

A Publication of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc.

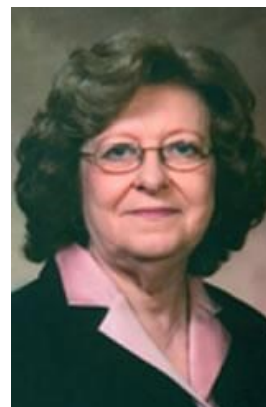
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR TO THE PEOPLE OF GRANITE FALLS

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I am confident that working together we will be able to continue the work and goals of long time Mayor Barry Hayes. Granite Falls is my hometown, and I have worked with the community, and especially with the children in the community for many, many years.

All of the members of the Town Council grew up in the Granite Falls area. We love this community and want the best things possible for its residents. In the weeks and months ahead, you will hear us talk about **planning, participation, and progress**. Constant **planning** is always going on in this town. We want to increase citizen **participation**, so you will hear us talk often about volunteering and serving on committees. This will help to bring about **progress** in our wonderful town.

I want to thank the town employees for their hard work over the last few months and weeks. Sickness related to COVID and bad weather have created difficult situations almost on a daily basis. This group of people has weathered the storms, done double duty, and served the people of the town with dedication. We are proud of them and hope that you, too, will thank them for going the extra mile to take care of us.

I look forward to working with all of the citizens as we continue to make progress in our community.



Dr. Caryl B. Burns



HISTORY IN THE MAKING WINTER STORM IZZY

Winter Storm Izzy formed near the Canadian border on January 13, 2022 and made its way from North Dakota, down to Georgia, and up the East Coast leaving about five inches of snow, sleet, and ice in Granite Falls on Sunday, January 16th. Early forecasts had called for up to 18 inches of snow. Although the storm didn't match Winter Storm Diego in 2018 or the Storm of the Century in 1993, colder temperatures kept the snow from melting, leaving some roads treacherous for several days. Officials urged people to stay at home, and the calendar helped. Not only did the storm happen on the traditional "day of rest," but Monday, January 17th was a

(IZZY continued on page 3)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING COVID-19

COVID-19 cases increased over Thanksgiving, Christmas, and past New Year's Day, exceeding numbers reported in 2021. In response to the need, Caldwell UNC Health Care, the Caldwell County Health Department, and the Hickory Crawdads Baseball Club with the support of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) set up a COVID-19 testing site at the L P Frans Stadium in Hickory, N. C. Optum, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group, will manage the site. Testing will be available without appointments Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. beginning on Friday, January 28, 2022 and lasting through Friday, March 25, 2022. The site is capable of performing 200 PCR tests per day with results expected in 72 hours.

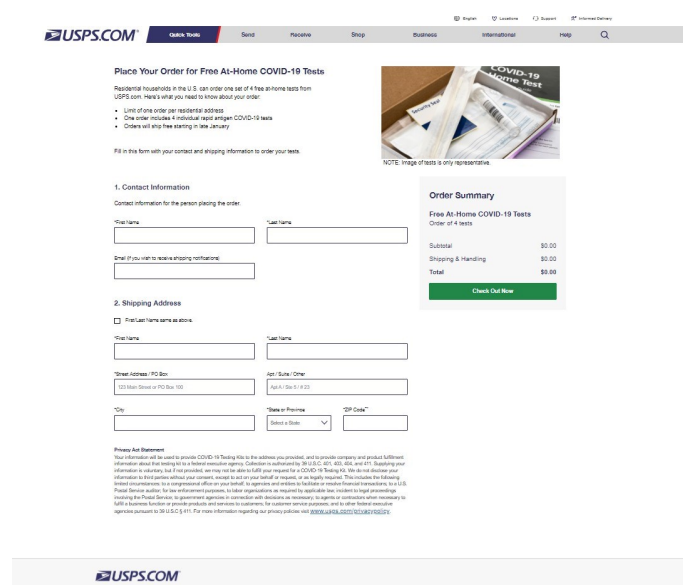
FREE COVID TESTING
1/28/2022 - 3/25/2022
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
L P Frans Stadium

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)

(COVID-19 continued from page 1)

COVID Testing Shortages: The increase in COVID cases at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 was accompanied by a shortage of testing supplies. On Tuesday, December 28th, President Joe Biden promised to provide 500 million free at home testing kits by the end of January. On Wednesday, January 19th, the website for ordering four (4) kits per household became operational. It can be accessed by entering either COVIDtests.gov or <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

The site only requires name and shipping address, but there is an option to enter an email address if you want to receive delivery updates. Since scammers are prevalent and sneaky, watch out for phony websites and emails that ask for birthdates, Social Security Numbers, driver's license numbers, insurance information, and/or means of payment. The photo below is a screen shot of the order site.



Isolation/Quarantine Time Reduced: On January 4, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control announced that persons who tested positive for COVID, but had no symptoms could end isolation after five days provided they wore masks for an additional five days. Persons with symptoms could end isolation after five days provided their symptoms were improving and they remained fever free without medication for 24 hours. However, they had to wear masks and take precautions for 10 full days. Persons who were severely ill with COVID should isolate at least 10 days and follow the advice of their doctors.

The CDC made the changes because studies showed that persons were more likely to be infectious at the beginning of their illness. In addition, there were concerns about the affects of isolation on the mental health of each individual as well as the need to be at work to benefit both the employee and the employer.

The CDC also lessened quarantine requirements for persons who had been exposed to COVID. Those who had not been vaccinated had to quarantine five days, be tested, and wear masks for an additional five days. Persons who had been fully vaccinated did not have to stay at home unless they developed symptoms, but they were expected to be tested after five days and wear masks for 10 days. Those persons who had had a confirmed case of COVID within the past 90 days had to wear a mask, but did not have to quarantine unless they had symptoms.

