

The Granite Tablet



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GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWS *Be a Member without Paying Dues*

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. held its Seventh Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m. During the business session, members voted to eliminate dues. Since the Association focuses on the preservation of history and not on providing goods, services, or any other tangible benefit, members felt that eliminating dues would encourage people to join. The group will depend upon voluntary donations for its financial needs. Since the GFHA has been recognized by the IRS as a 501c

(3) non profit, donations may be tax deductible depending upon applicable law at tax filing time and each taxpayer's
(GFHA continued on page 2)

HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE *Chief Cares and Concert for Carolina*

As reports came out about the devastation to the western area of North Carolina by Hurricane Helene, individuals and organizations began sending relief. One of the responders was Eric Church, who grew up in Granite Falls and who often visits the mountains nearby. According to a news release on ericchurch.com, he was working on various songs when he realized one of them was very appropriate for the situation. With a little rewriting, "Darkest Hour" became his first single release in over three years. Eric was not content to just write a song and make a donation to relief efforts, he signed over all rights to the his home state of North Carolina for hurricane relief.

In addition, Chief Cares, the foundation, which he and his wife, Katherine, set

(CHIEF CARES continued on page 4)

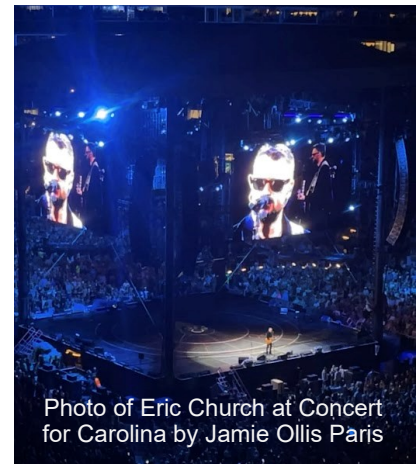


Photo of Eric Church at Concert for Carolina by Jamie Ollis Paris

DECK THE HALLS *For History*

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. and the Granite Falls Garden Club will work together to honor the town's 125th Anniversary by sponsoring an outdoor Christmas decorating contest for local residents. Garden Club members will judge the contest and designate one home as "Yard of the Month." The Association will help publicize the contest and recognize the winning entry in the news media. While the Historical Association would like to see homes honor the history of the Town of Granite Falls, they decided not to make it a requirement for entry in the contest. However, they did ask the Garden Club to "give extra credit" for yards that have a historical theme, such as "Christmas at the Movies" being used this year in the Christmas Parade and at Festival on the Square.

(DECK THE HALLS continued on page 2)



unique circumstances.

In other business, the Association re-elected the following officers to serve during the coming fiscal year, which begins November 1, 2024: President Linda Crowder, Vice President Jeanne Whisnant, Treasurer Adele Mangan, Secretary Joel Kaufman, and Parliamentarian Gifford Poe. These officers will choose four (4) persons to serve with them on the Board of Trustees. The Association also appointed the Board to serve as an Auditing Committee.

Recognizing that members have other obligations, the Association lowered the quorum needed to conduct meetings and approved changes to the bylaws which specifically allow members to conduct business via phone or other digital communication. These changes will allow decision making to proceed when members cannot be physically present.

In order to determine who is available to help with the work of the Association, members will be asked to indicate on a form whether or not they want to serve on the board, attend general meetings of the Association, or simply want to stay informed about the work of the Association. The Board will approve a new membership form during its first meeting of the new fiscal year.

Prior to the business session, members heard updates on Association projects. President Linda Crowder reminded members that she had postponed the publication of the new history book to the first quarter of 2025, which allows more time for the public to submit their histories and treasured memories. She also noted that the group had essentially completed the Pinecrest Mapping Project. However, it needs to stay updated. If anyone hears about a burial there, they need to let Jeanne Whisnant know so she can update the file. The listing is available on the computer for research at the museum.

Before adjourning, members agreed to conduct the first Board of Trustees Meeting of the new fiscal year (2024 - 2025) on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 3 p.m. (or following the History Committee Meeting, which starts at 2 p.m.) The public is welcome to attend.

Because the city limits can not be discerned without a map, the sponsors will accept entries for homes in the immediate Granite Falls area. To nominate yourself or someone else, send an email to Barbara E. Ross at baross@embarqmail.com or to Linda R. Crowder at lrdcrowder@gmail.com. Be sure to give the name, address, and phone number of the entry and of the person making the nomination. The deadline to submit an entry is Sunday, December 15, 2024.



NEWS FROM THE TOWN Lakeside Park Closed Due to Hurricane Helene

Lakeside Park is temporarily closed to the public following significant damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The park is closed until further notice, as it has been deemed unsafe for public access. High winds and heavy rain from the storm caused widespread damage to the park, bringing down numerous trees. Town staff are working diligently to assess and repair the damage, but it will take time to ensure the area is safe for everyone to enjoy again.

“We understand how important Lakeside Park is to our community, but the safety of our residents is our top priority,” said Chad Raby, Town of Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Director. “We ask for your patience and cooperation as we work to restore the park to its former condition.”

Until further updates are provided, residents are encouraged to visit other parks in the area that remain open and safe for use.

(source: Town of Granite Falls news release by Kara Calloway)



Hurricane Helene Relief Local Response

Shortly after Hurricane Helen passed, local residents began reaching out to offer aid and assistance to those affected by the storm. Locally, the biggest problem was the lack of electricity. Individuals and churches met that need by opening their doors for meals, showers, and/or a place to recharge cell phones. These churches posted plans on Facebook to serve meals: First United Methodist Church of Granite Falls, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Concord Baptist Church (also sent a recovery team to Boone on October 19), First Baptist Church of Hudson (also gathered a group to clear trees and branches), First Baptist Church of Granite Falls, Poovey's Chapel Baptist Church (which also hosted a meeting to plan hurricane relief assistance), Dudley Shoals Baptist Church, and Rock Chapel Church of God.

The following locations in our area accepted donations: Granite Falls Middle School (sponsored by PTA), City Grind, Redeemer's Lighthouse Thrift Store, South Caldwell High School (sponsored by SCHS Athletics), Carolina Car in Hudson, and Abby Cab in Sawmills.

Members of Catawba Valley Quilter's Guild are making quilts, and members of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church are crocheting toboggans. Hideaway Kennels collected and donated pet food. Huffy's gave away free ice one afternoon to persons without electricity.

The editor of this newsletter is still collecting information about local individuals and groups who aided in Hurricane Helene recovery. While she understands people give out of love, and not publicity, she would like to preserve your story for historical purposes and publish them in the history newsletters and in the history book she plans to publish in early 2025. Please send your information and pictures to Irdrcrowder@gmail.com



The photo on the left shows some of the supplies taken to Victory Baptist Church in Newland by Chris Poteet, owner of Abby Cab.



In the photo on the left, Peggy Poe shows the quilt she is making for hurricane relief in Western North Carolina.



The above photo shows part of the supplies taken to Old Fort from Carolina Car in Hudson via a 5 ton Army truck and a 27 foot enclosed trailer. Bobby and Christy Mosteller and Dwayne Hall spearheaded the drive.

up, has promised to build 100 homes for families in Avery County. That is not all. His website states that Chief Cares also plans to provide longer term support in the areas of "creating jobs, rebuilding schools, and supporting local businesses."

There is more. Eric worked with Luke Combs to plan and produce "Concert for Carolina" that was held on Saturday, October 26, 2024. An article on his website written by Adam Lucas, stated that "82,193 people packed into Bank of America Stadium, the largest music crowd in the venue's history," raising \$24,513,185 that night.

An additional 3,000 people packed the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in Asheville to watch a livestream of the program. They raised money for hurricane relief by buying all the available merchandise brought to the event.

Joining Eric Church and Luke Combs were Billy Strings, James Taylor, Sheryl Crow, Keith Urban, The Avett Brothers, Bailey Zimmerman, Scotty McCreery, Chase Rice, and Parmalee. The entertainers donated their time and talents. David Tepper, owner of the Panthers, donated the use of the stadium.

Eric paid tribute to his upbringing in Granite Falls when he told the crowd, "I wouldn't be here if not for how I was raised and where I was raised and who raised me." He is the son of Ken and Rita Church of Granite Falls, and the grandson of long time Granite Falls Police Chief Ralph (Rusty) Barlow and his wife, Helen. The country star attended school in Granite Falls and graduated from South Caldwell High School and Appalachian State University.



On October 23, members of the Granite Falls Garden Club planted panels on the square.

MORE HURRICANE HELENE NEWS Caldwell County Schools

Hearing the weather reports about the approach of Hurricane Helene, Caldwell County Schools closed three hours early on Thursday, September 26, and closed all day on Friday, September 27. Schools remained closed for students through Monday, October 7, but teachers had an optional work day if they could travel safely. School resumed on Tuesday, October 8, with a two hour delay.

Realizing that many children depended upon school lunches, Caldwell County Schools arranged to provide hot meals at Gamewell Elementary School, Hudson Middle School, and William Lenoir Middle School from noon until 2 p.m. beginning Wednesday, October 2, and ending Monday, October 7, for children from birth to age 18.

Beginning October 1, the school system made free Wi-Fi available at William Lenoir Middle School, Hudson Middle School, Gamewell Elementary School, and Granite Falls Elementary School.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN About Hurricane Helene

After Helene passed, residents began hauling limbs and branches to the road for the town to pick up, expecting them to be gone within a week or so. However, much of the debris was still there at the end of October, and residents became concerned because this was not normal for Granite Falls. Dr. Caryl Burns, Mayor of Granite Falls, explained that Caldwell County had contracted with an independent company to pick up debris throughout the entire county and take it to a central location for appropriate disposal. The company is supposed to go into each neighborhood three (3) times. If anyone has any questions about the process, they need to call the county.

Even with the county taking over this job, town employees still had extra work due to recent weather occurrences, and Mayor Burns expressed her personal appreciation for their dedication during these difficult times. Granite Falls is a full service town, with 24/7 responsibility for water, sewer, power, fire, rescue, and police.



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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