

## SCHS TEACHER RECOGNIZED *Congratulations, Shea Bolick!*

Shea Bolick, a Spanish teacher at South Caldwell High School, is the 2023 Burroughs Wellcome North Carolina Northwest Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Bolick is married to Ritch Bolick, who is a member of the Granite Falls Town Council.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction made the announcement in a news release on January 11, 2023. Mrs. Bolick will compete against eight other regional winners to succeed Leah Carper, an English teacher at Northern Guilford High School, who was the 2022 Burroughs Wellcome North Carolina Teacher of the Year. The 2023 winner will be announced during an awards ceremony on April 14, 2023 in Cary. The award is sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund in order to "promote the profession through advocacy and support while recognizing outstanding teaching professionals who are implementing best practices in classrooms across North Carolina." For more information, check out the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website.



## BEAUTIFYING GRANITE FALLS *Since 1940*

The Granite Falls Garden Club celebrated its 83rd birthday on January 25, 2023 at the Pizza Hut by making plans for the coming year. Established in January 1940, the club has become known for recognizing the Yard of Month and for maintaining a beautiful flower garden on the Granite Falls Town Square. Persons interested in joining the club may contact Barbara Ross, the president, by calling (828) 396-1668. For information about the club's history, read the article on pages 209–210 in *Etched in Granite, The History of Granite Falls North Carolina* by Maxine McCall.



## PARKS AND RECREATION *Annual Report*

Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Director Chad Raby presented the 2022 annual report for his department during a meeting of the town council on Monday, January 23rd. He noted that a grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in 2020 had enabled the completion of six projects - a new pool slide, a new batting cage, two pieces of playground equipment, six adult outdoor exercise stations around the walking track, and a picnic shelter at the children's playground. He expects two more projects to be completed by summer 2023 - ADA compliant outdoor restrooms and a splash pad.

His department also received funding from the State Capital Infrastructure Fund in 2021 to provide an "additional ADA walking path from the multipurpose field #3 to the playground area/ADA walking path from lower parking lot to playground

( PARKS AND RECREATION continued on page 4)

## PUBLIC HEARING HELD *To Discuss Grant Funds*

The Town of Granite Falls held a public hearing on Monday, January 23, 2023 to discuss plans to use the \$4,999,000 Community Development Block Grant the town recently received from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The town applied for the grant in order to receive funding to replace water and wastewater lines to 68 houses on Hill Street, Pine Street, Pearl Street, and Pine Cone Lane.

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING *Three Years of COVID*

The community level in Caldwell County was high risk on January 5th, 12th, and 19th. It moved down to medium risk on the January 26th report. Life appeared to be normal except for those families affected by the virus. Few people outside of medical settings wore masks. Reports indicated that the variants of the COVID-19 virus were more contagious, but less serious than the original strain.

National News: On January 11, 2023, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra renewed the COVID Public Health Emergency for an additional 90 days. Then, on January 30, 2023, the White House announced plans to end the declaration on May 11, 2023. The announcement was a response to efforts to end the public health emergency in Congress. Ending the declaration will mean the government will no longer pay for COVID vaccines, tests, and treatments. The Trump Administration issued the first COVID Public Health Emergency on January 31, 2020.

On January 10, 2023, the Department of Defense rescinded requirements that military members be vaccinated against the coronavirus. The decision complied with requirements established by the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. The decision did not affect the status of persons discharged because they did not take the vaccine.

FREE Testing Sites: On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) set up a website to help people locate free COVID-19 testing - [testinglocator.gov](https://testinglocator.gov). By entering your zip code and the number of miles you are willing to travel. On January 26th, the site showed three free testing sites within 5 miles of Granite Falls - CVS in Hudson, Walgreens in Hudson, and CVS in Hickory, just below the Catawba River Bridge. Although the tests are advertised as "free," providers will bill insurance for those who have it.

Each household in the United States can still order four free at home test by calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) or ordering online at [special.usps.com/testkits](https://special.usps.com/testkits). Please note that expiration dates are subject to change as manufacturers provide additional data. The FDA has a list of extended dates on its website. You can also check the website for information about counterfeit tests.

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, medical advisors met to discuss annual COVID vaccinations, but they did not have a formal vote. The proposal would mimic the annual flu shot. Researchers would determine likely variants, and pharmaceutical companies would prepare vaccine accordingly. Both vaccines would be marketed in the fall for the coming winter.



### WELCOME TO GRANITE FALLS *Caliber Car Wash*

Caliber Car Wash, located just off Hwy 321 at 121 River Bend Road at the entrance to Walmart, celebrated its grand opening from Thursday, January 5th through Sunday, January 15th, 2023 by providing free car washes during their business hours. To wash their vehicles, customers drive onto a motorized frame, put their cars in neutral, and sit back and relax as the vehicles undergo cleaning. They then drive to the service area where they can use vacuum cleaners, put air in the tires, and take advantage of other services. For more information, check out the company's website - [calibercarwash.com](https://calibercarwash.com).



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS *Dining with the Demons is May 6, 2023*

Changes are in the works for the 8th Annual Dining with the Demons, a reunion for former students and teachers at Granite Falls High School.

Instead of going to the Caldwell County Fairgrounds for a potluck meal, attendees will meet at their alma mater, now Granite Falls Middle School, for a catered lunch, a tour of the new facilities, and fellowship. Having a catered meal will eliminate extra work and added stress while allowing more time to enjoy the event. Planners have also decided to skip raffles and door prizes, freeing people to talk and move around without worrying about keeping up with numbers and having to be quiet during drawings.

