



The Granite Tablet



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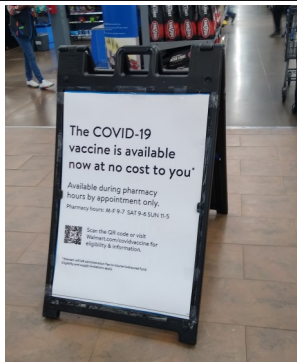
A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

March - April 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination Sign
at Walmart in Granite Falls
on April 3, 2021

HISTORY IN THE MAKING COVID-19

COVID cases declined during the late winter and early spring, but they began leveling off around Easter and spring break. The cases for older adults fell while the numbers of younger adults rose, likely due to vaccinations being prioritized for seniors. On April 7th, NC Governor Roy Cooper opened the vaccine to all adults. The Pfizer vaccine was available to persons 16 and over while the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines were limited to persons 18 and older. The supply grew, and CVS, Walmart, Walgreen, and Ingles began administering the vaccine locally.



On April 28th, Governor Roy Cooper announced that, effective April 30th at 5 p.m., masks no longer had to be worn outdoors, but they were required for public places indoors. The mass gathering limit for indoors would increase from 50 to 100, and the mass gathering limit for outdoors would increase from 100 to 200. Cooper hopes to lift the requirement for indoor masks after 2/3 of the adult population have been vaccinated.

Parks and Recreation: Persons participating in coach pitch/tee ball and softball have begun practicing for games that will begin Monday, April 26th and conclude Monday, June 8th. Schedules were posted on the town's website. Softball teams will play teams from Lenoir and Hudson. The photo below showing a practice game was taken on Saturday, April 17th at the rec center.

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)



COMING SOON! A New Traffic Pattern at GFMS

After students and staff at Granite Falls Middle School move into the new building, there will be a new traffic pattern for car riders. Instead of being stuck on North Main Parallel between the school and the railroad tracks, cars dropping off/picking up students will turn onto Park Avenue from North Main Street, turn right onto Woods Drive, turn right onto West Highland Avenue, turn right into the new school driveway, and circle around to the entrance of the building. After dropping off students, they will leave the parking lot and make a right turn onto West Highland Avenue to return to North Main Street. While this seems like a round about approach, it should provide an orderly flow of traffic and greatly shorten the distance students have to walk - a great relief in bad weather.

There will also be a new, but temporary, route for buses. They will load and unload riders along North Main Parallel until workers complete a bus loop near the gym accessed from Park Avenue. Students walking to school will enter the school between the music building and the auditorium. Architects consulted with the North Carolina Department of Transportation before finalizing the traffic plans.



Welcome to Granite Falls

Grace Village Assisted Living and Memory Care (shown above) is being built at 501 River Bend Drive, and officials hope to open by June 1st. According to their website, their mission is "to provide affordable, high-quality assisted living and memory care services so our residents can live their most fulfilling lives."

The assisted living facility is the first phase in building a new retirement community near Walmart in Granite Falls. The next construction phase will feature apartments, and patio homes are being considered for a third phase.

SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULED "If the Lord's Willing and Covid Cases Don't Rise"



The photo above, also made on April 17, 2021, shows boys and girls playing on the playground. Contrast it with the one below made on Sunday, July 19, 2020, when all playgrounds were closed by executive orders.



Dining with the Demons: The lifting of restrictions came too late to plan Dining with the Demons for May 2021 so it has been postponed until 2022.

Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum: The museum remains closed while the town and the History Committee take care of the facilities and its exhibits. We hope to announce the reopening soon.

Concerns about Vaccine: The use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was put on hold between April 13th and April 23rd while scientists studied the possibility that it caused blood clots in women under the age of 50. The FDA cleared the vaccine after determining the benefits outweighed the risks. This vaccine does not require special refrigeration, and it does not require a second dose. Persons interested in taking the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should consult their personal physicians if they have questions.

McKisack Associates

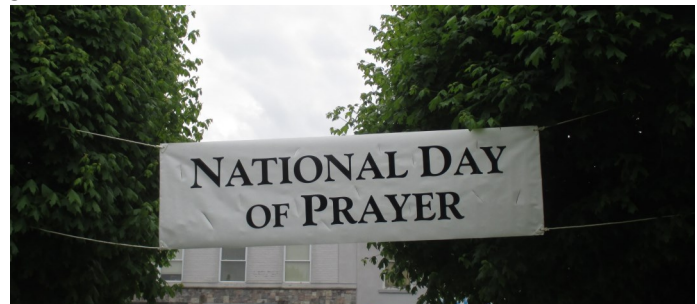
Town of Granite Falls: With COVID numbers decreasing and more people being vaccinated, the Town of Granite Falls issued a tentative schedule for special events to be held in 2021:

Saturday, September 18th from 2 until 8 p.m.: Festival on Main - downtown Granite Falls. It will be sponsored by the Granite Falls Merchants Association.

