



# The Granite Tablet



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2024 Outdoor Christmas Décor Winner - The Home of Olivia and Jeff Greene  
(photo provided by the Greens)

## DECK THE HALLS For History

Congratulations to Olivia and Jeff Greene for winning the 2024 Award of Excellence from the Granite Falls Garden Club and the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. for their outdoor Christmas display located at 43 Laurel Street in Granite Falls. Their show featured a variety of holiday figures with lights synchronized to Christmas music, which  
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Left: Day 3 Church,  
1st Place



Right: Skylite  
Skating Rink, 2nd  
Place



Left: The Greens,  
3rd Place



Right: Santa Claus  
riding on top of an  
antique fire truck  
owned by Mayor  
"Bert" Huffman's  
Family

## 2024 GRANITE FALLS CHRISTMAS PARADE "Christmas at the Movies"

Impact by Rotary Club of the Foothills sponsored the 2024 Christmas Parade in Granite Falls. It began at 12 noon on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from the back parking lot of the First Baptist Church and made its way downtown up North Main Street and along North Highland Avenue to the Granite Falls Elementary School. The South Caldwell  
(CHRISTMAS PARADE continued on page 4)

## GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Update

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. offers membership on four (4) levels of participation:

1. Available to participate in afternoon meetings,
2. Available to participate in evening meetings,
3. May not be available for meetings, but will consider special assignments, and
4. Not available for meetings, but want to receive news/updates.

The Associations does not charge dues on any level. However, the organization has been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and donations may be tax deductible depending upon the taxpayer's status and applicable law at tax filing time.

Persons who can meet in the afternoon may wish to serve as an officer or trustees. The Board of Trustees conducts business between Annual Meetings. The Board meets four (4) times a year, and three (3) are held after a meeting of the Granite Falls History Committee, which usually meets the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. Frankly, it is a matter of convenience because our officers have typically done double duty as members of the History Committee. At the same time, dual membership enables the two (2) groups to coordinate their work and assign duties as appropriate. For example, the Association sponsored the Christmas Decorating Contest because it was not a museum related function. The Board also tries to hold one (1) meeting in the evening in August or September to allow persons who can't meet during the day to help plan the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is held on a Tuesday evening in October. Members who attend the Annual Meeting provide oversight by approving proposed changes to bylaws, electing an auditor (or audit committee), and formally electing officers. The Board can also call special evening meetings as needed to conduct business.

Some people cannot commit to attending regular meetings, but they are willing and able to work on special projects, such the mapping of Pinecrest and the Hike to the Falls. The Board invites ideas from the general membership, so feel free to let someone know if you have a suggestion or request.

Finally, the Board realizes that many people are interested in the work of the Association, but they cannot attend meetings. They may live outside commuting distance, or they may have obligations that prevent them from participating in regular activities. They can keep up to date with the Association's work by reading the two (2) newsletter (*The Granite Tablet* and *Tablet II*), the museum's Facebook page [*Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum*], and the museum's website ([www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org)). President Linda Crowder will also send out special emails between newsletters whenever the need arises.

To join the Association, send Linda Crowder your name, address, email, and phone numbers along with your preferred level of participation. You may also download an application from the history museum website



Barbara Ross (left) with Jeff and Olivia Greene  
Photo by Linda Crowder

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could be heard on the radio at 101.1 FM between 5:30 and 9:00 p.m. each evening. The last day of the presentation was Thursday, December 26, 2024, but we can look forward to more presentations in 2025 during the Fourth of July, Halloween, Veterans Day, and Christmas holidays.

On December 18, Garden Club President Barbara Ross presented the couple with a Yard of the Month sign, and Historical Association President Linda Crowder gave them a certificate. Both Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Crowder were amazed at the intricate design detail and skilled electrical/electronic work required to produce the amazing display. The two groups sponsored the contest as part of their tribute to the Town of Granite Falls, which celebrated its 125th Anniversary on May 1, 2024. They wanted to end the year with a tribute to the hard work, ingenuity, and creativity of the residents of Granite Falls.



Linda Crowder (left) with Jeff and Olivia Greene  
Photo by Barbara Ross

Photo by Karen Isbell

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(www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org) under the Historical Association tab.

