



Above Photo: Back Row (Left to Right): Mayor Pro-Tem Tracy Townsend, Councilmembers Larry Knight, Ritch Bolick, Jim Mackie, M.D. Townsend, and Mike Mackie
Front Row (Left to Right): Mayor Caryl B. Burns and Dr. Kim Case, myFutureNC Regional Manager

TOWN COUNCIL PASSES RESOLUTION *In Support of myFutureNC*

The Town of Granite Falls Town Council passed a Resolution to Support the myFutureNC Attainment Goal for the State of North Carolina and for Caldwell County during the August 21, 2023 Town Council meeting. The resolution was passed following a presentation by Dr. Kim Case, Regional Manager, Northwest Region, myFutureNC, who explained the importance of the goals outlined in the resolution. By passing the resolution, the Town of Granite Falls Town Council committed to foster collaboration with leaders in business, education, state and local government, and other community organizations to achieve the attainment goal by developing an action plan, defining success with measurable outcomes, executing the action plan, and by sharing successful practices with myFutureNC and peer communities.

The goals outlined in the resolution are that 2 million North Carolinians will have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030 which includes the goal that 11,000 Caldwell County citizens will have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030. The achievement of the statewide and local measurable goals will bridge the gap between educational levels of our citizens and the current and future needs of existing and potential employers. Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Mayor of the Town of Granite Falls,

(TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS continued on page 2)

MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION *Festival on Main*

The 13th Annual Granite Falls Merchants Association Festival on Main took place on Saturday, September 16, 2023 between 2 and 8 p.m. Granite Falls native Gene Crawley served as emcee; Rev. Rick Smith of Christ United Lutheran Church gave the invocation; Dr. Caryl Burns, Mayor of Granite Falls; welcomed visitors to Granite Falls; and Mike Mackie, President of the Granite Falls Merchants Association expressed appreciation to Tammy Haggerty of Granite Travel, Linda Teague of Linda's Family Hair Salon, and Kara Calloway from the Town of Granite Falls for their work with the festival. The South Caldwell High School Band played several musical selections, including the National Anthem. The featured musical group was Chris Taylor and the Rumor.

Vendors sold crafts, jewelry, clothing, food (including hotdogs, pizza, ice cream, and snow cones), etc. Some local businesses and nonprofits gave away bottles of water and other items. Children enjoyed bounce houses, face painting, a DARE program display, and "putting out a house fire." Police, fire, and public works employees provided a safe environment for attendees.



The photo above shows Chris Taylor and the Rumor. Other photos from the festival are on page 3.

SAVE THESE DATES

Thursday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.: Veterans Ceremony
Monday, Nov. 20 at 6:15 p.m. : Festival on the Square
Saturday, December 2 at noon: Christmas Parade

stated, "The key to a better future for our citizens is to foster an environment that encourages everyone to become life-long learners. The myFutureNC attainment goals emphasize this process by primarily focusing on individuals between the ages of 25 to 44. Hopefully, if these individuals become life-long learners, they will pass this trait along to future generations."

For more information, visit myFutureNC.org. (source: news release from the Town of Granite Falls)

More News from Our Town

In fiscal year 2023, the Granite Falls Town Council approved the largest street paving project in the history of the town, spending more than \$878,000 to improve roads maintained by the town. More streets will be paved using funds from a five million dollar Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) the town received for updating water and sewer lines, replacing meters, and repaving streets where the lines are located. The town is constantly on the lookout for grants to supplement our local taxes and fees. (source: Town of Granite Falls newsletter for September 2023)

Public Power Week

The Town of Granite Falls will celebrate Public Power Week (October 1 - 7) with a Customer Appreciation Day on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Town employees will serve light refreshments and distribute free promotional items while they last. The town's electric department provides highly reliable service with a fast restoration rate because we are locally based. (source: Town of Granite Falls Newsletter for September 2023)

The Town of Granite Falls is one of 15 public power communities across North Carolina to receive a 2022 Public Power Award of Excellence. ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc. presented 15 North Carolina communities with Public Power Awards of Excellence at ElectriCities' 2023 Annual Conference held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Town of Granite Falls received a public power award in the category of Strengthen Public Power which celebrates communities that build public and political support for public power. Town representatives build public support for public power by providing reliable, affordable, and environmentally friendly power to town electric customers. The Town also builds public support for public power by recognizing Public Power Week in October each year which includes the annual Customer Appreciation Day. Town representatives also build political support for public power through in-person meetings with, and phone calls, emails, and letters to, local, state, and federal elected officials. (source: news release from the Town of Granite Falls)

Holidays

The Granite Falls Town Office will be closed on the following holidays: Veterans Day (November 11), Thanksgiving (November 23 & 24), and Christmas (December 25, 26, & 27). For emergencies that cannot wait until the office reopens, a call center will answer calls and relay information to on-call water, sewer, and electric personnel. The number is 828-396-3131. For non-emergency police matters, call 828-758-2324. (source: Town of Granite Falls newsletter for September 2023)

2023 Municipal Elections

According to the Caldwell County Board of Elections website, seven (7) candidates are vying for three (3) seats that will become available on the Granite Falls Town Council in December. They are incumbents Jim Mackie, Mike Mackie, and Tracy Townsend with newcomers Jamie Hagerty, Mario Mastroeli, Doug Dupell, and Brandon Dupell. Eligible voters who want to vote before normal Election Day (November 6) may go to the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on weekdays between October 19 and November 3 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or on Saturday, November 4 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Hours on November 6 are 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. For more information about the election, go to the website - www.caldwellcountync.org.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWS ***Meet the Candidates***

