



# The Granite Tablet



Volume 10, Number 4

A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

October 2022



The above photo shows the SCHS NJROTC posting the colors. The GFMS cheerleaders (featured in the foreground) pumped up the crowd's spirit before the ceremony began.



The above photo features most of the GFMS Choir who sang the National Anthem. A few are off-camera.



The above photo shows Dr. Phipps cutting the ribbon.

## GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

### *Ribbon Cutting & Dedication*

Caldwell County Schools held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on Thursday, October 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate the final construction phases at Granite Falls Middle School. Speaking from the new entrance at 4 West Highland Avenue, Dr. Don Phipps, Caldwell County Schools Superintendent, welcomed everyone and introduced the South Caldwell High School NJROTC under the direction of Col. Greg Woodward, Senior Naval Science Instructor, for the posting of colors and the GFMS School Choir under the direction of Stephanie Peek, Chorus Director, for singing the National Anthem. Dr. Phipps then led the crowd in pledging allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Special speakers for the occasion were Andy Puhl, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Darrell Pennell, Chairman of the Caldwell County Board of Education; Vern L. McKissick III, Owner/Architect/Educational Planner for McKissick Associates; Aaron Beam, Building Division Manager for Hickory Construction Company; Dr. Caryl Burns, Mayor of the Town of Granite Falls; and Randy Church, Chairman of the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners. The Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce assisted with the ribbon cutting. After the ceremony, GFMS students gave tours of the main building and the renovated gymnasium. Visitors enjoyed refreshments served in the shared study - dining area near the media lab in the 1935 building. See page 3 and 4 for more photos and information.

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

### *Living with COVID-19*

Caldwell County: COVID-19 remained an unwanted house guest in many homes, but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) showed the county level as low risk from October 6th through October 27th.

Federal News: On Wednesday, October 12th, the CDC authorized the use of the updated COVID vaccine (bivalent) that includes the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components. The new authorization allows children ages 5 through 11 to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and children ages 6 through 17 years to receive the Moderna brand.

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)

On Wednesday, October 19th, the CDC announced a decision to allow adults (18 up) the option to receive a Novavax monovalent booster instead of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna if they have had the first series, but not the booster or if they can't or won't take a mRNA vaccine.



## COMING TO THE MUSEUM

### *Honoring Veterans*

The Granite Falls History Committee will honor all veterans with a reception and special exhibit of military memorabilia at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum on two (2) Sundays in November - the 6th and the 20th between 2 and 4 p.m. Committee Co-Chair Jeanne Whisnant is seeking additional items, particularly from the Vietnam War Era. Please call her at (828) 320-3725 if you have items you are willing to lend the committee.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### *Important Events*

October 20th - November 5th (Weekdays: 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 5 : 8 a.m.-3 p.m.) One-stop voting at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center, 56 Pinewood Road, Granite Falls

November 8th from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. - Polls open for Election Day at the rec center

Thursday, November 10th at 10 a.m.: Veterans Day Ceremony - Shuford Recreation Center

Monday, November 21st at 6:15 p.m.: Festival on the Square Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 3rd at noon: Granite Falls Christmas Parade

McKissick Associates

## GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### *Fifth Annual Meeting*

The Granite Falls Historical Association held its Fifth Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum at 7 p.m. President Linda Crowder began the meeting with reports on current projects.

**Update to *Etched in Granite*:** Linda has completed a chronological history of Granite Falls from January 1999 through September 2022. She plans to start editing and double checking her work in early 2023, and she is seeking volunteers to assist her. Linda suggested changing the name from *Etched in Granite, Volume II* to *Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina* to avoid having to deal with copyright issues and to better reflect the newsfeed format she is using.

**The Pinecrest Mapping Project:** Tommy High reported that he has lost the thumb drive containing the digital version of his cemetery records. A friend has started recreating the file.

**Baird Cemetery:** Linda reported that a Boy Scout leader is checking on the feasibility of having a candidate for Eagle Scout undertake the project. With cold weather approaching, the cemetery should be okay until spring. Joel Kaufman will continue to monitor the cemetery and let the trustees know if any action needs to be taken in the interim.

**Business Session:** Members voted to have the trustees audit the treasurer's report. They also elected the following officers to serve for 2022-2023: President Linda Crowder, Vice President Jeanne Whisnant, Secretary Joel Kaufman, Treasurer Adele Mangan, and Parliamentarian Gifford Poe.

**Announcements:** Linda announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, November 15th following a History Committee Meeting at approximately 2:45 p.m. This will be the organizational meeting for the new fiscal year. First on the agenda, the officers will appoint up to four (4) trustees to assist them during the coming year. Then the Board will audit the financial records, review the status of pending projects, and consider other business as appropriate. All members may attend the meeting, and new members are welcome. If anyone is interested as serving as a trustee, please let Linda know.

Following the business session and a refreshment break, members viewed a PowerPoint® presentation showing photos made by Linda of the new construction, demolition, and renovation at Granite Falls Middle School. The slide show also featured photos of the 1902 wooden structure that housed the first public school in Granite Falls on North Main Street, the 1922 Falls Avenue building, the 1935 high school that was recently renovated, and the 1950 junior high that was torn down.

During the Annual Meeting, the treasurer also accepted dues for the 2022-2023 year, which runs from November 1st to October 31st. Persons who were not able to attend may mail dues to Adele Mangan, 33 Crestview St., Granite Falls, N. C. 28630.

Photo by Karen Isbell



## TO THEE, OLD GRANITE HIGH SCHOOL

*Thy Praises We'll Ever Sing! We'll Hold Thy Standards Throughout Life and Keep Thy Honor Clean.*

The new Granite Falls Middle School cost about \$25 million with the N. C. Education Lottery providing \$15 million. When the project started, the school had approximately 45,000 square feet of space. Roughly half was demolished, including the office space built between the two buildings, the lower building (aka "junior high"), and the old shop. There is now 54,000 square feet of new construction, which features environmentally friendly LED lighting and super insulated concrete forms (R-45). Reusing the 1935 building and the 1948 gymnasium has been deemed more energy efficient than making new brick and mortar. The 1935 building now houses the "technitorium," which consists of the kitchen, shared dining-study area, media lab, guidance offices, and classrooms for Career and Technical Education. Renovations in the gym include an elevator, remodeled locker rooms, and new flooring.



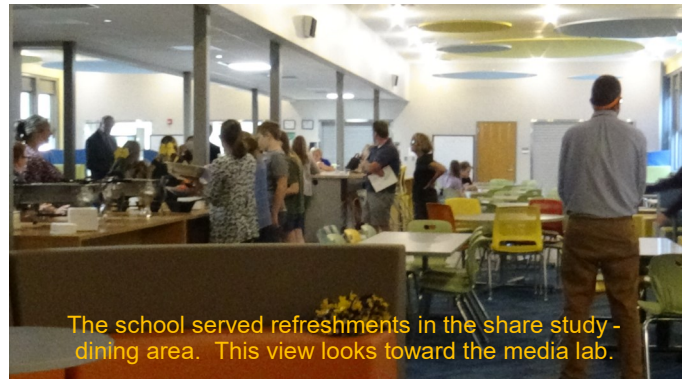
Classroom in new building



Classroom in new building



In the 1935 building, looking across the circulation desk of the media lab to the shared study - dining area



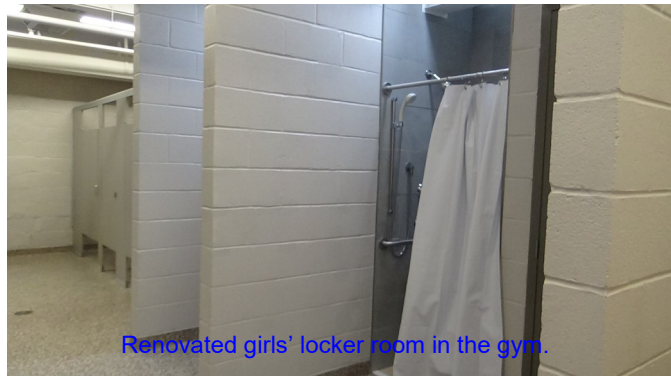
The school served refreshments in the share study - dining area. This view looks toward the media lab.



In the auditorium looking toward the stage. Renovations feature LED lighting and ADA compliant entry ramps.



The interior entrance to the music building has an ADA compliant lift



Renovated girls' locker room in the gym.



Renovated gymnasium, looking toward the front



## OH MOTHER OF OUR LEARNING

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

These photos were made on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 preceding the Ribbon Cutting



*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).

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

Newsletter Editor: Linda Richards Crowder [email: [lrldcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lrldcrowder@gmail.com) - phone: (828) 396-1066 - text: (828) 496-2835]