Linda is also editing *Dateline: Granite Falls, North Carolina*, the history book she has been writing for several years. The process is taking longer than she anticipated, but the good news is that individuals, churches, civic clubs, businesses, and other organizations still have time to write and submit their histories. This book is about, by, and for the people of Granite Falls. Don't wait until it has been published to wish you had submitted an article. If you don't feel comfortable writing your story (everyone has a different talent), Linda will gladly assist you. Her contact information is at the bottom of page 4.

### GRANITE FALLS HISTORY COMMITTEE *What's New at the Museum*

The last day to see copies of the *Granite Falls Press* on display at the museum will be Sunday, January 12. The History Committee will move them to storage, where they can be seen by appointment only. To make an appointment, text Linda Crowder at (828) 496-2835.

The next exhibit will be an art show/contest featuring students at Granite Falls Middle School during February. The museum will be open from 2 until 4 p.m. on the following Sundays: February 2, February 9, and February 23. It will be closed on Sunday, February 16 in recognition of President's Day. Text Linda if you wish to make an appointment to see the exhibit at another time.



Town of Granite Falls Assisting Caldwell County with Hurricane Helene Debris Pickup

### HURRICANE HELENE AFTERMATH *Local Update*

Caldwell County announced on Monday, December 30, 2024, that contractors were still collecting Hurricane Helene debris three (3) months after the tropical storm hit Western North Carolina. Pick up was not a one size fits all truck/crew. The debris would be picked up according to type and size - normal yard debris, construction/demolition materials, and items such as large roots/trees that would require heavy equipment. The materials also had to be

hauled to designated areas, not to the landfill.

The county had originally hoped to complete the task by Friday, November 22, but ran into unforeseen problems. Residents of Granite Falls are accustomed to quicker service, so the town decided to help out by sending a crew out on Saturday, November 23 (see photo above). In all fairness to the county, the worst damage was in rural areas - Wilson Creek, Mortimer, John's River, the Globe, etc. According to an announcement by County Manager Donald Duncan on November 20, 2024, crews were hauling 50 to 60 loads per day and had already hauled away 7,000 cubic yards with approximately 170,000 left to pick up. They had plans to increase the number of dump sites and the number of crews over the next two (2) weeks.

The debris pickup previously mentioned required residents to take it to the curb for pickup. On New Year's Eve, December 31, 2024, the county announced, "Starting January 3rd, Caldwell County residential, rental, and small business property owners impacted by Hurricane Helene, who do not have debris removal insurance, may apply to have qualified disaster debris removed from their property at no cost through the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) Program. The program also covers the demolition of eligible unsafe structures." The program does not cover debris on vacant lots, farmland, and grazing areas. For more information, check out the Caldwell County website.

While on the website, check out recovery resources and deadlines for application. In particular, the deadline for applying for FEMA assistance is January 7, 2025. While FEMA has received mixed reviews on social media and in national news, the county's Facebook page noted that roughly 35 people have been working in Caldwell County in the Disaster Recovery Center located in the Health and Human Services Building at 2345 Morganton Boulevard. They also made field trips to aid property owners in the rural areas most impacted by the storm. FEMA workers made a special trip to Granite Falls to assist Festival on the Square attendees on November 25.



FEMA at Festival on the Square in Granite Falls on Monday, November 25, 2024

High School Navy Junior ROTC Color Guard led the way followed by a police escort, the parade sign, Mayor Caryl Burns, and members of the Granite Falls Town Council, South Caldwell High School Marching Band, and numerous cars, trucks, emergency vehicles, dance troupes, and floats. As is customary, Santa Claus came to town on top of an antique fire truck, which used to belong to the late Mayor A. W. "Bert" Huffman. The theme was "Christmas at the Movies." Impact selected the following floats for special recognition: Day 3 Church - First Place, Skylight Skating Rink - Second Place, and The Greens - Third Place. The winning floats and Santa Claus are featured on the front page. Below is a random selection of still images taken from a video made by Linda Crowder and posted to the Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum Facebook page.



Brayden Frasure



Granite Falls Garden Club



Sunrise Baptist Church



Caldwell Pregnancy Care Center



Lake Hickory Veterinary Hospital



SCHS Lady Spartans



*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 January 18, 2007. Visit us on Facebook under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum." Our website is [www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org).

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