

## NEWS FROM GRANITE FALLS *Received State Award for Water Quality*

GRANITE FALLS, NORTH CAROLINA – The North Carolina Division of Water Resources has awarded the 2023 N.C. Area Wide Optimization Award to Granite Falls Water Treatment Plant for demonstrating exceptional performance in turbidity removal, a key measure of water clarity and quality. While all public drinking water systems are required to meet strict regulatory federal and state standards, the award-winning facilities have surpassed these requirements by achieving significantly more stringent performance goals.

“We are incredibly proud to be recognized for our dedication to

(STATE AWARD Continued on page 4)



## ART AT THE MUSEUM *Granite Falls Middle School Students*

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum will feature the art work of Granite Falls Middle School students during the month of February 2025. Their teacher is Amber AuBain.

The museum will be open from 2 until 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 2; Sunday, February 9; and Sunday, February 23. The museum is closed on Sunday, February 16, due to President's Day. Persons who cannot visit the museum during normal hours may text Linda Crowder at (828) 496-2835 to arrange a private tour.

The Granite Falls History Committee invites the public to attend a reception for the students from 2 until 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 23, 2025.



## NEWS FROM GRANITE FALLS *Making a Splash*

The Town of Granite Falls will host its first Splash Bash Festival on Friday, May 2, 2025. The festival will feature live musical performances, food trucks with delicious food, and free activities for people of all ages. The evening will end with a spectacular fire works. The town hopes the Splash Bash Festival will become an annual event that people will eagerly anticipate each year.

Businesses and individuals may participate by partnering with the town to sponsor this special celebration. Sponsorships promote a sense of belonging, unity, and community pride. For more information, please check out the town's website: [www.granitefallsnc.com](http://www.granitefallsnc.com).





## **MORE NEWS FROM GRANITE FALLS *Parks and Recreation***

**SPORTS - Play Ball:** The Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Tar Heel League, has announced age eligibility requirements for baseball, softball, and tee ball. Registration will be from Monday, February 3, through Friday, February 21. The age range is 4 years to 12 years with May 1 determining age eligibility for baseball and Jan 1 determining age eligibility for softball. Parents/guardians must register their children in person by filling out a form, signing a parent code of ethics, and paying the appropriate fee. The fee is \$40 for residents of Granite Falls and \$65 for a non-residents. The town can only accept cash or check. More information, visit the town's website - <https://granitefallsnr.com/athletics>. The website also has a list of streets within the city limits under "Resident Address Listing).

### ***Baird House***

**HELP WANTED - Be a Guide in the Town's Oldest Residence:** The Granite Falls History Committee is seeking volunteers to open/close the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum (aka Baird House) and assist visitors on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m. The Granite Falls History Committee will provide on the job training and a resource manual. We can also accept volunteers who can only work on Saturdays.

The town is also accepting applications for volunteers to serve on the Granite Falls History Committee, which oversees the museum. The committee meets the third Tuesday at 2 p.m. The History Committee oversees the building and its contents. In addition to alerting Public Works about maintenance issues, members track inventory, arrange permanent and special exhibits, host special events, etc. For more information about applying for either or both positions, call the town office at 396-3131.

**AT THE MUSEUM - Current and Future Exhibits:** As noted on page 1, students of Art Teacher Amber AuBain at Granite Falls Middle School will have their work on display during February. March will feature the work of the Catawba Valley Quilters' Guild. Coming in June the History Committee will host a special program about the railroad.

The two (2) photos below show some of the student art work on display in February.





**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**  
*North Highland Avenue*



Silt Fences Installed on October 1, 2024



Silt Fences Installed on October 1, 2024



Preparing to Install Silt Fences on October 1, 2024



Preparing to Install Silt Fences on October 1, 2024



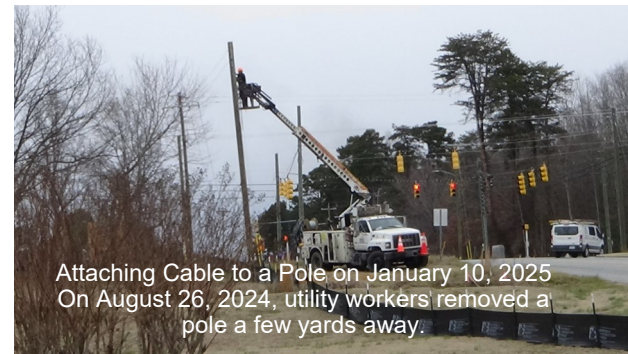
Working on Utility Pole - November 20, 2024



