



BACK TO SCHOOL *Dining with the Demons*

The 2023 Dining with the Demons was held on May 6 at the Granite Falls Middle School, which was once home to Granite Falls High School. Jeanne Whisnant greeted over 200 Blue Demons and guests, who had assembled in the auditorium. She asked for volunteers to help plan the 2024 DWTD. In addition, Jeanne advised attendees to watch for announcements about special events promoting the town's 125th anniversary on May 1, 2024.

Principal Chris Ackerman welcomed attendees, noted the changes made to the historic facilities, and talked about work yet to be done. In the near future, the main entrance will feature a history wall with photos depicting the history of the school and student life. He also hopes to add restrooms for outdoor events to replace portable toilets being used now. In addition, the school needs a new sign.

(DWTD continued on page 2)



Left to Right: Bolick, Knight, T. Townsend, Church, Burns, Kirby, M. Mackie, M.D. Townsend, and J. Mackie

HISTORY IN THE MAKING *Celebrating a Quasquicentennial*

On May 24, 2023, the Granite Falls Town Council passed a resolution recognizing the upcoming 125th anniversary of the Town of Granite Falls. While the actual date is next year, we entered our 125th year on May 1, 2023.

The following persons signed the resolution: Mayor Caryl B. Burns, Town Manager Jerry T. Church, Town Clerk Paula M. Kirby, and Council Members Tracy Townsend (Mayor Pro-Tem), Larry Knight, Mike Mackie, Ritch Bolick, Jim Mackie, and Martin D. Townsend. The resolution is on page 3 of this newsletter.

ART IN THE PARK *Rescheduled for June 5*

Due to rainy weather on May 15, officials decided to reschedule Art in the Park. Weather permitting, Fox and Company Band will perform on Monday, June 5, 2023 in Field #2 at the Granite Falls Recreation Center on Pinewood Road beginning at 6:00 p.m. Fox and Company is a six-piece dance band that plays a variety of hits suitable for the whole family.

Take your dancing shoes and a comfortable outdoor chair. Anywhere'z Fine food truck will be on site to sell food and drink.

This project receives support from the Town of Granite Falls, the Caldwell Arts Council, and the North Carolina Arts Council, which is an agency of the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources.





(DWTD continued from page 1)

Mr. Ackerman invited alumni to hold future DWTD events at the school and requested support for two special projects. The first one involves making tax deductible donations to replace outdated computers and to improve learning through new technology. Persons interested in helping should send checks to the Education Foundation of Caldwell County, 1914 Hickory Blvd. SW, Lenoir, NC 28645 with "Granite Falls Middle School Technology Fund" written in the memo line.

The second project is building a brick driveway in front of the old high school building for a fire lane. The fire code required workers to lay eight inches of gravel in the area to stabilize the ground for firefighting equipment, and grass will not grow there. To raise money for this project, the PTA has begun selling engraved bricks for \$100 a piece. Persons wishing to buy bricks should make checks payable to GFMS PTA and send them to the school or pay via Venmo @Granite-Middle. They also need to include information to be put on the brick.

After the welcome, one group of Blue Demons went to the new cafeteria for a BBQ lunch prepared by David "Cloudy" Williams while the other went on a tour of the schools. The Granite Falls Middle School Beta Club and Student Council helped in the cafeteria and served as tour guides. Adult volunteers and paid staff were also on hand to assist with the event. Members of the Child Nutrition Department (or, as we lovingly called them, "lunchroom ladies") helped Cloudy serve the meal.

Nancy Reece Martin, Vicky Sherrill, Carolyn Whisnant, and Jeanne Whisnant worked with Mr. Ackerman to plan the 2023 DWTD. If anyone is interested in helping to organize the 2024 DWTD, please contact Jeanne Whisnant at (828) 320-3725.

Persons wishing to have the name of a veteran inscribed on the Veterans Monument this year must submit an application to the town by July 31, 2023. Names received after that date will be recognized in 2024. For more information, check out the town's website - www.granitefallsncc.com/veterans.

SPECIAL COVID UPDATE Public Health Emergency Ended

Recordkeeping: When the COVID-10 Public Health Emergency officially ended on Thursday, May 11, 2023, the requirements for data collection changed, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) no longer had access to certain records. Instead of reporting the community level by county, the agency began posting hospitalization admission levels on its website. The following reports were also discontinued: case numbers, death counts, test positivity data, and the V-safe tracking system that monitored adverse reactions to the vaccine. The final update to the county tracker was May 11, 2023.

Going forward, deaths will be measured in a similar fashion to other diseases - by reporting the percentage of COVID-19 associated deaths each week. Adverse reactions to the vaccine may be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), which collects data about all vaccines. The website is vaers.hhs.gov. The email address is info@VAERS.org, and the telephone number is 1-800-822-7967.

