



# The Granite Tablet



Volume 10, Number 1

A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

April 2022

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

### *Barry Hayes Medallion of Honor*

Barry Hayes, former Mayor of the Town of Granite Falls, received the Medallion of Honor during a regular meeting of the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners on Monday, April 11, 2022. The proclamation noted his 42 years of service to the Town of Granite Falls (4 years on the Planning Board and Recreation Advisory Board), 14 years on the town council (including 6 as Mayor pro tem), and 24 years as mayor. During his tenure, the town received numerous awards, attracted new industry, experienced



both private and commercial development, and expanded town services (such as recreation). In addition to his duties as mayor, Hayes served on the board of numerous civic organizations (e.g., Hospice, South Caldwell Christian Ministries, Gideons International, South Caldwell Boosters, Crime Stoppers, and Communities in Schools).

The above photo shows Randy Church, Board Chairman, presenting Hayes with the Medallion and a framed copy of the proclamation. The photo on the left shows Hayes with members of the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners. Linda Crowder, Chairman of the Granite Falls History Committee, posted a video she made of the presentation on Facebook under "Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum."



## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

### *Saying "Good-Bye" to COVID-19*

COVID-19 has been the unwanted visitor who keeps lingering at the door on the way out. In our community and state, there is a general optimism. Life has begun to look more normal with fewer masks being worn, more group gatherings being held, more church choirs singing, and more hugs being given. Yet, at the same time, medical and government authorities on the federal level have sent mixed signals by warning about future variants and being inconsistent with policies.

On One Hand, It was Good: On February 15th, the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) ended its mask mandates for school buses.

On the Other, It was Wait and See: On Thursday, April 13th, the Transportation Safety Administration extended the mask mandate for public transportation by fifteen (15) days - until May 3, 2022 - due to a small increase in cases caused by the BA.2 omicron subvariant. On

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)



DWTD in 2019

## BLUE DEMONS

### *Mark Your Calendars*

After a two year delay due to COVID restraints, Dining with the Demons is returning to the Caldwell County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 14, 2022 beginning at noon. DWTD is a reunion for Granite Falls High School students and teachers. Guests are welcome. Just bring your favorite covered dish, prepare to have your

(DWTD continued on page 3)

April 18th, U. S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle from Florida ruled that the CDC's mask mandate for public transportation exceeded its authority. That same day, the CDC posted an announcement on its website that the mask mandate was no longer in effect. However, on April 20th, the US Department of Justice announced it was appealing the ruling.

**Take a Breath:** On Friday, April 14th, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave emergency approval for the InspectIR COVID-19 Breathalyzer, a diagnostic test that detects SARS-CoV-2 (the scientific name for COVID-19) in less than three (3) minutes. According to the FDA news release, the test correctly identified 91.2% of the positive samples and 99.3% of the negative samples. InspectIR expects to produce 100 instruments per week with the capacity to perform 160 tests per day each.

The new COVID breathalyzer is intended for use in healthcare settings such as a doctor's office, hospital, or mobile testing site. Although the equipment is about the size of a suitcase, and, thus, portable, it requires administration by trained operators working under the supervision of licensed healthcare providers. Since results are not 100% accurate, positive tests must be confirmed with a molecular test.



William B. Shuford Recreation Center - polling place on Pinewood Rd.

### **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT** ***Voting in the Primary***

The William B. Shuford Recreation Center located at 56 Pinewood Road in Granite Falls will continue to host elections in 2022. The first Primary Election will be held May 17, 2022 from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The hours for early voting are

Thursday, April 28 - Friday, April 29:	8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 30:	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday, May 2 - Friday, May 6:	8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 7:	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday, May 9 - Friday, May 13:	8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 14:	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### **MAKING GRANITE FALLS BEAUTIFUL** ***One Flower at a Time***

**Take it or Leave it:** On April 1st, the Granite Falls Garden Club set up a plant swap on South Main Street on the outside wall of the building that housed the library until 2021. Anyone may bring anything garden related that they are willing to share such as plants, tools, and pots so other people can enjoy them. This is a good way to share perennials that have overgrown their space and gardening stuff cluttering up storage sheds.

**On the Square:** Members of the Garden Club celebrated Earth Day on Friday, April 22nd by planting a garden on the town square. Afterwards, they ate lunch at the new Copper Penny Grill at the bridge in Rhodhiss.

