.

If you are in need of their services you can contact Town Hall at (321) 951-1380 or visit the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Website at http://www.brevardsheriff.com/request_house_check.php.

If you would like to volunteer your time and become a Citizen on Patrol applications are available to be downloaded at <http://www.brevardsheriff.com/personnel/volunteers.htm#CitizensonPatrol>.





Trimming the tree with happy hearts, that's the way Christmas starts.

The 4th Annual Grant-Valkaria Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration will be held:



Sunday, December 4, 2011
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
At
Fisherman's Landing



Council and staff would like to invite all Grant-Valkaria residents and families to join your neighbors 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.



Grant Community Center's
Children's Christmas Party
December 16th- 7:00 pm

Tis the season to be jolly and children anticipating!
There will be the 'Christmas Story' play, goodies, and presents
for the children. There will also be a visit from Santa!

Please RSVP to Nancy at (321)951-0583 by December 9th
So that we may have a count of the gifts needed.

Also, anyone wanting to be a part of the 'Christmas Story'
play, please call Nancy by November 19th.

Rehearsals will be December 1st, 9th, & 15th at 6:00pm.



Old Timers Christmas Dinner
December 18th - 4:00pm

Come join us for a wonderful festive holiday dinner.
Meet new neighbors and visit with friends.

GCC will provide the main course:
Roasted Turkey

You help by bringing a covered dish or a dessert.
Please call Nancy at (321)951-0583
to coordinate dishes and to RSVP.

Please note that these events are not affiliated with the Town Hall
for further information please contact the individuals listed above.

HOW CAN YOU HELP SOMEONE LIKE KATIE?



Katie's Story

Like many five-year-old girls, Grant-Valkaria resident Katie Begin loves playing on her swing, practicing ballet and hosting tea parties, but unlike most girls her age Katie is all too familiar with the hospital.

Doctors diagnosed Katie with aplastic anemia in March of 2011. Since then she's been in and out of the hospital relying on medication as well as blood and platelets from donors to sustain life.

Though she still sees a doctor weekly, she is doing much better today thanks, in part, to blood donors.

Help someone like Katie and support the Brevard County Guns N' Hoses Blood and Bone Marrow Drive by getting on the Big Red Bus and giving the gift of life.

Grant-Valkaria Town Hall
 December 29, 2011
 9am-3pm
 Call 321-951-1380

Florida's Blood Centers' donations stay in our LOCAL community!

EVERY donation is important. **EVERY** drop counts.

LISTING OF ALL ORDINANCES RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN

The following Ordinances have been adopted by the Town Council. They are available for public inspection at Town Hall located at 4240 Highway 1, Grant-Valkaria, Florida 32949.

The Ordinances are also available on the Town website at www.grant-vaalkaria.org.

ORDINANCE NO.	DESCRIPTION
2011-10	Repealing portions of the code relating to firearms regulation as per 2011-109, Laws of Florida
2011-11	Rezoning from Restricted Neighborhood Retail Commercial, BU-1-A & Agricultural Residential, AU to Institutional, Low Intensity, IN(L) (Royal Health Systems) - 8085 Babcock St.

YARD WASTE CHANGES

In the past few weeks you may have noticed some changes in your Waste Management pick up schedule. In order to try to keep up with the large quantities of yard waste within the Town, Waste Management has made changes to their yard waste pick up days.

Your regular yard waste pick up day in the "Valkaria" area is still Thursday, and the "Grant" area is now Friday. The clam truck will begin making rounds in the "Valkaria" area on Monday and Tuesday and will move to the "Grant" area on Tuesday and Wednesday.

We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Town Hall at (321) 951-1380. For service-related issues or questions, please contact WM customer service at (321) 723-4455 or email Central-FloridaService@wm.com.

Holiday Schedule:

Thanksgiving (Thursday) - Yard Waste will be picked up on Saturday following the holiday.

Christmas (Saturday) - Household Garbage will be collected the next collection day.

THE SANDHILL BUGLE

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 Town of Grant-Valkaria
 4240 US Highway 1
 Grant-Valkaria, Florida 32949
 951-1380

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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. You can be added to the Town Email List by emailing: Webmaster@grantvalkaria.org

The **Town Hall location**: 4240 US Highway 1 (look for U.S. and State of Florida Flags)

The **Town Hall mailing address**: PO Box 766, Grant, Florida 32949

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, outside the building. Meeting notices and important announcements will be posted there. There is also a bulletin board at the Grant Community Center on which Town information will be posted.

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
Vice Mayor Jason Mahaney:	JMahaney@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Pat Bryan:	PBryan@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Cathy DeMott:	CDeMott@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Dan Faden:	DFaden@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Joe Hackford:	JHackford@grantvalkaria.org
Council Member Lisette Kolar:	LKolar@grantvalkaria.org

To contact our Town Administrator, Rick Hood:	TownAdmin@grantvalkaria.org
To contact our Town Clerk, Sue Krueger:	Clerk@grantvalkaria.org
To contact our Deputy Town Clerk, Jessica Williams:	info@grantvalkaria.org

The regular **Local Planning Agency/Planning and Zoning Board** meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month. 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 **Code Enforcement Board** meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month as needed. All meeting notices 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?

