

The Granite Tablet



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April 2025



WE'RE HAVING A BASH! *Ready! Set! Splash!*

Barring bad weather and unforeseen circumstances, the Town of Granite Falls is ready to host its first Splash Bash on Friday, May 2, 2025, from 5 until 9 p.m. at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on Pinewood Road. The rain date is a week later on Friday, May 9, 2025. The main event is the grand opening of the town's new splash pad, pictured above and on page 4.

The Splash Bash will feature Cassette Rewind, a live band that plays music from the 1980s; a quiet sensory zone; age appropriate activities for kids from toddlers to teens; food trucks; and vendors. The evening will culminate with a fantastic fire works display, which will be live streamed to the sensory zone. Expecting a large crowd, organizers have arranged a shuttle between the rec center and Granite Falls Elementary School, where attendees may park their cars.



DUNKIN' COMMUNITY CUPS CAMPAIGN *To Benefit Special Olympics*

Local law enforcement paired with Dunkin' in Granite Falls to raise awareness and funds for the North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and the Granite Falls Police Department had representatives at the new donut/coffee shop on Pinewood Road in Granite Falls on Friday, April 25, 2025, between 2 and 6 p.m. Special Olympics is a competitive sports program for individuals with academic challenges. The program enables them to showcase their unique talents and skills. Shown left to right in the photo on the left is Sgt. Brad Haas (sheriff's office), Lt. Doug Dupell (sheriff's office), Deputy Mackenzie Goforth (sheriff's office), and Lt. Kalem Kirby (GFPD). K-9 Harrison, a new recruit under the command of Lt. Dupell, is front and center in both photos. Read more about K-9 Harrison on page 2.



K-9 Harrison and Lt. Doug Dupell at Dunkin' to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics

SNIFFING OUT EVIDENCE *A Nose for Detection*

So - the old joke is apparently true! Law enforcement officers love doughnuts! It appears that Harrison is placing an order at Dunkin', but he could be sniffing out evidence of a crime. On the other hand, he is a trained therapy dog, so he could be providing some much needed stress relief, or just saying a friendly "hello." He could also be searching for a misplaced cell phone! In actuality, Harrison and his supervisor, Lt. Doug Dupell, were at the new Dunkin' in Granite Falls to represent the sheriff's office at a fundraiser for Special Olympics.

This posed photo illustrates the versatility of Caldwell County's newest four-legged deputy, K-9 Harrison. An American Labrador, born on September 2, 2022, the new deputy received training at Jordan Detection K9 in Indianapolis, Indiana, and earned his certification in Electronic Storage Device Detection. While he can find hidden digital evidence (SIM cards, computers, cell phones, USB drives, etc.) for any violation of the law (such as cyber crime and fraud), he is assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Department, to detect online exploitation of minors. Harrison also received special therapy training, so he can assist victims and others who need his expertise. He comes courtesy of a grant by Operation Underground Railroad (OUR) Rescue. He joined the force in March 2025.

On April 25 2025, the sheriff's office announced that, in the near future, Harrison and Egon, another Caldwell County canine deputy, will receive special vests from Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. to protect them from bullets, knives, and other deadly objects. Vested Interest is a 501(c)3 charity dedicated to protecting and assisting law enforcement dogs. The vests are made in the U.S.A., custom fitted, and certified by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Each vest is valued at \$1800. They weigh between 4 and 5 pounds and come with a five year warranty. For more details about Vested Interest, check out www.vik9s.org.

(source: Caldwell County Sheriff's Office Facebook page)

HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE *Eric Church and Chief Cares*

According to Eric Church's website (ericchurch.com), his nonprofit foundation, Chief Cares, broke ground on April 11, 2025, to build a housing development in Avery County called Blue Haven. Surrounded by community leaders and other supporters, the Granite Falls native said, "The land we stand on today sits in the heart of a county that has meant so much to me. This is a place my family and I are proud to call home... Mountain people, my people."

Plans for Blue Haven call for building 40 to 45 homes with one to three bedrooms each with Chief Cares and its partners providing the land, infrastructure, and construction. Selected families will receive housing assistance for up to three years to help them rebuild their lives with an option to purchase. In addition to building Blue Haven, Chief Cares hopes to expand into neighboring counties that were also affected by the hurricane.



GRANITE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL REUNION *Dining with the Demons*

The Tenth Annual Dining with the Demons will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Granite Falls Middle School, formerly known as Granite Falls High School. While the 1935 building is still located at 90 North Main Street, the new addition changed the address to 4 West Highland Avenue. Doors will open for volunteers to set up at 10 a.m. The meal will be a potluck lunch with organizers providing water and paper products. Persons on special diets may bring their own lunch and eat with everyone else. The event will begin at 11:45 a.m. with a welcome, announcements, and a blessing.

To pay for expenses, attendees may make donations and/or participate in a silent auction. Suggested items include baked goods, crafts, plants, new merchandise, and collectibles. These need to be in place by 11 a.m. For more information, check out the Dining with the Demons 2025 Facebook page, or call Linda Crowder at (828) 496-2835.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS It's a "Dam" Party

The Town of Rhodhiss and Duke Energy will sponsor a special event on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Rhodhiss Dam. Plans include having vendors (food and crafts), live music, and a bounce house. The party will end with live fireworks.

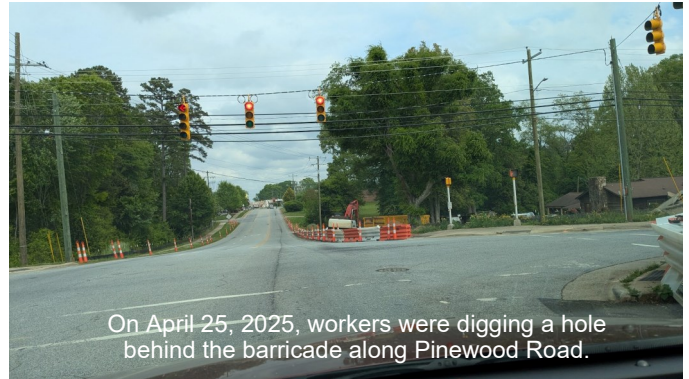
June 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Pinewood Road and North Highland Avenue



Photo made on April 17, 2025, shows barricades along Pinewood Road.



On April 25, 2025, workers were digging a hole behind the barricade along Pinewood Road.



Photo made on April 18, 2025, shows work across from the back entrance to the rec center



Photo made on April 18, 2025, is similar to the one on the left, but it was made a few yards to the East.



This April 24 photo shows grading for the new roundabout at Bert Huffman Road.



This April 24 photo shows grading across from William B. Shuford Recreation Center.



TIP OF THE SQUARE Making Granite Falls Beautiful

Members of the Granite Falls Garden Club planted a flower garden on the tip of the square downtown Granite Falls on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in celebration of Earth Day. The planting has become a special annual tradition of the club. This year's theme is Marigold Square - the Heart of the Town. (Garden Club Photo)



GETTING READY TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH!

Opening Day Scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2025



The above photos, taken on Thursday, April 17, 2025, show the new splash pad nearing completion, but the area is clearly a construction site with heavy equipment still being used and a portable toilet in place. The photos below, taken on Friday, April 25, 2025, show the fencing and portable toilet gone. The dumpster remains, and different pieces of equipment are stationed in the parking lot, not on the site itself. The dirt path leading to the splash pad has been paved and landscaped.



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.

Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum - 107 Falls Avenue, Granite Falls, North Carolina 28630 - Phone: 828-396-2792

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