Planners are posting information on the "Dining with the Demons 2023" Facebook page. The page labeled "Dining with the Demons 2020 - 2022" only contains information for 2022. The editor of *Tablet II* and *The Granite Tablet* will monitor Facebook and include articles in future editions of the newsletters.



## Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C. 1899 - 1915

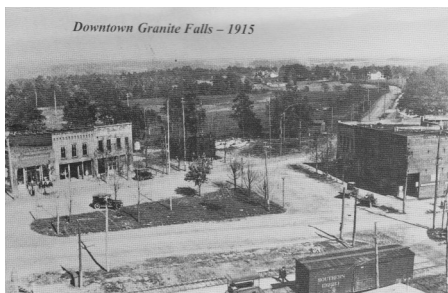
**From *Etched in Granite, the History of Granite Falls, North Carolina* by Maxine McCall**

**The Growth of a Town:** The establishment of a cotton mill (that would become Shuford Mills) at the falls on Gunpowder Creek in 1880 and the coming of the railroad in 1884 set the groundwork for the incorporation of Granite Falls, North Carolina. On March 6, 1899, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized two (2) elections to be held on May 1, 1899 - the first to determine whether or not the community would be incorporated and the second to elect a mayor and three commissioners if the majority of voters approved incorporation. Records show there were 62 registered voters (all men because the 19th Amendment had not yet been passed). Only 44 persons voted - 38 "yes" and 6 "no." On the same day, voters elected Rufus E. Hefner to be the first Mayor of Granite Falls. The first commissioners would be James A. Houck, Dr. A. D. Jones, and H. C. Mackie. May 1st is considered to be the official date of incorporation.

The first meeting of the town board was June 3, 1899. Members chose C. F. Cline to be the first clerk with the title Secretary and Treasurer. He possibly served without pay because the first mention of payment for this position was in the minutes for a meeting on May 15, 1900. The annual pay was set at \$3.00. The town board appointed the town clerk until 1981 when that duty was assigned to the town manager.

The board also hired G. W. Lefevers to be the first constable. His duties included collecting taxes and overseeing the streets and cemetery. In 1916, the town constable received additional duties - lighting the street lights each day and winding the town clock. The first jail was an 8' X16' X 8' building on a 20' square lot. It cost \$19.74 to build. The town also reimbursed Chief Constable Robert Payne \$.25 for a quilt.

While the town constable was responsible for the streets, men of the town (ages 18 - 50) were required to work on the roads in town at least four days per year unless they paid an annual tax of \$2.00. In 1909, the town board appointed W. T. Sherrill to be "Street Overseer." C. G. Houck replaced Mr. Sherrill in February 1910, and the town purchased some tools for him to use. In 1912, the town purchased a mule drawn "road machine" for \$45.00. In 1913, the speed limit in town was 15 mph.



Downtown Granite Falls - 1915

In 1915, Granite Falls Manufacturing Company (formerly Shuford, Gwyn & Co and later Shuford Mills) began providing electricity for domestic use (street lights and homes). The town had a separate contract with E. C. Ivey to provide electricity to businesses.



### TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS 125 Years Old in 2024

The Town of Granite Falls will celebrate its quasiquicentennial anniversary on May 1, 2024. Since May 1st of this year marks the beginning of our 125th year, the Granite Falls History Committee is going to meet on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 2 p.m. in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum to brainstorm ideas for commemorating this special milestone. In addition to planning exhibits and events at the museum, members will encourage businesses, churches, clubs, and other organizations to incorporate the town's anniversary into their plans for the coming year.

The Granite Falls Historical Association plans to publish a history book in 2024 called *Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C. 1999 - 2024*. *Dateline* will pick up where *Etched in Granite, The History of Granite Falls, North Carolina* by Maxine McCall left off, but it will include a prologue with a synopsis of the chronological history recorded in *Etched in Granite*. The rest of the book will be a more in depth chronological history of Granite Falls since 1999 plus an oral history section featuring memories about the town and its people.

Unlike *Etched in Granite*, *Dateline* will not include family genealogies and histories of organizations. Instead of printing the information in a book, members of the Association will file it in the museum's genealogical collection, which consists of family genealogies, news clippings, and other memorabilia. They have plans to make the material available for research.

area and a new lower parking lot.” These projects should also be finished by summer 2023.

In addition to capital improvement projects, the Parks and Recreation staff member are also working to grow the number of programs offered. Over the last year, they added a youth art class, Barre and Pilates classes, and youth indoor soccer. In addition to these programs, the town offers playgrounds, camps, fitness training, gymnastics, pickleball, Pound exercise, swimming, free play, senior meals program, senior cards, tennis, walking track/trails, and Zumba exercise. In 2022, the William B. Shuford Recreation Center hosted the following events: the 8th Annual Veterans Day ceremony, the annual Caldwell County Special Olympics Polar Plunge, the Tarheel Swim League Conference Tournament, and Art in the Park. Parks and Recreation staffers assisted with the Festival on Main, Festival on the Square, and the Christmas Parade. In addition to the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on Pinewood Road, the Parks and Recreation Department includes Lakeside Park on Lake Rhodhiss with a picnic shelter, fishing pier, and walking trails and Neighborhood Park on the corner of Chestnut Street and Sterling Avenue with a tennis court, basketball court, and children’s playground. For more information about their programs, go to [www.granitefallsnc.com/recreation](http://www.granitefallsnc.com/recreation) and “Granite Falls Parks & Recreation” on Facebook.



Exercise station along the walking trail



Covered picnic area on the playground



View of the playground showing the site of the new parking lot in the background



View of the playground showing one of the ballfields in the background



*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](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org) or the Facebook page under “Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum.”