Stringing Cable on December 13, 2024



Can't Tell What They're Doing on January 8, 2025



Attaching Cable to a Pole on January 10, 2025  
On August 26, 2024, utility workers removed a pole a few yards away.

providing high-quality drinking water to our community,” said Randy Smith, Public Utilities Director. “This award reflects the hard work and expertise of our water treatment staff, as well as our commitment to the health and well-being of our residents.”

Turbidity, or water cloudiness, is caused by individual particles that can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. By removing these particles, the Granite Falls Water Treatment Plant ensures the highest water quality.

In 2023, over 3.6 million North Carolina residents were served by the 79 award-winning facilities. The Granite Falls Water Treatment Plant is proud to contribute to this effort.

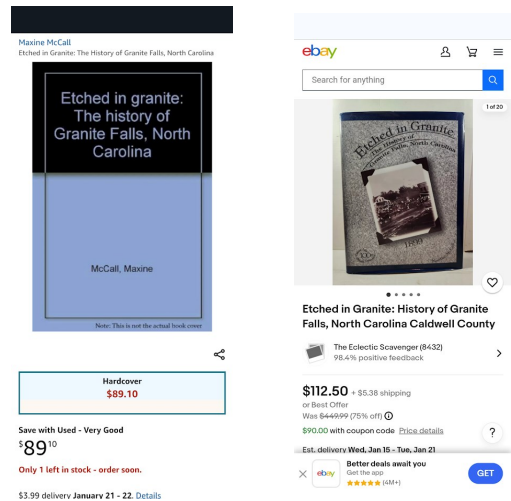
About Granite Falls Water Treatment Plant: The Granite Falls Water Treatment Plant operates 24/7, not only serving the residents of Granite Falls, but also providing high-quality treated water to Caldwell County, the City of Hickory, and the Town of Rhodhiss, which depend on the Town’s water system to supply their customers.

In 2023, the Granite Falls Water Treatment Plant treated 379,046,000 gallons, an average of 1,038,482 gallons per day, which is 41.5% of its permitted capacity of 2,500,000 gallons per day. (Source: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2024/12/09/north-carolina-honors-79-drinking-water-treatment-plants-awop-awards>) (News release provided by Kara Calloway)

## HURRICANE HELENE FEMA Update

FEMA RELIEF EFFORTS - Local News: On January 28, Caldwell County’s Facebook page shared a post from North Carolina Cooperative Extension-Caldwell Center about Agricultural Recover Centers being held in surrounding counties to assist people living in rural and agricultural areas with needs not met by standard FEMA programs. These include farms, ranches, vineyards, beekeepers, nurseries, and fisheries. Special trained representatives are scheduled to be present between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The closest event will be February 4 in Burke County at the Burke Cooperative Extension Center in Morganton. The post gave the following website: <https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/help-self-employed-and-artists>.

For more information about FEMA in Caldwell County, check out the county’s Facebook page - “Caldwell County, NC.”



## ETCHED IN GRANITE *The History of Granite Falls, North Carolina*

Persons wishing to purchase a copy of *Etched in Granite: The History of Granite Falls, North Carolina* should contact the town office for the best price and quality. The town still has sealed in plastic copies for \$25 each. On January 11, 2025, Amazon was advertising a used copy for \$89.10. Ebay was offering a new copy for \$112.50 + \$5.38 shipping or \$90 with a coupon code. (see screenshots above)

While a new history book is scheduled to be published later this year, it will cover the years 1999 - 2024 with just dates and brief descriptions of events before that time. To get a full history of the town, you will need to read *Etched in Granite*. Books are available at the town office (30 Park Square) Monday through Friday and at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum (107 Falls Ave.) when it is open on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m.

Editor’s Note: It’s not too late to add stories and events to the new book. My contact information is in the masthead below.



*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.”