



The Granite Tablet



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A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

July - August 2021

HISTORY IN THE MAKING COVID-19

Although COVID-19 cases continued to climb in August, Governor Roy Cooper refrained from reinstating mask mandates. At a news conference on August 18, 2021, he urged individuals to wear masks indoors and to get vaccinated. He noted that some businesses and government entities were requiring vaccinations and masks, and he urged others to do the same.

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services: On August 18th, top COVID advisors expressed concerns about the decline in efficacy of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. While they wait for additional studies to be completed, they are preparing to give booster shots in September to the persons who received the vaccine first.

On August 20th, the CDC website recommended that persons with moderate to severe compromised immunity be given a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna.

Town of Granite Falls: On August 20th, the Town of Granite Falls announced on its Parks and Recreation Facebook page that face coverings would be required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, indoors at all town facilities beginning Monday, August 23rd.

Festival on Main: For the second year in a row, the annual Festival on Main, sponsored by the Granite Falls Merchants' Association, has been cancelled.

Schools: The Caldwell County Board of Education held another meeting on Monday, August 16th to revisit the topic of mask mandates, but decided to leave in place

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GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Update

Members of the Granite Falls Historical Association held a special meeting on Tuesday, August 24th in the museum to hear an update from the Board of Trustees and to plan an Annual Meeting. Members designated a chair in memory of charter member Rader Kiziah who passed away August 22nd. Rader was a graduate of Granite Falls High School and a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War.

During the meeting, President Linda Crowder reported

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DO YOU PAINT, DRAW, OR SKETCH? Show off Your Work at the Museum

The Granite Falls History Committee is seeking artists to exhibit their paintings, drawings, and/or sketches at the museum during November and December. There are no entry fees, no prizes, and no specified subject - just an opportunity to show others what you have been doing during the pandemic (or before). Due to space constraints, we can only accept work on media that can be hung on pegboard display stands with either S hooks or binder clips. Frames with sawtooth hangers and cardboard pullouts can easily fall and break if we have to move a stand or someone bumps into it. The Committee will begin accepting artwork in October. For more information, contact Linda Crowder at (828) 396-1066 or email her at lrdrcrowder@gmail.com.



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the earlier decision to remain optional. After increasing COVID cases affected the schools, the school system announced on Friday, August 27th that wearing masks indoors on school grounds would become mandatory on August 30th for everyone.

Courts: Candice Simmons of the *News-Topic* reported in a front page article on August 18th that Judge Robert C. Ervin, the chief Superior Court Judge for Caldwell County issued an administrative order on Tuesday, August 17th to require masks in court houses. The article also mentioned that a judge had to declare a mistrial earlier this summer because three jurors had tested positive for COVID-19. Another trial had to be delayed after a law enforcement officer became ill with the virus.

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that the main project, updating the town's history, remains on schedule. So far, she has completed a chronological history from 1999 through July 2021. Jeanne Whisnant is working on oral histories to be included in *Etched in Granite, Volume II*. She has already interviewed several people. If you have stories about life in Granite Falls to share, please let the editor of this newsletter know.

Metaleen Thomas reported that the Pinecrest Mapping Project is still on hold due to COVID. Teachers who had previously expressed an interest in having their students participate cannot make commitments this early in the year. She will monitor and follow up as appropriate.

Association members nominated the current officers for re-election. They are Linda Crowder (president), Dr. Caryl Burns (vice president), Adele Mangan (treasurer), Jeanne Whisnant (secretary), and Gifford Poe (parliamentarian). The floor will be open for additional nominations prior to the formal election to be held during the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in the museum beginning at 6:30 p.m. Perspective members are welcome to join the Association, which is dedicated to preserving the history of Granite Falls, North Carolina.



Members wore masks in the museum. Linda Crowder, who presided, took hers off after the meeting long enough to have Renae Winkler make her photo.



MAKING DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFUL *On the Square*

Check out the beautiful garden planted by the Granite Falls Garden Club at the tip of the town square. It features beautiful pink petunias to draw attention to cancer awareness. The photo above was made when it was at its peak in early August. The May - June 2021 issue of *The Granite Tablet* shows the garden after it was first planted.

AROUND TOWN *What's New in Granite Falls?*

Granite Falls Police Department: The Town of Granite Falls is seeking a police chief to replace Chris Jenkins, who plans to retire soon. For more information, go to www.granitefallsnc.com.

Granite Falls Fire Department: Granite Falls Fire Department is accepting applications for volunteer firefighters. The fire department provides training, fellowship, and a great way to help others in their time of need. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can come by the station located at 119 North Main Street in Granite Falls or you may go to www.granitefallsnc.com/firevolunteer for an application.

Parks and Recreation: Children ages 4 through 12 signed up for soccer between July 12th and August 16th. There were four age groups (4-5, 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12).

Jeff Brock began offering gymnastics classes for children on August 5th. Children ages 5 and under met at 3:15 p.m. on Thursdays, and older children met at either 3:45 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. To learn more about the program, call Jeff at 828-244-7446.

Municipal Election: Municipal elections in Caldwell County will be held November 2, 2021. One stop early voting will be October 8th - 30th. Larry Knight and Martin Townsend filed for re-election to the Granite Falls Town Council, and Ritch Bolick filed for the third open seat, which is currently held by Dr. Caryl B. Burns. Dr. Burns announced her candidacy for Mayor after learning that Barry Hayes had decided not to seek re-election.

**TO THEE O GRANITE HIGH SCHOOL, THY PRAISES WE'LL EVER SING.
We'll Hold Thy Standards Throughout Life and Keep Thy Honor Clean**
Photos made August 7, 2021



DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Linda Richards Crowder



Please help me with a special project to inspire students and teachers at Granite Falls Middle School. I am collecting photos that depict life on Schoolhouse Hill (the current site of Granite Falls Middle School) from 1902 until the present along with photos of students in the sixth grade and up between 1922 and 1935, when all students went to the school on Falls Avenue. I have access to all high school annuals (1947 through 1977) and some of the middle school annuals (1985 and 2012 through 2016). So I need photos that are not in these yearbooks or in *Etched in Granite*. If you have any, please let me know. I can scan and return photos. My phone number is (828) 396-1066, and my email address is lrdrcrowder@gmail.com.

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, August 1, 2021.



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.

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Vice Chairman/Newsletter Editor: Linda R. Crowder