

MAKING HISTORY COVID-19

Governor Roy Cooper had originally planned to lift mask mandates after 2/3 of the adults in the state became vaccinated, but the CDC announced on May 13, 2021 that persons who have been fully vaccinated no longer needed to wear masks except where required by law or regulations. On May 14th, Governor Cooper announced he was lifting the mask mandate, effective immediately, except in schools, childcare, transportation, healthcare, and certain congregate settings such as homeless shelters and detention facilities. He asked people to voluntarily wear masks if they had not been vaccinated. Businesses could still enforce mask rules, if they wished. The order became effective the same day at 1:30 p.m.

In the same order, the governor also lifted the capacity limits and social distancing requirements for most businesses. However, he recommended that people wear face masks while in venues that seat more than 5,000 people.

On May 21st, with Executive Order #216, Cooper reinstated work search requirements for persons filing unemployment. These requirements had been suspended after businesses were forced to lay off people due to the shutdown orders in 2020.

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Returns after COVID Shutdown

National Day of Prayer events were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID, but they returned in 2021. See page 3 for photos and details.



Looking South on S. Main Street



REOPENING PLANS Sundays Beginning July 11, 2021

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Granite Falls History Committee plans to reopen the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum on Sundays beginning July 11, 2021 between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. The first special display will feature Shuford Mills memorabilia, including copies of "Yarn Spinners," the company's newsletters. These papers not only document the history of an important local industry, but they contain valuable genealogical information such as birth, graduation, and wedding announcements. The museum had originally planned to hold the exhibit in 2020 in order to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the founding of Shuford Mills.

In order to keep the museum open on a regular schedule, the committee is seeking volunteers to open/close the museum and assist guests. Reopening on Saturdays depends upon having enough volunteers to allow them to work no more than one two-hour shift each quarter. A committee member will train new recruits. If you are interested in helping at the museum, please call the town office at (828) 396-3131. Persons may also call the same number to schedule a private tour.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT from Mayor Barry Hayes

Granite Falls Mayor Barry Hayes announced in May that he does not intend to seek re-election in 2021. He will retire at the end of his term with 38 years of service to the town. Hayes joined the Town Council in 1983. After serving for 14 years, Hayes ran for Mayor at the urging of Mayor Bert Huffman who decided to retire at end of his term in 1997. Voters will choose his successor during the municipal election in November. The Granite Falls Historical Association appreciates Mayor Hayes for his service to the town and his work with the museum.

Rescheduling Postponed Events: Caldwell County Schools has rescheduled the 2020 Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony, which was postponed due to COVID-19 protocols. They now plan to hold the event on Monday, October 18, 2021 in the Civic Center. The Hall of Honor Committee plans to honor 2021 inductees at the same event and will accept nominations through July 30, 2021. Call the school system for more information.

Schools: Caldwell County Schools announced on May 26th that the NC Summer Nutrition Program and the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) would enable the system to continue to provide free meals to children 18 years and younger at no cost through June 30, 2022. Meal pick up during the summer will be at the three high schools on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Recreation: The Parks and Recreation Department continues to operate under COVID-19 protocols. Softball, coach pitch/tee ball, and baseball games are scheduled into the first part of June with volleyball registration set to take place between June 7 and July 6th. The rec department also held signups for the swim team on May 8th and 15th. Persons interested in the team may check out their website www.granitefallssharks.com.

Town Government: The town office reopened to the public on Monday, May 3, 2021 for the purpose of purchasing cemetery plots and setting up new utility accounts. Other business has to be conducted by phone, at the drive thru, or on the website. Persons entering the office have to follow COVID protocols.



GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL *Change of Plans*

Due to construction delays, students were not able to move into the new Granite Falls Middle School building this school year as hoped so parents/guardians continued to pick up students as shown above along the North Main Street Parallel. The last day of school for this year is Friday, May 28th.

Caldwell County Public Library *Southern Branch*

The Southern Branch of the Caldwell County Public Library plans to reopen at its new location, 63 North Main Street (the former home of Flick Video), on Friday, June 4, 2021.



GAS SHORTAGE *Long Lines and Empty Pumps*

On May 7, 2021, hackers broke into the computer system at Colonial Pipeline and demanded approximately \$5 million. The company shut down the pipeline. Early the next week, long lines formed at gas stations that still had gas, and bags were placed over nozzles of empty pumps. The company reportedly paid the ransom in bitcoin within hours. However, the system was slow to return to normal. This writer was able to purchase gas on May 9th without a problem, but she saw long lines and closed pumps just two days later on May 11th. She made the above photo at Speedway on Hwy 321 in Granite Falls on May 13th. The problem was made worse by people who hoarded the gas. There were even reports of people putting gas into plastic bags, and one fight broke out near Raleigh when a woman cut a car off trying to get in line. The shortage, which affected people all up the eastern coast, gradually improved, but prices rose locally from \$2.65 to \$2.89 per gallon.

NCDOT LITTER SWEEP *Granite Falls Litter Clean-Up Day*

On Thursday, April 15th, 23 Town of Granite employees, 11 staff members from Hickory Falls, and 6 NC DOT employees picked up trash as a part of the Town's Litter Clean-Up Day, which was held in conjunction with the NC DOT Spring 2021 Litter Sweep event. 40 people picked up 103 bags of litter. A second event was held on Saturday, April 17th. Seventeen volunteers from F3 Nation (Fitness/Fellowship/Faith) and SCHS Interact Club picked up an additional 10 bags at Lakeside Park. A total of 57 people picked up 113 bags. The Town of Granite Falls plans to make the event bi-annual by hosting another Clean-Up Day in the fall.



Jay Worsley



Casey Fenn



Tom McDonald



Josh Farmer



Matt Bartlett



Stephen Owen



Rob Evans



Chris Neaveill

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER May 6, 2021

People in Granite Falls observed National Day of Prayer at noon on May 6, 2021 on the front lawn of the First Baptist Church on Crestview Street. Jay Worsley, Pastor of First Baptist, coordinated the event and served as moderator. He also prayed for government on all levels. Casey Fenn, Pastor of Rock Chapel Church of God, prayed for families. Tom McDonald, Pastor of Concord Baptist Church, prayed for churches. Josh Farmer, Associate Pastor at First Baptist, prayed for workplaces. Matt Bartlett, Pastor of Worship at Living Hope Church, sang "Goodness of God" and led the audience in singing "How Great is Our God." He accompanied himself on the guitar. Stephen Owen, Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, prayed for education. Rob Evans, Pastor of Dry Ponds Baptist Church, prayed for the military. Christ Neaveill, Associate Pastor at Mount Zion, prayed for arts, media, and entertainment. The 2021 theme for the annual observance was "Lord, pour out your Love, Life, and Liberty" based upon II Corinthians 3:17. Sponsored by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, the day has been observed annually since 1952.

Linda Crowder, President of the Granite Falls Historical Association, made a DVD of the event, placed a copy in the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum, and posted the video on the museum Facebook page. The above photos were taken from the video.

OH MOTHER OF OUR LEARNING Long May Thy Presence Be

The Granite Falls Historical Association is still seeking photos that show life on Schoolhouse Hill, the former site of Granite Falls High School and the current site of Granite Falls Middle School, in order to create an exhibit that will both inspire and educate young people. They already have photos from the high school yearbooks, but they are lacking photos made prior to 1947 (date of first yearbook) as well as photos since the school became a middle school. If you have photos from this time period, including GFMS annuals, please contact the editor of this newsletter, Linda Crowder, at (828) 396-1066 or Irdcrowder@gmail.com. She can scan and return photos.

GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ON MAY 2, 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.

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 History and Transportation Museum."