



The Granite Tablet



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April 2024

WELCOME TO GRANITE FALLS

Daniel P. Cobb

On April 15, 2024, Daniel P. Cobb became the eighth town manager to serve the Town of Granite Falls. Daniel was formally welcomed to the community during a reception held on Thursday, April 25 from 2 until 4 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers on South Main Street.

Among the special guests were representatives of Electricities, which supplies power to its members, including Granite Falls. Recently, Electricities sold its interests (150 megawatts) in the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2 resulting in a diversified energy resource portfolio and wholesale savings. In the photo on the right, Rick Vander Maas (left) is shown presenting a commemorative plaque to Daniel. With Rick and Daniel are Debbie Patterson and Janesha Hassaram of Electricities.



CELEBRATING OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL Happy 125th Birthday, Town of Granite Falls

The Granite Falls Historical Association will host a birthday party for the Town of Granite Falls on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 between 2 and 4 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers located at 4 South Main Street. Members will display vintage photos of the downtown business district and serve birthday cake and other refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend.

May 1, 1899 was the day that 38 men voted to incorporate the Town of Granite Falls with 6 men voting "no." An additional 18 men, who were registered to vote, did not cast a ballot. Women, of course, would not be

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GRANITE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL *Dining with the Demons*

Granite Falls High School alumni, teachers, and their guests will hold their annual reunion "Dining with the Demons" on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in the cafeteria at Granite Falls Middle School. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch to be held at noon. Attendees should use the main parking lot off West Highland Avenue and enter the double doors beneath the portico. Organizers will designate extra spaces for handicapped parking.

This year there is no need to meet in the auditorium and divide into shifts to eat. Different furnishings in the cafeteria will allow everyone to meet together. Electric outlets are available for persons wishing to use crock pots or other small appliances. Persons with special dietary needs are welcome to bring individual meals and

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Above photo taken during the 2023 DWTD



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eat with everyone else.

Prior to the meal, attendees will gather at the entrance to dedicate the History Wall which depicts education in Granite Falls from 1792 until 2022. Most of the photos are from GFHS annuals, and alumni will enjoy going down memory lane. They will also want to reference the timeline printed at the top of the wall and read the history of education in Granite Falls.

Alumni will also want to pay respect to classmates who are no longer with us. Angie Settlemire Reid, Teresa Teague Jackson, and Renae Kirby Winkler have been compiling memory boards with the names of alumni they could identify as being deceased. They used old annuals (1947 - 1977) and lists submitted by various classes. They will have a board for DWTD attendees to add names.

Although there is no charge to attend DWTD, organizers are asking attendees to contribute toward general expenses (supplies, liability insurance, etc.). These donations are **not** tax deductible, but still necessary so we can afford the reunion.

Organizers are also encouraging everyone to make donations that **are** tax deductible to the Education Foundation, Inc. of Caldwell County. Please designate the funds for Granite Falls Middle School Technology Fund. They will be used to replace outdated devices/software and to provide our students the technology they need for the future.

For more information about DWTD, contact Jeanne Whisnant at (828) 320-3725.

Invitation for the Class of 1956

Grace Kirby Mitchell invites all members of the class of 1956 to meet and eat (Dutch treat) at the Copper Penny in Rhodhiss on the third Thursday of each month at noon. For more information, please call her at 828-728-3108 (home) or 828-381-4599 (cell).

TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS *Reliable Public Power Provider*

Granite Falls, NC April 8, 2024—The Town of Granite Falls has earned a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)® designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service.

The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. The Town of Granite Falls joins more than 245 public power utilities nationwide that hold the RP3 designation.

“Receiving an RP3 designation is a great honor signifying a utility

has demonstrated commitment to industry best practices,” said Troy Adams, Chair of APPA’s RP3 Review Panel and General Manager at Manitowoc Public Utilities, Wisconsin. “And ultimately, the culture developed from this pursuit of excellence and continued improvement through the RP3 program results in measurable value delivered to the local community.”

“We couldn’t be prouder to be honored with this designation,” said Rick Sisk, Electric Services Director of the Town of Granite Falls. “This is the culmination of a lot of work from a lot of people who really care about powering our community. But this designation is not a final destination. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to improve our operations and service to our customers.”

UPLIFT NORTH CAROLINA *Promoting Tourism*

In order to help businesses, municipalities, non-profits, etc. attract tourists, the Western Region of UPLIFT North Carolina is offering marketing classes via Zoom on Mondays. The following classes have been scheduled:

- Monday, May 06: Crisis Communication
- Monday, May 13: Crafting Compelling Press Releases
- Monday, May 20: Building a Strong Brand Identify

They will have webinars on May 3rd and 17th to learn about applying for grants.

To learn how to connect with UPLIFT, call The Caldwell Chamber at 828-726-0616 or visit the UPLIFT website at www.uplifttourism.com.

