



## MAKING HISTORY COVID-19

Although COVID-19 cases saw a downward trend into the spring and early summer, they started climbing shortly after the Fourth of July. News casts reported that the new cases were primarily caused by the new Delta variant and usually involved persons who were not vaccinated. Although the number of cases increased, Governor Roy Cooper announced on Thursday, July 22, 2021, that he planned to allow the mask mandate to lapse on July 30, 2021. He noted, however, that he would retain the emergency powers he assumed in March 2020.

He also recommended, but did not require, that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask in schools serving grades K-8. On the previous day, he and Dr. Mandy Cohen, the NC Secretary of Health and Human Services, released an updated toolkit for schools calling for universal masks in K-8 and masks for all other grades unless completely vaccinated. The governor said he would allow local school districts to make their own decisions about masks.

On Thursday, July 29th, Gov. Cooper and Dr. Cohen held another news conference to address the continuing increase in COVID-19 cases. While the governor said he would still allow the mask mandate to lapse on July 30th at 5 p.m., he ordered that all employees in the governor's office and in cabinet agencies be vaccinated or wear masks and undergo weekly testing for COVID-19. He encouraged other employers to do the same. He also urged vaccinated persons to wear masks indoors in areas where the

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)

## TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS NEWS *Changes at the Police Department*

On July 1, 2021, Caldwell County dispatchers began answering routine phone calls for the Granite Falls Police Department on the weekends and between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. on weekdays. There will be a dispatcher on site in Granite Falls Monday - Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to assist with needs that must be handled at the police department. Phone calls about problems with utilities should be made to the town office, which is now being monitored 24/7. Setting up the 24/7 phone number and contracting dispatching services to the county frees up funds to put more police officers out in the community and on patrol. Here are the numbers to call:

**True Police/Fire/Medical Emergencies: 911**  
**Regular Police Calls M-F (8 am-5 pm): (828) 396-3358**  
**Regular Police Calls after hours: (828) 758-2324**  
**24/7 Utility Outages/Repairs: (828) 396-3131**

## GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION *Back to Business*

The Granite Falls Historical Association will hold a meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Granite Falls Historical and Transportation Museum. Linda Crowder, who has continued to perform the duties as president although her term ended on October 31, 2020, has called the meeting in order to resume the business of the Association. Members will select persons to run for office, plan an Annual Meeting to be held in October, and discuss other business and possible projects to pursue. In addition, members of the Board will report on the work they have done over the past year since the group ceased to be active. Refreshments will be served. The Association is accepting new members, and the meeting is open to the public. Call Linda at (828) 396-1066 if you have any questions.



virus is surging.

Caldwell County Schools: The Board of Education held a special called meeting on Monday, July 26, 2021 to discuss back to school plans. Members voted unanimously to make wearing masks optional for both students and staff, but reserved the right to make changes as need. Dr. Don Phipps, the school superintendent, noted that he intended to work with local health officials to ensure the system followed the best practices for our area.

When school begins in Caldwell County on August 23rd, students will return to the regular five day per week schedule (Monday - Friday). There will be no general temperature checks or COVID questionnaires. However, persons should not be at school if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Schools will continue to follow cleaning, social distancing, and quarantine protocols.

The Work of the Town: Despite the pandemic, local officials, town residents, and persons living within the ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction) have worked long hours during the past year with Western Piedmont Council of Governments to study the town and the people living here in order to make recommendations for potential economic development, transportation, land use, and other needs that will arise in the future. They presented their findings during a drop by public meeting held at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 between 4 and 6:30 p.m. During the event, WPCOG representatives

and town officials presented a vision of the town's future and answered questions. To learn more about the plans, call the town office at (828) 396-3131.

### **DO YOU PAINT, DRAW, OR SKETCH? Show Off Your Work at the Museum**

The Granite Falls History Committee is seeking local artists to exhibit paintings, drawings, and/or sketches at the museum during the months of November and December 2021. Due to space constraints, art work must be on canvass, paper, or other lightweight media that can be hung from pegboard display stands. Work must be original, and each artist must give permission to exhibit. The committee is announcing the show in advance in order to give artists time to create new work or to finish something they have already started. Members will announce dates and times for receiving the art work at the museum closer to the event. For more information, call Linda Crowder at (828) 396-1066 or email her at lrdrcrowder@gmail.com.

### **On Exhibit Now at the Museum**

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum is currently featuring Shuford Mills memorabilia, an exhibit postponed from 2020, which would have been the company's 140th Anniversary. Among the items is an extensive collection of the company's newsletter, *The Yarn Spinner*. Not only do the papers show the history of the company, but they also contain valuable genealogical information in the form of birth, wedding, and graduation announcements. The museum is open on Sundays (except holiday weekends) from 2 until 4 p.m.

## **GRANITE FALLS GARDEN CLUB Garden and Yard of the Month**



The Granite Falls Garden Club selected the garden of Gregory Morrison (shown above) of 88 Duke Street as the July Garden of the Month. Gregory has lived in Granite Falls for 20 years, and he gardens in his spare time. He has been working at CommScope for 37 years and plans to do more gardening after he retires. Sherry McGill presented the award to him.



Martha Muse and Debby Storie presented the Garden Club's July Yard of the Month Award to the home of Kelly Taylor and Amanda Pritchard at 14 West Highland Avenue. Their yard features begonias, hydrangeas, Hosta, petunias, and impatiens. They also have a small vegetable garden with tomatoes, squash, and herbs. (photos courtesy of the Garden Club)

**TO THEE, O GRANITE HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Thy Praises We'll Ever Sing*

Persons wishing to have a piece of history can pick up a brick from the 1950 building (aka junior high school) in front of the middle school along North Main Parallel on the right of the new driveway (see photo at the right bottom of this page) while they last. While it is sad to see this building gone, it is exciting to see the new one being readied to accept students on August 23rd. Meanwhile, renovations are continuing on the 1935 building and the 1948 gym. These buildings will be updated to meet stricter building codes and to take advantage of modern technology. To complete the campus, there will be a multipurpose field on the corner of North Main Street Parallel and Park Avenue, and the modern addition to the junior high building will become a field house. Although the buildings from 1902, 1922, and 1950 are gone, we are continuing their legacy of providing the best learning environment for our youth, who will make their own memories and sing praises about their own school.

**WE'LL HOLD THY STANDARDS THROUGHOUT LIFE**  
*And Keep Thy Honor Clean*

The Granite Falls Historical Association is still seeking photos that show the history of Schoolhouse Hill (the former site of Granite Falls High School and the current site of Granite Falls Middle School) from 1902 until the present along with photos of the school on Falls Avenue that show grades 6 and up. If you have photos from this time period (other than high school yearbooks, which we already have), please contact the editor of this newsletter, Linda Crowder, at (828) 396-1066 or lrdrcrowder@gmail.com. She can scan and return photos.

**OH MOTHER OF OUR LEARNING**  
*Long May Thy Presence Be*



# GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ON JULY 4, 2021

*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.

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