

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GRANITE FALLS *Open House at the Museum*

The Granite Falls History Committee celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the Town of Granite Falls on Saturday, July 6, 2024 with an open house at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum from 4 until 6 p.m. Attendees enjoyed guided tours, cookies, and lemonade.

The photo on the right shows Gifford and Peggy Poe enjoying lemonade and cookies during the open house.



FESTIVAL ON MAIN *Make Plans for September 21*

The Granite Falls Merchants Association has announced plans for the 14th Annual Festival on Main to be held Saturday, September 21, 2024, between 2 and 8 p.m. downtown Granite Falls. The festival provides fun for the whole family. The event will feature a variety of vendors, activities for children, and entertainment by Chris Taylor and the Rumor (photo lower left).

Vendors wishing to participate should submit applications (found on the Town of Granite Falls website) with the appropriate fees by August 31. A \$20.00 late charge applies beginning September 1. The Association allows non-profits to have one free spot at the festival. Food vendors must meet regulations set by the Caldwell County Health Department. Additional information may be found on the town's website: www.granitefallsnc.com/vendor. The photos on the left are scenes from the 2023 Festival. The one on top shows children putting out a "fire," and the one below features Chris Taylor and the Rumor.



NEWS FROM THE HISTORY COMMITTEE *Outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest*

Each year, the Town of Granite Falls and its residents put on beautiful displays of Christmas cheer as noted by the photo on the right that was made at Festival on the Square in 2023. This year, the Granite Falls History Committee would like to challenge local residents to create outdoor Christmas displays that honor the 125th Anniversary of the town being incorporated. The goal is to celebrate and honor the town's rich history. Here are some ideas that would fit the theme: using school colors (blue and gold) and/or the school mascot (Blue

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(OUTDOOR DECORATING CONTEST
continued from page 1)

Demons), creating a waterfall, paying homage to Shuford Mills, remembering historical events, and recognizing people from Granite Falls who have made history. The Committee will announce specific rules in the near future (neighborhoods

beyond the city limits to be included, prizes, identify of judges, how to enter, etc.). They hope this early article will give people time to get ideas and purchase supplies.

Family Treasures

The Granite Falls History Committee has begun saving genealogies, newspaper clippings and other papers that contain information about local families such as births, deaths, weddings, graduations, job promotions, awards, photos of families and their homes, etc. in a dedicated file located on the first floor of the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The goal is to provide a "go to" treasure trove for genealogists, historians, and others seeking information for various needs. The file will also preserve historical documents, allowing future generations to see the styles and culture of various time periods.

Just before his death a few years ago, Wayne Bud Moore, a former resident of Granite Falls, donated over seventy genealogies he had meticulously researched to the museum. Last year, Eddie Sipes gave his collection of newspaper clippings, photos, and other documents to the Granite Falls Historical Association. Earlier this year, Sam Erby donated copies of *The Granite Falls Press*, which contain news about local government, businesses, civic clubs, schools, and families.

The museum recently acquired additional filing cabinets, and committee members hope to expand the collection. They urge people going through old papers related to the Granite Falls area and consider donating them to the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. Once destroyed, they are gone forever.

Family Stories and Oral Histories

The Granite Falls Historical Association is assisting with the collection by soliciting family stories and oral histories to be preserved in a choice of three formats - audio, video, or printed. Anyone is welcome to share stories about people, places, and/or events related to our area - Dudley Shoals, Grace Chapel, Granite Falls, Northlakes, Rhodhiss, and Sawmills. To arrange an interview, contact Linda Crowder by text to (828) 496-2835 or by email to lrdrcrowder@gmail.com. Unless otherwise requested, interviews will take place at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum.

Help Wanted

In order to keep the museum open on a regular schedule, the Town of Granite Falls needs volunteers to open/close the facilities and to be available to assist visitors. The museum is only open on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m., except on holiday weekends, but we could open on Saturdays with enough help. Guides are normally assigned one two-hour shift per quarter, but they can make arrangements to work more or less. Volunteers receive on the job training with an experienced guide for one or two sessions plus a resource manual with basic information about the history of Granite Falls and some of the items on exhibit. Persons interested in serving as guides at the museum should call the town office at (828) 396-3131.

Please note: Last minute emergencies may mean, no one is available to open the museum when scheduled. Please feel free to call the museum at (828) 396-2792 to make sure someone is there before you go. Also, some members of the History Committee are available through the week to provide tours. To request an appointment, call the town office at the number listed in the previous paragraph.