ROAD TO BE WIDENED *North Highland Avenue*

New utility poles on North Highland Avenue and Pinewood Road mean road construction will soon start. Here a pole is being moved to make way for a right turn lane from North Highland Avenue onto Pinewood Road.



allowed to vote until the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18, 1920. In addition to voting for or against incorporation, the men marked their choices for mayor and commissioners. Rufus E. Hefner received 33 votes to become the first Mayor of Granite Falls. He didn't serve long. *Etched in Granite, the History of Granite Falls, North Carolina* shows that A. C. Sherrill served as mayor from 1899 until 1900 and that James A. Houck also served as mayor in 1900. Ephraim E. Cline, who received 6 votes in the first election, served as mayor from 1900 until 1903.

The following gentlemen became the first elected Commissioners for the Town of Granite Falls: Dr. A. D. Jones (29 votes), H. C. Mackie (26 votes), and James A. Houck (24 votes). The other candidates and their vote count were D. H. Warlick (23 votes) and James Hickman (15 votes).

The above information came from an article in the *Lenoir News* dated May 3, 1899, which was reprinted in *Etched in Granite*. The article also noted that following the election, voters gathered at Field's Store for a meeting. Several men made speeches, including R. L. Sigmon, R. E. Hefner, D. D. Crisp, and Chas. Sigmon.

The first official meeting of the Granite Falls Board of Commissioners was Saturday, June 3, 1899. The Town Council now meets on Mondays, and June 3, 2024 is a regular meeting night. The Council plans to commemorate the first meeting prior to its business session.

The town will also celebrate its birthday at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center (Pinewood Road) during Art in the Park on Monday, May 20 from 6 until 9 p.m. The featured artists, Fox and Company, will entertain the whole family.

The Granite Falls History Committee invites the public to an open house at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum on Saturday, July 6 from 4 until 6 p.m. Committee members will serve lemonade and cookies.

Other dates to remember are Saturday, September 21 (Festival on Main); Friday, November 8 (Veterans Day Ceremony); Monday, November 25 (Festival on the Square Christmas Tree Lighting); and Saturday, December 7 (Christmas Parade).

HELP KEEP OUR MUSEM OPEN Volunteers Wanted, Needed, and Appreciated

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum has openings for volunteers to open/close the museum and assist visitors as needed. Volunteers serve one two-hour shift per quarter. The museum is currently open on Sundays (except holiday weekends) from 2 until 4 p.m., but Saturday hours could be added if enough people volunteer.

A member of the Granite Falls History Committee will train volunteers, and each volunteer will receive a guidebook with instructions as well as a historical narrative that provides background information about the town and the museum. To volunteer, call the town office at (828) 396-3131.



GFHA President Linda Crowder (left) asked Matt Mackie of Mackie Furniture Company to update the store's history for *Dateline*.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS "You'll Go Down in History"

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. is asking local organizations to submit their stories so they can be included in *Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina*, the sequel to *Etched in Granite, the History of Granite Falls, North Carolina* which was published in 1999. Special events/milestones which have occurred since the publication of *Etched in Granite* will be included in the chronological section of *Dateline*. General information without dates will go in the oral history section.

The oral history section will also include special memories such as stories about people in Granite Falls and things that happened here. Business owners/managers may also write about changes in the products/services they have provided over the years and/or changes in the way they have done things. Club members can tell about fundraising efforts, charitable work, and funny thing that happened during their meetings or activities. Churches can tell about building projects, mission trips, and other special events. Individuals may also submit memories about businesses, clubs, churches, and their families.

Please remember that today's current event is tomorrow's history. Record it while you can remember it, and preserve it for the future. Your story is important!

The deadline for submitting articles for *Dateline* is Friday, May 31. For more information, call Linda Crowder at 828-496-2835. Her email address is Irdrcrowder@gmail.com. She hopes to publish *Dateline* in August or September.

GRANITE FALLS GARDEN CLUB
Beautifying Granite Falls Since 1940



Above: Yard of the Month for April
 Granite Falls Garden Club awarded Sally Perry the Yard of the Month for April to recognize her picturesque home located on the corner of Falls Avenue and Chestnut Street. The beautiful landscaping featured her vibrant roses and Crepe Myrtles in full bloom this summer.

Left: Celebrating 125 Years as a Town
 On April 22, 2024 (Earth Day), the Granite Falls Garden Club planted a flower garden on the Town Square in commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Granite Falls. (Photos courtesy of the Granite Falls Garden Club)



The Granite Tablet is a publication of the Granite Falls History Committee, which manages the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The museum is located in the historic home of Andrew Baird, an early settler. The building is the second oldest residence in Caldwell County. The Baird House was built around 1795 with additions made over the next hundred years. The house remained a residence until 2001 when the owner sought permission to have it burned down due to the high cost of maintenance. Recognizing the historical significance of the building, the Town of Granite Falls purchased the home with the intentions of turning it into a museum. With the help of a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and hours of hard work by dedicated people, the vision became a reality. The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum held its grand opening and ribbon cutting on February 18, 2007. Visit us on Facebook under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum." Our website is www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org.

Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum - 107 Falls Avenue, Granite Falls, North Carolina 28630 - Phone: 828-396-2792

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