The Granite Falls Historical Association will host a Meet and Greet for town council candidates at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum on Saturday, October 7, 2023 beginning at 2:30 p.m. Candidates (or their representatives, if they are not able to attend in person) will speak for five minutes each, telling why they want to run for office and what they plan to do. A question and answer session will follow the prepared speeches. Persons wishing to attend the Meet and Greet should RSVP to Linda Crowder by text to 828-496-2835 or by email to ldrcrowder@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting

The Granite Falls Historical Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 beginning at 6:30 p. m. in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. Following a brief business session, local author Sherrie Hartsoe Sigmon and Rhodhiss Town Manager Rick Justice will present a program about Sherrie's book, *Weaving the Heart Threads of a Mill Village: Rhodhiss, North Carolina*. The public is invited to attend.

Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C. Catching Up

Editor's Note: While I try to keep up with the news in Granite Falls, I realized recently that I had missed three (3) stories from nearby towns that affect local residents, so I'm playing catch up in this article.

On January 27, 2023, the *News-Topic* in Lenoir announced that it would transition from a five day per week printed paper to three days per week - Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday - effective Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Publisher Lori Spurling promised to provide the "same level of local news." She noted that they were simply "repackaging how we deliver the news and advertising." Their website would be updated daily so subscribers could access news seven days a week. By eliminating delivery on two days, the company would save printing and distribution costs and allow them to avoid "substantial price increases." (source: internet copy of a news article written by "News-Topic STAFF" and dated January 27, 2023)

In a news article on May 3, 2023, the Lenoir paper announced that the owners had listed the *News-Topic* building located at 123 Pennton Avenue in Lenoir for sale because they no longer needed the space to operate. They planned to relocate to more suitable facilities within the county. Paxton Media Group (PMG), who purchased the *News-Topic* in 1995, had been consolidating and streamlining its operations resulting in a reduction of staff over the years. In the past, PMG printed numerous newspapers at 123 Pennton Avenue, but moved the printing to High Point in 2015. At some point, composing and layout moved to Kentucky. Prior to the downsizing, there were approximately 75 employees working in Lenoir in a 10,000 square foot building located on a one acre lot.

The *Hickory Daily Record*, which published seven days per week, announced on June 4, 2023, that it would also reduce its print editions to three days per week (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday) effective July 11, 2023. Whereas the *News-Topic* simply updated it website on days they didn't publish a paper, the *Hickory Daily Record* continued to publish an online version of the paper seven days per week and sent an email to subscribers with a link to the digital version. In addition, they switched from having independent carriers deliver the newspapers to having the papers delivered by the U. S. Mail. (source: *Hickory Daily Record*)

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM *Openings for Volunteers*

The Granite Falls History Committee is accepting applications from persons willing to welcome visitors to the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m. Volunteers serve one two-hour shift per quarter. Duties include opening and closing the museum, assisting visitors, and answering questions. A committee member will provide training for a minimum of two sessions and will be on-call as needed. In addition, there is guide book with basic information about the museum and the history of Granite Falls. Please call the town office at (828) 396-3131 if interested in volunteering. The committee would also like to have enough volunteers to reopen on Saturdays.

Scenes from Festival on Main September 16, 2023





Left to right: Ed Whitener; Dr. Wayne Hollar, Jr.; Joe Gibbons; and Gifford Poe who nominated Gary Poe (photo by Libby Brown)

CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS Hall of Honor

Caldwell County Schools inducted four (4) new members into the Hall of Honor on Monday, September 25, 2023 at the J. E Broyhill Center in Lenoir.

Joseph "Joe" Gibbons graduated from Lenoir High School in 1970 and from Appalachian State University in 1974. After finishing school, he joined his family at Gibbons Electric Company. He has been the Mayor of Lenoir since 2011. Gibbons has won numerous awards for church work, athletics, and community service.

Dr. Wayne Hollar, Jr. graduated from South Caldwell High School in 1982, from Caldwell Community College in 1984, from Appalachian State University in 1986, and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry in 1993. After earning his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree, he set up practice in Lenoir. He is very active in professional activities, the community, his church, and the Boy Scouts.

R. Edgar "Ed" Whitener graduated from Lenoir High School in 1967 and from Appalachian State University in 1971. He began a career in education that led him to William Lenoir Middle School in 1979 where he built "a legacy of musical excellence." In addition to his career accomplishments, Whitener has been active at church and in the community.

Gary Dean Poe graduated from Granite Falls High School in 1962 and from Appalachian State University in 1966. After graduating, Poe began a 30 year career teaching high school science in Ashe County. He hosted an ole timey music show on radio, worked to preserve the history of Ashe County, and received recognition for his volunteer work. Poe passed away in 2021, so David Poe, one of his cousins, accepted the award on his behalf.



HAPPY 120TH BIRTHDAY! Town of Rhodhiss, N. C.

The Town of Rhodhiss celebrated its 120th Birthday on Saturday, September 23, 2023 between noon and 6 p.m. at the town hall, located on the former site of Rhodhiss Elementary School. The three (3) top photos were made by Barbara Ross, and the bottom picture was made by Linda Crowder.



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.

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."