Wednesday, November 10th at 10 a.m.: Veterans Day Ceremony - Recreation Center gym (The Town will accept applications for names to be inscribed on the monument through July 31st of each year. See the town's website - www.granitefallsn.com for more information.)

Monday, November 22nd at 6:15 p.m.: Festival on the Square, Christmas Tree Lighting, and Light Up Granite Falls - downtown

Saturday, December 4th at noon: Christmas Parade - downtown. It will be sponsored by the Granite Falls Rotary Club.



Churches: The Caldwell Baptist Association will hold a National Day of Prayer Service at First Baptist Church in Granite Falls at noon on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Rev. Jay Worsley will be the prayer leader. In the event of rain, the service will be held in the fellowship hall.

Other Events Sponsored by Local Churches:

Saturday, May 1st at 7 a.m.: Rock Chapel Church of God will have a yard and kids bake sale to raise funds to send children to summer camp (per their Facebook page)

Sunday, June 6th through Thursday, June 10th from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Granite Falls will have Vacation Bible School for pre-school through sixth grade. See www.fbcgranitefalls.org for more information.

Parks and Recreation: The William B. Shuford Recreation Center plans to reopen the pool on Saturday, June 5th. The Town of Granite Falls will accept application for summer lifeguards until Friday, May 7th. For more information, check out the Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Facebook page or the town's website at www.granitefallsn.com.

Caldwell County Schools Graduation Dates:

Monday, May 10th: Caldwell Early College High School

Friday, May 21st: Caldwell Applied Science Academy

Saturday, May 22nd: Hibriten High School, South Caldwell High School, and West Caldwell High School

Home Town Memories What's Old is New



Sip a Soda or Drink a Dope: Enjoy the present by taking a step back in time. Your favorite bottled drinks are on the porch at Club Cola and Antique Vending (former home to the Shuford Mills Warehouse) located on the corner of South Main Street and Commerce Street. A portion of the sales will go to local non-profit groups, such as the Boy Scouts, the Granite Falls Historical Association, and the Granite Falls Garden Club.



Listen to "Your Hit Parade": On November 20, 1877, Thomas Edison made his first sound recording on a tin foil cylinder. As time passed, inventors introduced improved recording media such as glass discs, vinyl records, cassette tapes, 8 track tapes, CDs, and MP3. Despite these improvements, vinyl records have a place of their own because they do not compress or alter the sound. Now they are making a big comeback, and stores that sell music are carrying records and record players. (photo made at Walmart in Granite Falls on 3/2/2021)

Family Treasures: If you have memories about Granite Falls or information about people from this area that you would like to see in future editions, please call Linda Crowder at 396-1066.

Down Memory Lane with Linda Richards Crowder



The coronavirus pandemic has been compared to the Spanish Flu from 100 years ago, but those of us in our 70s and older can relate it better to the polio epidemic that hit our area in the 40s and early 50s. I can recall my mother telling me not to play in water outside because I might catch it, and I knew people who had had it. In 1955, the year I entered school, people started receiving the Salk Vaccine, leading to a big reduction in polio cases. Dr. Albert Sabin's oral vaccine came out in 1961, and I remember going to Granite Falls Elementary School some time after it was built in 1963 with my parents to get our vaccine on sugar cubes.

The day is coming when our memories of COVID-19 will be as vague as the ones I have about polio. We need to document these days for future generations. Although I have recorded a lot of photos and stories, my collection is lacking photos from schools, remote learning scenes, weddings, sporting events, etc. If you have anything to share, please call me at (828) 396-1066 or email lrdcrowder@gmail.com.

Changing lanes for a different memory: Growing up in Granite Falls in the 1950s, we called soft drinks "dopes," possibly due to both Pepsi and Coca-Cola being invented by pharmacists. In addition, it is generally believed that the original recipe for Coca-Cola had some cocaine in it. We only used the word "soda" in reference to the soda fountain at Caldwell Sundries. We stopped saying "dope" about the time the war on drugs began. Although "soda," "pop," or the combined "soda pop" are heard often on TV, I don't hear those words around here a lot. That said, the soda pop drink machines are a great idea, and I invite you to stop by and get your favorite bottled drink, whatever you choose to call it, and support a local non-profit.

While you are there, check out the Plant Swap set up by the Granite Falls Garden Club on the wall next to the old Belk store that currently houses the library. If you want a plant, take it. If you have an extra plant, leave it there for someone else to enjoy.



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 4, 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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