

The Granite Tablet



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A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

November - December 2021

HISTORY IN THE MAKING *New Leadership in Town*

On Monday, December 6, 2021, Dr. Caryl B. Burns became the twenty-third Mayor of the Town of Granite Falls, North Carolina, succeeding Barry Hayes, who administered the oath of office to her. Her first official act was to administer the oath of office to councilmembers Ritch Bolick, Larry Knight, and Martin Townsend. Shortly afterwards, the full council met and unanimously elected Tracy Townsend to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.



Recording History

Town officials took time to document the occasion by posing for a group photo.

The front row features (left to right) Town Clerk Paula Kirby, Mayor Pro Tem Tracy Townsend, Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Councilmember Jim Mackie, and Town Attorney Bruce Cannon.

Shown left to right in the second row are Councilmember Ritch Bolick, Councilmember Larry Knight, Councilmember Mike Mackie, Councilmember Martin D. Townsend, and Town Manager Jerry Church.
(Photo provided by the Town of Granite Falls)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING *COVID-19*

After a period of declining cases, COVID-19 started spiking again after Thanksgiving. On December 9th, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced that 16 and 17 year old youth could receive a Pfizer booster with parental permission. On December 16th, the CDC, following a recommendation by ACIP, the Advisory Committee on Immunizations, expressed a preference for Moderna or Pfizer over Johnson and Johnson due to concerns about side effects and efficacy. However, the CDC also noted that J & J is better than nothing so people can still get the vaccine. On December 17th, Pfizer announced that two doses of their vaccine did not work in children ages two to four so they were going to test with three shots. However, the doses administered were only a tenth of the adult dose.

The pharmaceutical industry has also been working on treatments for COVID. Just before Christmas, the FDA granted emergency use authorization to two (2) drug manufacturers for mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms. Pfizer received the EUA on December 22nd for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir tablets packaged together), and Merck received the EUA on December 23rd for its antiviral molnupiravir.



"IF IT DOESN'T SNOW FOR CHRISTMAS" *Don't Worry! Santa Has a Ride.*

Granite Falls rarely gets a white Christmas, but that's okay because Santa knows the Bert Huffman Family. He just hitches a ride on their antique fire truck. Here he is in the 2021 parade hosted by the Rotary Club of Granite Falls on Saturday, December 4th.

The South Caldwell High School Junior ROTC led the way followed by the Spartan marching band, antique cars, emergency vehicles, dancers, floats, and other entries. See page 3 for more photos.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION *Duke Street Cottages*

Howard Building Science has begun work on a pocket community that will feature eleven (11) new Zero Energy Ready Homes sharing a common green space on an acre of land located between Duke Street and South Main Street near downtown Granite Falls. A solar pavilion will provide power plus a gathering place, and there will be charging stations for electric vehicles. The homes will feature big porches, open floor plans, and energy efficiency.

According to the website, dukestreetcottages.com, the dwellings are affordable “with near zero maintenance and utility bills.” In addition, the houses are designed to have “healthy indoor air quality with high efficiency filtration and ventilation.” For more information, including floor plans, check out the website.

AT THE MUSEUM *What's New is Old*

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum will be closed to the public over the holidays. It will reopen on Sunday, January 9, 2022 with a special display featuring copies of *The Granite Falls Press* and *The Pebble*. The *Press* was a popular local paper published on Thursdays between 1952 and 1986. *The Pebble* was a newspaper published by students at Granite Falls High School. In the days before Facebook, these publications kept readers informed about happenings in our town that the newspapers in Hickory and Lenoir would not cover.

The museum will be reopen on Sunday, January 9, 2020 and be open on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m. except on holiday weekends. The Granite Falls History Committee would like to open on Saturday afternoons, but there are not enough volunteers at this time to do so. If you are interested, please call the town office at (828) 396-3131. Volunteers serve one two-hour time slot each quarter, and they receive training before serving. Duties include opening/closing the museum, welcoming guests, answering questions, and generally checking over the facilities.

TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS *Reminders*

If you need assistance with food and/or past due rent and utility bills and you live in Granite Falls and have an open utility account, you may qualify for assistance from South Caldwell Christian Ministries through the Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus Program. For more information, call SCCM at 828-396-4000.

To report issues with power, water, and sewer, call the town office at (828) 396-3131 at any time. A town employee will answer during normal business hours (M-F, 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.), and a call center will relay the information to on-call personnel after hours.

If you need to contact the police about a matter that is not a true emergency, call (828) 396-3358 during business hours (M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) A dispatcher will be on site during these times to assist visitors by phone or in person. After hours, call (828) 758-2324 for assistance with non-emergency needs.

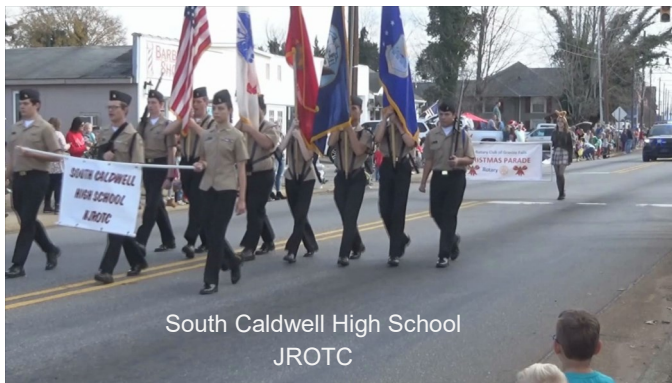
RINGING THE BELLS *To Help Others*

Cary and Barbara Ross (shown below) and other members of Granite Falls United Methodist Church took turns manning the Salvation Army collection kettle at the Granite Falls Walmart on Saturday, December 18, 2021



Photo provided by Barbara Ross

"Christmas Memories" - December 4, 2021



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, December 5, 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.

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

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