- That as of November 9th, you can now register your golf cart and ride on designated Town roadways. Please refer to Ordinance No. 2011-05 or contact Town Hall for details.
- The Town is always looking for cheerful volunteers to help with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Grant Valkaria Day. Please contact Town Hall at (321) 951-1380 if you are interested in lending a helping hand.
- The 'Benson House' will have extended hours and be fully decorated for the holiday season December 1st through December 4th.
- The Grant Community Library is opened Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursday from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering at the Grant Community Library please contact Gert Jackson, Librarian at (321) 733-0636.
- The Grant Historical Society is always looking for wonderful volunteers to give tours of the Benson House. It's three hours per week and all volunteers work in pairs. Please contact (321) 723-8543.
- That the Valkaria Airport, Valkaria Aviation Association serves a pancake breakfast on the third Saturday of the month from 8am to 11am. Breakfast is \$ 5.00 and Family friendly.
- That by subscribing to the Town's email list you will receive notifications relating to disasters such as hurricanes, and fires as well as missing or found animals that are reported to the Town.

WINTER HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

Courtesy of Brevard County Fire Rescue

Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) is proud to be part of the Grant-Valkaria community. Fire safety is something that should be practiced throughout the year, but we ask that you take a moment to read and apply the following tips to keep you and your family safe during this festive time of year. Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

Winter Holidays

According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$900 million in damages.

Follow these tips to reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Candles

- Avoid using candles when possible. Consider using battery-operated candles instead of traditional candles. Keep candles away from flammable objects such as decorations and wrapping paper.
- Take care to place candle displays in locations where they cannot be knocked over.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other greenery.
- Never leave an open flame unattended. Keep burning candles within sight.

Holiday Lights

- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

- Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving the house or going to sleep.

Christmas Trees

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.
- Because heated rooms dry out live trees rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water.
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces, radiators, and space heaters.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." This label indicates that the tree is more resistant to burning.

Food Preparation

- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- When using a turkey fryer, do not leave the fryer unattended while the burner is on.
- Turkey fryers should be used outdoors and a safe distance from buildings and flammable materials. Never use fryers inside a garage or on wooden decks.
- DO NOT attempt to extinguish grease fires with water. Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher on hand. If the fire is manageable, use the extinguisher. If it is not, call 911 immediately for help.



WINTER CAMP

COME JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED TIME!

SO MANY EXCITING THINGS TO DO!

Each day will consist of an indoor game, an outdoor game, a sport and an arts and crafts project.

WEEK 1 - DECEMBER 21-22

WEEK 2 - DECEMBER 27-30

WEEK 3 - JANUARY 3-6

CHILDREN MUST WEAR SNEAKERS, BRING A LUNCH, SNACK, WATER BOTTLE AND JACKET.

We will be closed Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. There will be **no** After Care On Friday, December 30.

HOURS:

Camp: 9am-4pm
Before Care: 7am-9am
After Care: 4pm-6pm

WEEKLY FEES:

Camp: \$60/week per child
Before or After Care: \$15/week per child
Before AND After Care: \$30/week per child

DAILY FEES:

Camp: \$20/day per child
Before or After Care: \$7/day per child
Before AND After Care: \$12/day per child

South Mainland
Community Center
3700 Allen Avenue
Micco, 32976
772-663-8748

Town of Grant-Valkaria
4240 US Highway 1
Grant-Valkaria, Florida 32949

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ADDRESS N' MAIL

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

November 24th	Thanksgiving Day
December 1st	Christmas Story Rehearsal 6:00pm (Grant Community Club, please call 321-951-0583 for details)
December 1st-4th	The Grant Historical House, "Benson House" Christmas open house 10: 00am - 6:00pm (please contact 321-723-8543 for details)
December 4th	4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting 4:00pm – 6:00pm (Fisherman's Landing 5795 Highway 1)
December 7th	The Grant Historical House "Benson House" December 16th will be open regular hours from 10:00am – 4:00pm (please call 321-723-8543 for details)
December 9th	Christmas Story Rehearsal 6:00pm (Grant Community Club)
December 15th	Christmas Story Rehearsal 6:00pm (Grant Community Club)
December 16th	Kid's Christmas Party at 7:00pm (Grant Community Club) please arrive early for play rehearsal and costume fittings.
December 18th	Old Timer's Dinner @ 4:00pm (Grant Community Club, please call 321-951-0583 for details)
December 25th	Christmas Day
December 29th	Gun's N Hoses Blood Drive at Town Hall (4240 Highway 1, please call 321-951-1380 for details)
January 1st	Happy New Year
January 4th	The Grant Historical House "Benson House" will be re-opening for regular hours Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00am until 4:00pm.
January 7th	1st Seafood Festival Work Party 8:00am until 12:00pm and each Saturday thereafter. (Grant Community Club 4580 First Street)
January 16th	Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday
February 18th	Valkaria AirFest (Valkaria Aviation Association)
February 20th	Washington's Birthday
March 3rd & 4th	Grant Seafood Festival (Grant Community Club 4580 First Street)
March 17th	Historical House Flea Market from 8:00am until 2:00pm. (Spaces available for \$10.00, contact 321-723-8543 for details)
April 21st	'Pioneer Fish Fry' Historical House from 5:00pm-6:30pm (please contact 321-723-8543 for details)