Locally: The increase in COVID cases prompted the Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Department to pause its basketball program on Wednesday, January 12th with the intention of resuming games on Thursday, January 20th. However, the virus kept spreading so the pause was renewed on January 20th and again on the 24th through the 26th with plans to start back up on Thursday, January 27th. Face covering were optional, but recommended for spectators due to the high spread of COVID in our area. To learn more about this and other programs at the rec center, visit the town's website and the department's Facebook page

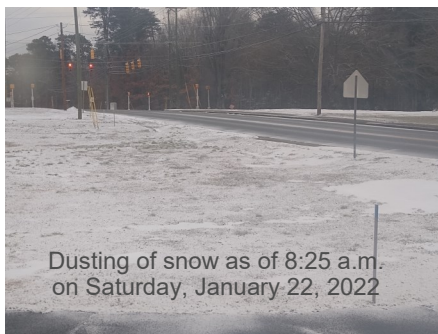
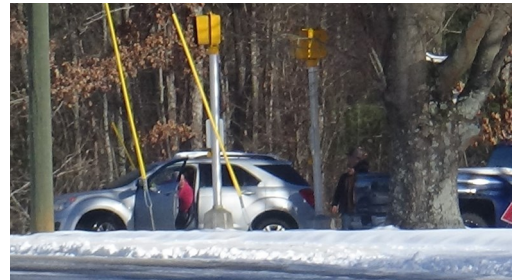
Masking Changes: In the early days of COVID (spring 2020), health experts downplayed the need to wear masks and then began urging people to wear cloth masks. The rationale for cloth masks stemmed from the need to reserve medical grade masks for healthcare workers. By mid-December 2021, experts began urging people to wear more substantial masks, noting that cloth masks don't work as well as N95 and KN95 respirators. On January 14th, the CDC updated its website to note that there is no longer a shortage of these products, but that "surgical" N95 respirators should still be reserved for people working in healthcare settings. On January 19th, the White House announced plans to distribute 400 million N95 masks from the Strategic National Stockpile to the general public through community health centers and pharmacies beginning the last week in January.



national holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Some places were also closed on Tuesday while others opened late.

COVID Legacy: Caldwell County Schools were closed all week with Monday, the 17th being a planned holiday. The 18th was a snow day with optional work day for teachers. Schools operated remotely the rest of the week, taking advantage of lessons learned under COVID. (Pardon the pun.)

Good Samaritans: The roads were so bad on Tuesday morning that even highly traveled areas had slick spots. Someone who lives near the intersection of Pinewood Road and North Highland Avenue reported seeing three different vehicles being given assistance by three different Good Samaritans, one right after the other - each within seconds of getting stuck and all within a 45 minute time period (10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)



Dusting of snow as of 8:25 a.m.
on Saturday, January 22, 2022

Britches Patched: There is an old saying that if snow stays on the ground three days, it is waiting to get "its britches patched." As residents of Granite Falls dug out from under Izzy, various weather forecasts called for more snow and/or ice overnight on Friday, January 21st. Most of the storm went east, leaving snow and ice on the coast and in central North Carolina. Granite Falls received a slight "dusting" - just enough to cover the bare spots. The snow was gone by Saturday afternoon, the 22nd.

On the Bright Side: The storm not only brought joy to hundreds of boys and girls who enjoyed sledding and building snowmen, but also much needed precipitation. On January 4th, the Catawba - Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group announced that the area had entered the

drought watch stage 0 due to lower than normal rainfall and urged member organizations to conserve water and closely monitor conditions.

Museum: The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum had to close on Sunday, January 16th, and the History Committee did not meet as scheduled on Tuesday, January 18th due to poor road conditions. The museum, which reopened on Sunday, January 23rd, is featuring copies of ***The Granite Falls Press***. It is open on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m. The next meeting of the History Committee will be Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. A meeting of the Granite Falls Historical Association Board of Trustees will follow at 2:45 p.m.

GOOD NEWS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WELCOME TO GRANITE FALLS

On December 9, 2021, Governor Roy Cooper announced that the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority had approved sixteen (16) grants to help rural communities attract jobs. The Town of Granite Falls received a grant in the amount of \$200,000 to assist SERVPRO in renovating the old Shuford Mills Plant #2 building located at 121 Falls Avenue. Built in 1919, the facilities were last occupied by CCon Metals USA. The funds came from the North Carolina Department of Commerce (NC DOC) Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) Building Reuse Grant.

SERVPRO plans to spend approximately \$750,000 to renovate the building for their damage cleanup and restoration business. In order to qualify for the grant, the company must hire at least 25 employees, pay them more than the average private sector wage in Caldwell County (\$41,157 per year), and contribute at least 50% of the cost of employee health insurance. The Caldwell County Economic Development Commission will administer the grant.



The new SERVPRO/old Shuford Mills Plant #2 Building
as it appeared on Thursday, January 27, 2022.

GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ON JANUARY 2, 2022

We'll Pray to Keep Thy Portals Wide for All Posterity



Tablet II is a publication of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. The purpose of the publication is to provide members with news and information about the Association along with articles and photos of historical interest. The purpose of the Association is to preserve and interpret the history/heritage of Granite Falls and Southern Caldwell County by historical preservation, publications, active museum and historical site programs, public meetings, and various activities related to these programs.

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For more information about the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc and the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum, go to the website - www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org or the Facebook page under "Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum."