

The Granite Tablet



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A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

August 2022



GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION To Meet on September 13th

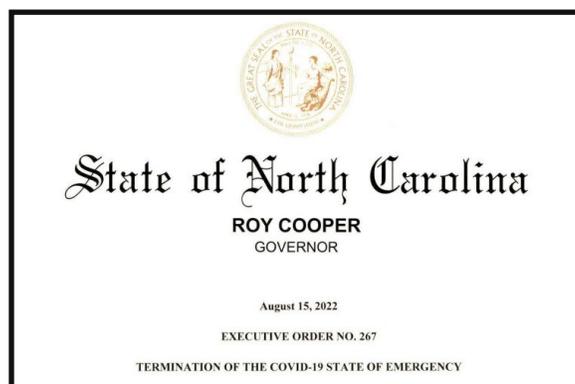
The Board of Trustees for the Granite Falls Historical Association invites all members to attend a meeting of the board on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. Members will hear updates on Association projects (*Etched in Granite, Vol. II*; upkeep of Baird Cemetery; and Mapping Pinecrest Cemetery), nominate candidates to run for Association office, and plan the Annual Meeting to be held in October. Prospective members are also welcome. There will be refreshments.

The Historical Association is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to preserving the history of Granite Falls and the surrounding area. Membership is open to anyone who supports its mission. Annual dues are \$12.00 for individuals, \$18.00 for families, and \$25.00 for organizations. The fiscal year runs November 1st through October 31st. New members joining between November 1st and September 30th pay prorated dues. The Association Board of Trustees is comprised of five (5) officers elected by the general membership during an Annual Meeting plus up to four (4) members chosen by the elected officers to assist them in conducting business and spearheading projects. The elected officers are President Linda Crowder, Vice President Caryl Burns, Secretary Jeanne Whisnant, Treasurer Adele Mangan, and Parliamentarian Gifford Poe. The appointed trustees are Joel Kaufman, Metaleen Thomas, Renae Winkler, and Tommy High.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING Living with COVID-19

Caldwell County: COVID-19 remained an unwanted house guest with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) showing Caldwell County in the high level on August 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th.

State News: On Monday, August 15, 2022, Governor Roy Cooper ended the COVID-19 State of Emergency that he implemented on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Executive Order 267 noted that North Carolina Session Law 2022-74 provided some statutory authority for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to respond to future needs by waiving certain regulations involving health care facilities and providers. The order also mentioned that "vaccines, treatments, and other tools to combat COVID-19" were now in place.



Centers for Disease Control Update: Despite the continued spread of the disease, the CDC revised some of their guidelines. According to a press release on August 11, 2022, authorities still urge people to stay up to date with vaccinations, wear masks indoors in high risk areas and/or when around high risk persons, and to be sure indoor areas are well ventilated. Under the new guidance, persons exposed to COVID-19 no longer have to quarantine, but they should wear a high quality mask for ten days and get tested on the fifth day. Persons should isolate if they have symptoms until they test negative. If they are positive, they should isolate for at least five days and wear a high quality mask when they have to be around other people. Persons who are sick can end isolation if they are fever free for 24 hours without medicine and they are getting better. They should wear masks until the 11th day. Persons testing positive and/or experiencing symptoms should avoid being around high risk people. People who experience shortness of breath, have difficulty breathing, or experience other serious symptoms should seek medical attention

and isolate according to the provider’s directions. The CDC no longer recommends screening asymptomatic persons with no known exposure. The general six foot rule is no longer a strict recommendation. Community levels, ventilation, and particular settings are better indicators of the space between each other that people should maintain.

RIVERCREST MEDICAL PARK *Fall Sports Clinic*

UNC Ortho has announced that its orthopedic surgeons will provide a sports clinic for student athletes at RiverCrest Medical Park in Granite Falls on Saturdays beginning August 20th and lasting until December 14th with the exception of November 26th, which falls during the Thanksgiving holiday. The hours are 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. No appointment is necessary. The clinic will bill insurance for services provided. This clinic will allow injured athletes to receive specialized care from doctors trained in sports medicine without having to wait on a referral.

WATCHING THE NEIGHBORS! *Henry River Mill Village on TV*

Season One, Episode Four of the Magnolia Network TV show *In with the Old* featured the restoration of one of the Henry River Mill houses in neighboring Burke County. The owners [Mr. and Mrs. Calvin (Melissa) Reyes and Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Elaine) Namour] have begun restoring the dilapidated buildings that were abandoned after the mill shut down in 1973. They are in the process of turning the historic village into a tourist destination complete with lodging, food, and special events. The site, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, became popular after scenes from “The Hunger Games” were shot there. The show, which aired locally on August 17th, can still be seen on Magnolia Network via discovery + and Spectrum’s On Demand for a limited time.

THE GRANITE FALLS GARDEN CLUB *Making Granite Falls Beautiful - One Flower at a Time*



On August 17, 2022, Garden Club members weeded the beautiful flower garden they planted on the town square back in the spring.

The club would like to remind local residents that they can pick up and/or leave plants at their Plant Swap station located on South Main Street on the outside wall of the old Belk/Western Auto/Library building.



COMING TO THE MUSEUM Honoring Vietnam Era Veterans

The Granite Falls History Committee will honor all veterans during the month of November with a military exhibit that features the Vietnam War Era. Please call Jeanne Whisnant at (828) 320-3725 if you have items you are willing to lend the committee.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS *Important Events*

Saturday, September 17th from 2 until 8 p.m.: Festival on Main - Downtown Granite Falls

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

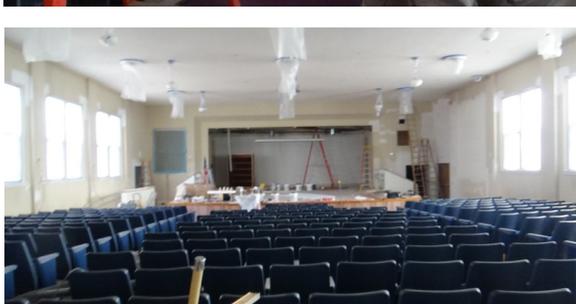
Saturday, December 3rd at noon: Granite Falls Christmas Parade



Photos courtesy of Barbara Ross

TO THEE, OLD GRANITE HIGH SCHOOL
Thy Praises We'll Ever Sing! We'll Hold Thy Standards Throughout Life and Keep Thy Honor Clean.

Chris Ackerman, principal of Granite Falls Middle School, gave members of the GFHS Class of 1967 and their guests a tour of the 1935 building and the 1948 gymnasium on Thursday, August 11, 2022. The old high school now houses a modern kitchen, cafeteria, media center, and classrooms for technology. The auditorium is still there, but ramps have been added to accommodate persons who can't climb stairs. Energy efficient LED lights that resemble the original lamps have been installed. Workers have also added air conditioning. While the 1948 gym maintains its classic exterior, the interior has been updated to include an elevator and new flooring.



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 7, 2022.



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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