Medicare: On Friday, May 5, 2023, Medicare announced that it would continue to cover COVID-19 vaccines at no cost and that COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests would be covered when ordered by a doctor. Medicare also plans to cover expanded telehealth services through December 31, 2024. However, Medicare will no longer pay for over-the-counter COVID-19 tests.

Local: Caldwell County remained low risk through the last report on May 11.

CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS Hall of Honor Nominations Due July 1

The deadline for submitting nominations for the Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor is July 1, 2023. The award recognizes a graduates from Caldwell County high schools "who have made significant contributions to their profession and/or community and who have maintained exemplary character throughout their experiences and careers beyond high school." Exceptions may be made for persons who graduated from the NC School of Mathematics, the NC School for the Arts, or a post-secondary institution of higher learning after leaving a Caldwell County high school. The HOH Selection Committee inducts up to five (5) candidates each year. Nominations are active for five (5) years and may be renewed. For more information, consult the school system's website (www.caldwellschools.com), and/or call the Community Services Department at (828) 728-8407.

**Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C.
1962 - 1979**

From *Etched in Granite, the History of Granite Falls, North Carolina* by Maxine McCall

- In November 1963, voters approved the establishment of an ABC store in Granite Falls with part of the profits going to local schools. The ABC Board met in January 1964, and the store opened on Hwy 321 in March 1964.
- On May 18, 1964, the town adopted its first Fire Prevention Code.
- In 1966, the fire department moved into a new 5,000 square foot facility at 119 North Main Street. The town met the needs of the police department by renovating the space left vacant by the fire department. The photo below shows the fire department on May 12, 2023.



- In 1967, the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration awarded the town \$64,500 for a new sewage disposal plant. In June 1968. The town sold \$130,000 of Series B Sewer Bonds to cover the remaining costs. The building site was below the falls on Gunpowder Creek.
- In 1969, the Town of Granite Falls joined Electricities of North Carolina, a coalition of municipalities that supply power. This collaboration keeps costs down, provides mutual assistance during disasters, keeps up with regulations, etc.
- In 1971, the Town of Granite Falls became a council/manager form of government. Charles Poovey became the first town manager on December 6, 1971.
- In 1973, the town amended its charter to change the terms for council members and mayors to four year terms. Elections for council would be held every two years to allow for staggered terms.
- In 1979, the town began a ten year plan to expand and upgrade the wastewater treatment plant. The first step was to seek federal and state grants. The town began accepting bids in 1985 and 1986 with construction in 1987. The final report was accepted on December 19, 1988.



**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF
GRANITE FALLS**

WHEREAS on March 6, 1899, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation designating the incorporation of the Town of Granite Falls, effective the first Monday of May in 1899, provided that a majority of qualified voters approved a referendum to be held on that date, and

WHEREAS the legislation also provided for the election of a Mayor and three Council members on the same day if the referendum passed, and

WHEREAS on May 1, 1899, the referendum passed with a vote of 38 to 6, and

WHEREAS on May 1, 1899, the voters chose Rufus E. Hefner to serve a one-year term as Mayor, and

WHEREAS on the same day, voters chose James A. Houck, Henry C. Mackie, and Dr. Atlas D. Jones to serve one-year terms as members of the Town Council, and

WHEREAS on May 1, 2023, the Town of Granite Falls began its 125th year as an incorporated municipality and will be 125 years old on May 1, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Granite Falls Town Council shall recognize the town's 125th anniversary by celebrating the Town's heritage and achievements in suitable ways and by encouraging individuals, businesses, schools, civic clubs, churches, and other organizations to incorporate the 125th year anniversary in their special events. The Granite Falls Town Council hereby officially issues and adopts this resolution this 24th day of May 2023.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
“Pray Fervently in Righteousness and Avail Much.” James 5:16b NKJV

The First Baptist Church of Granite Falls hosted the Annual National Day of Prayer observance on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at noon on the front lawn located at 12 Crestview Street. Sponsored by the Caldwell Baptist Association, Inc., the event reminds people to pray for families, churches, businesses, education, the military, and arts/media/entertainment. This year, local planners added missions to the topics. The theme “Pray Fervently in Righteousness and Avail Much” comes from James 5:16b NKJV which states, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Linda Crowder made a video of the service and posted it on Facebook under “Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum.” She put a DVD in the museum.



Dan Kiefer emceed the event and prayed for missions.



Andrew Wilson prayed for families.



Kyle Lloyd prayed for churches.



John Lewis prayed for business.



Andy Puhl prayed for education.



Jimmy Preachers prayed for the military.



Marc Church prayed for government.



Casey Fenn prayed for arts, media, and entertainment.



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.”