The Garden Club has been beautifying Granite Falls since January 1940.

(photos courtesy of Barbara Ross)





photo made with former classmates, and enjoy reminiscing and catching up with fellow Blue Demons. Organizers will provide drinks, plates, napkins, cups, ice, and eating utensils. However, they are asking people to bring serving utensils to go with the food they bring.

Planners want DWTD 2022 to be less stressful and exhausting so they are downsizing by concentrating on "meeting, greeting and eating." There will be a few cash door prizes using tickets given at the door. However, after checking their finances and hearing feedback from previous DWTD events, organizers have decided to eliminate fundraisers (t-shirts and raffles), drawings for door prizes, and the remembrance board. These features take extra time and labor - contacting potential donors, keeping records, gathering supplies, manning work stations at the event, etc. Eliminating these time consuming features will free workers to enjoy the event and will shorten the time period everyone has to be quiet to hear the results of drawings.

As plans are made, updates will be posted to Facebook under "Dining with the Demons 2020 - 2022." There is also an event labeled "Dining with the Demons (DWTD)" where persons can let organizers know if they plan to attend. While we won't have a formal reservation list, planners do need an approximate number so they will know how many supplies to buy and how many tables to set up. Class photos taken at DWTD 2019 are posted on the museum's website: [www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org).

Persons without Facebook may call Gaye Moore at (828) 405-8397 for more information. Also, call Gaye if you are willing and able to help set up on Friday, May 13th at noon or stay after the event to clean up. Quite obviously, the more people who help the less work it will be for those involved.



Above: Standing in front of a replica of the Baird House, Carl Becker (right) shows GFHA Trustee Joel Kaufman some of the items he found on the museum grounds.

## GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION *Update*

Members of the Granite Falls Historical Association met at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The meeting began with a program by Carl Becker, a local resident who displayed items he found on the grounds of the museum with his metal

detector. The once lost treasures include a ring with markings that indicate it could have been the property of Andrew Baird, the original owner of the building. Born in Scotland on July 18, 1762, Baird applied for a land grant to set up an iron forge on Gunpowder Creek in 1792.

In honor of his 260th birthday, the Granite Falls History Committee will host a birthday party at the museum on Sunday, July 17, 2022 from 2 until 4 p.m. There will be a display of items Carl has found around town, and he plans to be there to speak with persons interested in his work. The History Committee invites the public to attend.



During the business session that followed the program, GFHA members decided that the tea party planned for May 21st would be a "practice and learn" event so they could taste test recipes, review British tea party protocol, and make sure they were ready to provide a special occasion for paying guests.

In other business, members learned that persons recruited to map Pinecrest Cemetery before COVID struck are no longer able to assist with this project. Trustees will meet on Tuesday, May 17th at 2:45 p.m. in the museum to make new plans. They will also discuss sprucing up the Baird Family Cemetery. They invite persons who are interested in these projects to join them.

## GRANITE FALLS PARKS & RECREATION *News*

**Change of Plans:** The Creative Kids Art Class has been postponed until Thursday, May 5th at 3:15 p.m. For more information, call Damon Helton at (803) 630-6093.

**Looking Better:** The Parks and Recreation Department extends a big "thank you" to members of Rock Chapel Church of God who picked up trash at Lakeside Park. If any other group (civic club, church, school) is interested in helping improve the looks of our parks, call Katie Davis at the rec center. The number is 828-396-1221.



# OH MOTHER OF OUR LEARNING

## *Long May Thy Presence Be - We'll Pray to Keep Thy Portals Wide for All Posterity*

Work continues at Granite Falls Middle School. These photos were made on Sunday, April 3, 2022.



*The Granite Tablet* is a publication of the Granite Falls History Committee, which manages the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The museum is located in the historic home of Andrew Baird, an early settler. The building is the second oldest residence in Caldwell County. The Baird House was built around 1795 with additions made over the next hundred years. The house remained a residence until 2001 when the owner sought permission to have it burned down due to the high cost of maintenance. Recognizing the historical significance of the building, the Town of Granite Falls purchased the home with the intentions of turning it into a museum. With the help of a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and hours of hard work by dedicated people, the vision became a reality. The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum held its grand opening and ribbon cutting on January 18, 2007. Visit us on Facebook under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum." Our website is [www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org).

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