



Photo on the left:  
Mayor Burns (left) with  
Mrs. Bolick (right)

Photo on the right:  
Members of the  
Granite Falls Town  
Council (left to right)  
Jim Mackie, Tracy  
Townsend, M. D.  
Townsend, Larry  
Knight, Mike Mackie,  
and Ritch Bolick) stand  
behind Mayor Burns  
and Mrs. Bolick.



## **TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS RECOGNIZES Shea Bolick 2023 Burroughs Wellcome North Carolina Northwest Teacher of the Year**

The Town of Granite Falls recognized Shea Bolick, the 2023 Burroughs Wellcome North Carolina Northwest Teacher of the Year, during a meeting of the Granite Falls Town Council on Monday, July 17, 2023 in the Town Council Chambers on South Main Street. Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Mayor of Granite Falls, presented Mrs. Bolick with a gift from the town and a certificate which recognized her commitment and dedication to students in Caldwell County Schools for the past twenty-two years. Mrs. Bolick teaches Spanish at South Caldwell High School. In addition to her duties as a teacher, the award recipient is an active member of Granite Falls First United Methodist Church, where she heads the food ministry and volunteers on the mission field in Costa Rica. She lives in Granite Falls with her husband, Ritch, who is a member of the town council.

## **TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS Splash Pad**



During its business session on July 17, the Granite Falls Town Council awarded contracts for the construction of a splash pad on the campus of the William B. Shuford Recreation Center. The funding will come from a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grant awarded to the town in 2020. The planning, engineering and designing process began almost immediately.

Following the advice of McGill & Associates, the town chose three (3) businesses to provide materials and services. Lail Builders of Hickory

will prepare the site; Vortex Aquatic Structures, International of Dover, Delaware will provide the equipment and features; and Aqua Underground of Marietta, Ga. will install the splash pad. The projected completion date is May 2024. A panoramic view of the proposed design is currently on Facebook under "Granite Falls Parks & Recreation Department."

## ***ADA Improvements***

The Granite Falls Town Council also voted to award two (2) additional contracts to Lail Builders. One will be for an ADA (American Disabilities Act) walking path and the other for two (2) ADA restrooms in the Pool House at the Recreation Center. These improvements will allow more people to safely enjoy recreational activities provided by the town.



## ***More News from Parks & Recreation***

**Swimming:** The pool is scheduled to be open daily through Sunday, August 13. However, the daily occupancy may change based upon the availability of lifeguards. According to national media, there has been a shortage of lifeguards this summer, forcing pools across the country to change their schedules. Granite Falls is no exception. To find the updated schedule for the William B. Shuford Recreation Center, check the Granite Falls Parks & Recreation Facebook page.

**Soccer:** Youth (ages 4 –13) may register for co-ed soccer for the fall season from Monday, July 31 until Monday, August 21. The fee, which includes uniforms, is \$40.00 for residents and \$65.00 for non-residents.

**Basketball:** Youth (ages 4 -13) may register for co-ed basketball between Monday, October 16 and Monday November 6. The fee, including uniform, is \$40.00 for residents and \$65.00 for non-residents.

**Other Recreation Activities:** The William B. Shuford Recreation Center also has tennis courts, a walking trail with exercise stations, fitness rooms, meeting rooms, and a playground for children. From time to time, private citizens offer exercise programs and art classes.

Lakeside Park (aka “Tater Hole”) offers three fishing decks (one is ADA accessible), walking/hiking trails, and a picnic shelter with restrooms. Neighborhood Park (corner of Chestnut Street and Sterling Avenue) offers a tennis court and a playground.

To learn more about Parks & Recreation in Granite Falls, visit [www.granitefallsnc.com](http://www.granitefallsnc.com), the town’s website, and/or check out the Facebook page under “Granite Falls Parks & Recreation.” The phone number is (828) 396-1221.

## ***Important Messages from Public Works***

**Water:** To ensure the delivery of high quality water, town employees will flush the water system on Thursday, August 2 and Friday, August 3. This process may cause temporary low pressure and/or discolored water. If your water appears discolored, run a cold water faucet until it clears up.

**Sewer:** Do not flush grease, wipes (even those marked “flushable” have fine print disclaimers), diapers, paper towels, etc. down the drain because they can cause damage and backups in the sewer system.

**Yard Waste:** Bag grass clippings, weeds, plant trimmings, etc. and leave them at the curb on Thursday mornings for pickup. Filled bags should weigh 50 pounds or less. Do not blow grass into the streets and gutters. Not only can they pollute our water source, but grass blown into the roadway can cause motorcycle accidents. Also, do not block sidewalks with garbage, bagged lawn debris, and/or limbs. The ends of limbs should face the roadway so workers can grab them quickly and insert them into the chipper.

## ***Coming Events***

Granite Falls Merchants Association Festival on Main on Saturday, September 16 from 2 until 8 p.m.

Veterans Day Ceremony at the Recreation Center on Thursday, November 9 at 10 a.m.

Festival on the Square and Christmas Tree Lighting on Monday, November 20 at 6:15 p.m.

Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2 at noon

## ***Holidays***

The Town of Granite Falls will observe the following holidays in the coming weeks:

Labor Day on Monday, September 4

Veterans Day on Friday, November 10

Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24

Christmas on Monday, December 25 through Wednesday, December 27



## Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C. 1992 - 1998

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

- In November 1994, the town council set up a Town Steering Committee for the purpose of creating a sense of community, encouraging volunteerism, and instilling pride.
- In 1995, the fire department acquired a 1,250 GPM Custom Becker pumper with a seven man cab that was powered by a 300 horsepower Cummins Diesel. The town paid \$185,460.00 for it.
- On May 9, 1996, international cyclists on the "Tour DuPont" raced through Granite Falls enroute to Charlotte.
- On December 1, 1997, A. W. (Bert) Huffman, Jr. completed 26 years as Mayor of Granite Falls. He had served one year on the town council before running for mayor. He decided not to seek re-election in 1997 and was succeeded by Barry Hayes.
- In October 1998, children at Granite Falls Elementary School participated in a telethon sponsored by the television network, Nickelodeon. Their efforts won the school a visit from the "Big Help Mobile" on March 18, 1999.
- On December 31, 1998, the Town of Granite Falls began a year long celebration of its centennial anniversary.



Left: Debbie Holman and Barbara Pittman, members of the Granite Falls Business and Professional Women's Club, are shown selling ice cream at the Fourth of July picnic held 7/3/1999 in commemoration of the town's centennial anniversary.

Right: Judy Looper Mackie (left) had two reasons for being in the 1999 Christmas Parade. She was the 1961 Homecoming Queen at GFHS and the 1999 Granite Falls Woman of the Year. Her driver was Ila Stallings, who would be the 2002 Granite Falls Woman of the Year.



### Down Memory Lane with Wayne Bud Moore

Before the Civil War, there were only a few cotton mills in the South. After the Reconstruction Era, more mills began to appear throughout the South - especially along the Fall Line. Such was the situation in Caldwell and neighboring counties [in the North Carolina Foothills].

Almost every town had its "cotton mill hill" - simply put, "the mill hill." In Granite Falls there were three "mill hills." The houses were either three or four room houses with perhaps a small room for storage. There was electricity with a single wire for a light hanging in the middle of each room. There was no indoor plumbing, only a water tap between two houses to be shared with a neighbor. In the winter they would freeze and would have to be thawed. I helped my mother thaw ours on several occasions. The toilet was a building with two holes, set a certain distance from each house.

The work in the mills was easy to learn and sometimes employed whole families. As there were no child labor laws at that time, children as young as ten were employed. There were jobs for males and females. I have known many people who told me they went to work in the mill at a very early age.

The people who worked in the mills were an interesting bunch. Families moved from the mountain farms to town to find jobs in the cotton mill. Some of the workers were illiterate, while others had a little education and could read and write. Life was probably better for mill workers than their previous employment, which most likely was farming. Now they could work regular hours, have time for some recreation or other activities, walk to town to do their shopping, socialize with others and be closer to medical services.

(Wayne Bud Moore grew up in Granite Falls and moved to Colorado to teach.)

## Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C. Miscellaneous Dates

editor's notes: Here are some dates I inadvertently left out of past editions of *The Granite Tablet* and *Tablet II*.

- In 1941, the town built a water filter plant on Lake Rhodhiss with a capacity of 300,000 gallons of water per day. The plant, which cost \$50,000 to build, replaced the two wells the town had been using since it began providing water to the town in 1934.
- In 1960, the town issued a Water and Sewer Bond in the amount of \$125,000 to double the capacity of the water filtration plant (from 300,000 to 600,000 gallons per day).
- In 1965, the town board approved spending \$108,500 to improve the sewer system.
- In 1970, the town began putting fluoride in drinking water. An ARC Demonstration Project grant paid 80 percent of the costs for the first four (4) years. There were more upgrades to the water plant in the 1970s and in 1983.



- In June 1970, American Legion Post 209 presented a flag and flag pole to the fire department.

Shown in the photo left to right are Chief Leon Bradshaw, Mayor Bob Wakefield, Council Member Mabel Teague, Council Member Paul Williams, and members of American Legion Post 209 - Johnny Bailey, Carl Sebastian, George Swanson, Paul Winkler, and Emmett Skinnell.

- In 1971, the town purchased a custom made 1971 American-LaFrance pumper with a 1500 GPM pumping capacity.
- In 1972, the town approved the issue of \$26,000 in bonds to extend and improve the water lines.
- In 1975, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) determined that the insurance rating should be lowered from Class 7 to Class 6 - good news for insurance costs.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! *Historical Association Meeting*

The Granite Falls Historical Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 14, 2023 in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum on Falls Avenue. Members will make plans for the Annual Meeting to be held in October 2023 and hear updates from the Board of Trustees about business transacted and progress made on Association projects since the Annual Meeting in October 2022. These projects include updating the town's history book, maintaining Baird Cemetery, and mapping Pinecrest Cemetery. New members and visitors are welcome to attend. Trustees will serve refreshments beginning at 6:15 p.m.

## *Granite Falls Merchants Association Festival on Main*

The Granite Falls Merchants Association is looking for individuals, businesses, civic organizations, school groups, churches, etc. who would like to have booths at the Festival on Main to be held Saturday, September 16 from 2 until 8 p.m. People may sell arts, crafts, food, and other merchandise and/or distribute information about various topics or hand out freebies. The Association will accept only two vendors per food type (hamburgers, funnel cakes, BBQ, etc.) and only one vendor per name brand (Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Avon, etc.). Set up will begin at noon. Spaces for booths are approximately 14' by 12'. The deadline for food vendors to apply is August 1, 2023, and they have until August 31 to submit proof of compliance with health and safety regulations. Other applications are due September 1. Registrations forms may be found at [www.granitefallsn.com/vendor](http://www.granitefallsn.com/vendor).

The featured entertainment for the festival will be Chris Taylor and the Rumor, a band that plays favorite songs dating back to the 70s.



*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.

Contact the Editor: Linda Richards Crowder by phone at (828) 396-1066, by text (828) 496-2835, or by email [lrdrcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lrdrcrowder@gmail.com).

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."