



The Granite Tablet



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A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

December 2023



Tracy Townsend and Caryl Burns



Caryl Burns and Jim Mackie



Caryl Burns and Mike Mackie

NEWS FROM GRANITE FALLS *Incumbents Win Re-Election*

Continuity and fresh ideas will guide Granite Falls forward as three seasoned Town Council members were sworn in for new terms at the Town of Granite Falls December Town Council meeting. Tracy Townsend and Mike Mackie, each securing their fifth terms, and Jim Mackie, elected for a fourth term, will continue their dedication to the Town's growth and well-being. Mayor Caryl B. Burns administered the oath of office on Monday, December 4, 2023, marking the start

(NEWS FROM GRANITE FALLS continued on page 2)



Above: Mayor Caryl Burns led the parade.

ENJOYING THE HOLIDAYS *Christmas Around the World*

Impact by Rotary Club of the Foothills sponsored the annual Christmas parade on Saturday, December 2, 2023. It began at noon from the parking lot of the First Baptist Church and made its way from Falls Avenue, to North Main Street, and to North Highland Avenue before ending at the Granite Falls Elementary School. The event drew large crowds despite fog and light rain. Many arrived early to get the best viewing area. Check out pages 3 and 4 for more photos, and go to "Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum" on Facebook to see a video.

GRANITE FALLS HISTORY AND TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM *Open House on January 7th*

The Granite Falls History Committee will host an open house at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum (107 Falls Avenue) from 2 until 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Members will give guided tours and provide refreshments. There is no charge.

The open house is the second in a series begun on December 17 to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Granite Falls, N. C. becoming an incorporated municipality. The photo below

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of an exciting new chapter for the Town Council.

"I'm grateful for the trust residents have placed in me," Tracy Townsend said, emphasizing his ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility and community engagement.

Mike Mackie was selected by the Town Council for the role of Mayor Pro Tem. "This is an honor, and I'm committed to supporting the Mayor and Council in making Granite Falls an even better place to live," Mackie stated.

Jim Mackie said "I want to continue giving back to the community. I pledge to continue working with our other elected officials to ensure the Town's residents receive the quality services they want and deserve."

Mayor Burns welcomed the returning members and commended their dedication, "Their experience and passion are invaluable assets to our community. I'm confident that together, we'll build a brighter future for the Town of Granite Falls." (town news release)



(OPEN HOUSE continued from page 1)



BE A MODERN DAY ANDREW BAIRD *Own All of Granite Falls*

On December 11, 1792, Andrew Baird began the process of acquiring land that now makes up all of Granite Falls, part of Grace Chapel, and part of Rhodhiss. A village grew up around his iron forge on Gunpowder Creek. Eventually, he began selling land to newcomers, and his family sold the rest after his death. On May 1, 1899, Mr. Baird's successors established the Town of Granite Falls.

Just in time for our 125th anniversary, Late for the Sky in Cincinnati, Ohio has produced Granite Falls... Opol. The game, which is similar to Monopoly, allows players to buy land and collect rent, but they have to watch out for property taxes, traffic jams, and the IRS. The games are being sold at Walmart

McKissick Associates (GRANITE FALLS...OPOLY continued on page 3)

shows some of the people who visited the museum on December 17. The top photo on this page shows Floyd Sigmon on the left with Granite Falls Town Council Member Jim Mackie on the right posing in front of the Baird's Forge exhibit. The bottom photo shows two unidentified visitors looking at other displays in the Horse and Buggy Room.

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum is open on Sundays (except designated holidays) from 2 until 4 p.m. The public is welcome. Admission is free.

The Town of Granite Falls is accepting applications from volunteers who are willing to serve as museum guides. The work requires being available to serve one two-hour shift each quarter. Guides open/close the museum and share information about the town's history. Applicants receive on-the-job training with an experienced guide and a handbook for easy reference. Persons wishing to volunteer should call the Town Office at (828) 396-3131. Due to a shortage of guides, the museum is only open on Sunday afternoons. The History Committee would like to recruit enough people to open on both Saturday and Sunday.

The History Committee also offers private tours upon request. To arrange one, call the town office at (828) 396-3131. The museum is a great field trip for churches, schools, day care centers, civic clubs, and families. There is no charge for admission, and we don't ask for donations. However, we keep a donation box on the counter for persons who wish to contribute toward the upkeep of the facilities. We also have new copies of *Etched in Granite, the History of Granite Falls, North Carolina* for sale at \$25.00 each.

Granite Falls Christmas Parade sponsored by Impact "Christmas Around the World" Saturday, December 2, 2023



Above: Here comes the parade!



Above: South Caldwell High School Marching Band



Above: Two views of the Caldwell



County Public Library parade entry



Above: Members of the Granite Falls Town Council



Above: Santa Claus

(GRANITE FALLS ...OPOLY continued from page 2)

in Granite Falls for \$19.98 plus tax.

Please be aware that there are some minor details that keep the game from being historically, economically, and geographically accurate. Nonetheless, the game is a great tribute to a great town. Play it for fun, not for factual information. The editor of this newsletter was curious about the game - why Granite Falls was chosen and how they gathered information, so she contacted the manufacturer by email. They had not replied by the time she published this edition of the newsletter. Hopefully, she will have more info by the time she publishes *Tablet II* in January.

Granite Falls Christmas Parade sponsored by Impact

"Christmas Around the World"

Saturday, December 2, 2023



Sponsor unknown



Sponsor unknown



Grace Chapel Global Methodist Church



Oak Grove Baptist Church



Sponsor unknown



Sunrise Baptist Church

Note: The editor could not identify three of the entries. If you recognize any of them, please let her know using the contact information below.



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 February 18, 2007. Visit us on Facebook under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum." Our website is www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org.

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