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION Important Business Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. will hold a meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at approximately 3 p.m. or immediately following a meeting of the History Committee at 2 p.m. Trustees will begin making plans for the Annual Meeting in October, which involves reviewing proposed changes to the by-laws and nominating officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting. Linda Crowder, President of the Association, will update attendees on plans to complete *Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina*. She urges all members to attend and participate in the work of the Association. Guests are welcome. Please let her know if you plan to attend. Her contact information is at the bottom of page 4.

WEATHER UPDATE From Too Little to Too Much

Last month's newsletter noted the lack of rain in June 2024. One local resident recorded a total of .65 of an inch that month. His records for July show 4.95 inches. He went from having to water the garden several times a week to mowing when the sun came out long enough to dry off the grass. These are not official weather records, but they show the difference between the two months.

North Carolina Department of Transportation Projects Update on North Highland Avenue

On October 4, 2018, the North Carolina Department of Transportation held a public hearing in the Granite Falls Town Council Chambers to inform local residents about “SR 1109 (Pinewood Rd) from SR 1252 (Bert Huffman Rd) to US 321. Since the description does not mention North Highland Avenue, some residents of that street were shocked to learn the state would be taking part of their land to make a right turn lane onto Pinewood Road. The DOT also planned to widen Pinewood Road and build a roundabout where the road intersects with Bert Huffman Road. Surveying began in December 2018, but the stakes fell down. Law firms sent ads to affected residents hoping to negotiate right of way purchases. Right of way agents closed most deals in 2022 and 2023. Surveyors returned on February 13, 2024, and a contractor tore down the hundred year old house on the corner of North Highland and Pinewood a few days later on February 19. Photos of the house being torn down appear in the February 2024 issue of *The Granite Tablet*, and the photos below document other work that took place in 2024.



Surveyor returned on February 13 and put the stakes back up.



The photo above shows a residence on North Highland Avenue on March 17 with stakes in place. Note the trees in the front yard.



On April 16, workers from Asplundh began cutting down trees shown in the photo above right to make room for the right turn lane.



By April 22, Asplundh had finished their work. They left giant pieces of the trunks for the homeowners to chop up for firewood.



In April, contractors began setting up new utility posts on both streets to allow for widening of the roads. This photo was made April 18, 2024



On June 3, contractors began moving wires from the old poles to the new.



Above: Before Photo

Granite Falls on Monday morning and began tearing down her front porch and steps. They were able to replace the porch floor and posts in the allotted time, but heavy rains and unforeseen problems prevented them from completing the porch in their allotted time, so a team from Backyard Fellowship in Charlotte finished up on Friday. Foothills Service Project, in Rutherford College, assisted with the rebuilding of the porch by providing the plans and building supplies.

For more information about Carolina Cross Connection and Foothills Service Project, check out their respective websites: www.carolinacrossconnection.org and www.foothillsserviceproject.org

PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTION “Love thy Neighbor”

On July 15, 2024, a residence in Granite Falls became a camp site for Carolina Cross Connection, a non-profit organization with a double mission - to provide a great learning experience for youth and their leaders while helping them connect to real people who can use their help. In addition to worship, team building, and fun activities, their campers assist with home projects- minor construction (wheelchair ramps, porches, steps/handrails), minor exterior painting, and yard work for people in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, portions of Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Dare, Gaston, Lincoln, portions of Mitchell, Watauga, and Wilkes. The home in Granite Falls needed a new porch.

Campers began their week on Sunday afternoon, July 14, with orientation and team building to prepare them for their assignments. A youth group from Milford Hills United Methodist Church in Salisbury arrived at the home of Shirley Richards in



Above: The team from Milford Hills United Methodist Church before they left on Thursday



GRANITE FALLS GARDEN CLUB *Yard of the Month for July*

The Granite Falls Garden Club recognized Tammy Ray's home (photo on the left) at 4 Daniel Circle with the Yard of the Month award in July. Her backyard showcases an impressive collection of perennials, including Knock Out Roses, Blue Purple Delphinium, Bee Balm, Hydrangea, and many more beautiful plants. Additionally, she has expanded her gardening efforts to her neighbor's yard by planting rose bushes. Her neighbor nominated Tammy for the Award, and Sherry McGill made the presentation.

(photo and story courtesy Granite Falls Garden Club)



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."