

A Publication of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc.

MAKING HISTORY

Retirement Reception for Mayor Barry Hayes

The Town of Granite Falls hosted a retirement reception for Mayor Barry Hayes in the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church of Granite Falls on Sunday, March 20, 2022 between 2 and 4 p.m. to celebrate his 42 years of service to the town. In 2021, Hayes chose not to seek re-election after serving as mayor for 24 years. Prior to that, he served on the town council. Dr. Caryl B. Burns, who succeeded him as mayor, and Town Manager Jerry Church presented him with gifts from the town - a gavel, a service plaque, and a framed photo of the falls for which the town is named. Joe Gibbons, Mayor of Lenoir, and Ronnie Setzer, Mayor of Cahaj Mountain, also presented him with gifts. Numerous persons, including members of the town board, former town employees, and residents publicly thanked the retired mayor and expressed their appreciation to him.



Above (left to right):
Barry Hayes, Jerry Church, and Dr. Caryl Burns



DWTD RETURNS *After a Two Year Delay*

After a two year delay due to COVID restrictions, Dining with the Demons is returning to the Caldwell County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 14, 2022. DWTD is a reunion for persons who studied and/or taught at Granite Falls High School. The event will begin at noon with a covered dish meal. Set up will begin at noon on Friday, May 13th. Clean up will immediately follow the event. Persons volunteering to help will meet at the New City BBQ on Saturday, April 16th at 2:00 p.m. for lunch and a planning session. As plans are made, updates will be posted on the "Dining with the Demons 2020 - 2022" Facebook page. For more information, call Gaye Moore at (828) 405-8397.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING COVID-19

When COVID cases started declining in February 2022, the Centers for Disease Control updated its mask guidelines to distinguish between low, medium, and high risk areas. On February 25th, the CDC set up a COVID tracker on its website to show the status of each county in the United States. The agency assessed the risks by considering the number of new cases, new admissions to the hospital, and the availability of hospital beds.

Caldwell County was in the high risk category when the tracker first appeared and was still there on March 3rd even though the Caldwell County website showed only five (5) persons in the hospital with the virus as of March 2nd, the last day of the report period (February 23rd - March 2nd). However, a note on the dashboard explained that the report included cases previously reported to the state, but not to the county. These were found when the county searched state records. After both websites updated their records (Caldwell County on March 9th and the CDC on March 10th), Caldwell County began showing in the low risk category.

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)



Above: This discarded mask sums up the current status of COVID in our area as most people appear to be ready to put the pandemic behind them.

(COVID-19 continued from page 1)

On March 17, 2022, Governor Roy Cooper held a press conference to discuss his plans moving forward. He said, "Over the last two years, we've written a history of hardship and resilience, setbacks and successes. But now, we enter the next phase. One of individual responsibility, preparedness and prosperity. The virus will still be with us, but it won't disrupt us."

The news release sent out by the Governor's Office about the press conference included a document detailing his plan. It was called "Moving Forward Together: The Next Phase of North Carolina's COVID-19 Pandemic Response." The plan noted that "North Carolina had the lowest per capita deaths in the southeast and among the lowest in the nation," "Statewide hospital capacity has never exceeded 91%," and "Statewide ICU capacity has never exceeded 89%."

The governor also announced a change in the reporting of statistics. Over the past two years, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Resources has posted COVID metrics (number of new cases, number of tests administered, and number of persons admitted to the hospital) on its website daily Monday through Friday except on holidays. Beginning on March 23rd, the NCDHHS would update the metrics on Wednesdays to show the level of virus particles found in wastewater, emergency room visits with COVID symptoms, healthcare capacity, hospital admissions, status of vaccinations/boosters, detection of virus variants, and community levels shown by the CDC.

Vaccine: Meanwhile, vaccine manufacturers continued their research. On March 23rd, Moderna announced plans to seek approval for its lower dosage formula for children ages 6 months to 6 years. The company is still waiting on authorization for its vaccine formulated for ages 6 to 11.

On March 29th, the FDA announced emergency authorization for certain persons to receive a second booster shot of the Moderna or the Pfizer-BioNTech

COVID vaccine. Either vaccine may be given to those 50 years of age and older. Persons who are 12 and older may receive a second booster of the Pfizer-BioNTech if they are immunocompromised. Persons ages 18 and older may receive a second Moderna booster if they are immunocompromised. Second boosters may be given at least four (4) months after the first booster.

COVID Test Kits: During his State of the Union address on March 1, 2022, President Joe Biden announced that he would authorize the post office to send four (4) additional home test kits per household upon request beginning March 7th. The website is [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). Persons without internet access may order by phone by calling 1-800-232-0233. There is also a TTY number 1-888-720-7489 for hearing and speech impaired persons. The hours are 8 a.m. until Midnight (EST), seven (7) days per week. Persons with other disabilities may call 1-888-677-1199 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 8 pm. (EST) or send an email to DIAL@usaginganddisability.org.

Other Free Programs End: On March 16th, Health Resources and Services Administration said it would stop accepting claims from healthcare providers for testing and treatment of uninsured patients under the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program (UIP) after 11:59 p.m. on March 22, 2022. In addition, HRSA would stop accepting claims for reimbursement for vaccine administration after 11:59 p.m. on April 5, 2022.

COMING TO THE MUSEUM *Vintage Clothing*

Before the museum shut down due to COVID - 19, the History Committee had planned a showing of vintage wedding gowns. Now that life is returning to normal, members have decided to reschedule the exhibit for June 2022 and to include other vintage garments. The committee will also accept photos of wedding gowns since many have been boxed for safekeeping. Items to be displayed may be taken to the museum between 2 and 4 p.m. on May 15th and 22nd. Please be sure the owner's name and contact information is on each piece.

One of the garments to be displayed at the exhibit is the beautiful, handmade suit shown packed in a box on the right. It belonged to Alice Surlis Corpening, the wife of Dr. Oscar J. Corpening, who practiced medicine in Granite Falls from 1906 until 1969. They were married on November 15, 1911.



PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

Art Classes Postponed

Creative Kids Art Classes for children originally scheduled to begin on Thursday, March 17th have been postponed until Thursday, April 7th. For more information, contact Damon Helton at (803) 630-6093 or the Rec Center at (828) 396-1221.

Zumba and Pound are Back

Amy Whisnant, licensed Zumba/Pound Pro instructor, has resumed teaching Zumba at the rec center on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. She will resume leading Pound classes on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:15 p.m.

Swim Classes for Children

There will be swim classes for children ages 4 and up beginning the week of June 6th - 9th from 10 a.m until 11 a.m. The cost is \$40 per student. The final week of classes is July 25th - 28th.

Taking the Plunge for Special Olympics

Polar Plunge of Caldwell County sponsored a cold and wet event at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on Saturday, March 19th beginning at 10:00 a.m. to raise funds for Special Olympics. Among the participants were members of the Unified Champions from Granite Falls Elementary School. The group, which is made up of third, fourth, and fifth graders, promotes acceptance and inclusion. The photo below by Kendra Smith Winebarger shows some Unified Champions taking the Polar Plunge.



NEW TO GRANITE FALLS

Shoe Sensation

The Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at Shoe Sensation located at 249 River Bend Drive (Shoppes on RiverCrest) in Granite Falls on Friday, March 18, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. Mayor Caryl Burns greeted attendees and welcomed everyone to Granite Falls prior to joining store employees, chamber representatives, and town officials for the ribbon cutting. Dave Schoengart, Shoe Sensation CEO, expressed appreciation to the town and chamber for their warm welcome and expressed a desire for store employees to become involved in the community. For more information about the store, check out www.shoesensation.com. If you check under "My Store," you will find information about the store in Granite Falls and things to do in our area. The article mentions the Granite Falls History Museum.

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Granite Falls Historical Association Meeting

The Granite Falls Historical Association Board of Trustees invites all members to attend its next meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the museum and to participate in the decision making regarding current projects - mapping Pinecrest Cemetery, sponsoring a tea party at the museum on Saturday, May 21, 2022, and updating the town's history book.

Sunday School Back at Burgess Chapel

Maurice Isbell has started teaching a Sunday School class at Burgess Chapel Church Foundation on Sundays beginning at 10:00 a. m. The foundation hopes to create more classes as attendance grows. The building is located at 5 Cherry Street, the former site of Burgess Chapel United Methodist Church.

Dribble, Shoot, and Fill Up a Food Pantry

The William B. Shuford Recreation Center will be the setting for a basketball game between youth and adults from Mount Zion Baptist Church in Sawmills on Friday, April 29th, between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. The price of admission is 3 canned goods or other non-perishable items for the church's food pantry.

GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ON MARCH 6, 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."