

A Publication of the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS *Incorporated May 1, 1899*

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. hosted 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 displayed vintage photos of the downtown business district and served birthday cake and other refreshments. GFHA President Linda Crowder welcomed attendees and introduced Mayor Caryl Burns, Ed.D., who cut a birthday cake with the 125th anniversary logo on it. Daniel P. Cobb, Granite Falls Town Manager, also greeted attendees and welcomed them to the anniversary celebration.

Prior to cutting the cake, Mayor Burns told about the process

*(125th BIRTHDAY PARTY continued on page 4)*



Jeanne Whisnant, Historical Association Vice President, poses with the town's birthday cake, which featured the 125th Anniversary logo.



## ART IN THE PARK *Fox and Company*

The Caldwell Arts Council and the Town of Granite Falls sponsored Art in the Park on Monday, May 20, 2024 from 6 until 9 p.m. The free concert featured Fox and Company, a dance band which played a variety of hits geared toward the whole family. The band is comprised of Alan McGilliard (bass player and vocals), Michael Fox (vocals), Stephen Fox (vocals), John Crisp (vocals, guitar, keyboard, and saxophone), Brian Beane (drums), and Lance Main (guitar and vocals). The event took place on Field #2 at the William B. Shuford

*(FOX AND COMPANY continued on page 2)*

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER *"Lift Up the Word - Light Up the World"*

Caldwell Baptist Association sponsored the annual National Day of Prayer in Caldwell County on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at noon. The First Baptist Church of Granite Falls hosted one of the services on its front lawn. Rev. Jay Worsley, the pastor, arranged the program. Prayer warriors were Rev. Worsley, who prayed for the Church and for the Government; Casey Fenn, who prayed for the Family; Mike Harris, who prayed for Education; Dru Schneeberger, who prayed for Business; Rob Evans, who prayed for the Military; and Matt Barlett, who prayed for Arts/Entertainment. Matt Bartlett also led a worship song.

*(NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER continued on page 3)*



LIFT UP THE WORD  
LIGHT UP THE WORLD  
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31  
THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



Recreation Center. Anywhere's Fine Food truck was on site to sell food and drinks.

The project received support from the Caldwell Arts Council and the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources.

### COMING EVENTS *Mark Your Calendars!*

Monday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. - The Granite Falls Town Council will commemorate the anniversary of their first meeting on June 3, 1899 in the Council Chambers on South Main Street. The public is welcome to attend.

Saturday, July 6 from 4 until 6 p.m. - The Granite Falls History Committee will sponsor an Open House at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. They will provide tours and serve lemonade and cookies.

Wednesday, July 31 - Deadline for having a name inscribed on the Veterans Monument in 2024. Applications are at the town office and online ([www.granitefallsn.com](http://www.granitefallsn.com))

Saturday, September 21 from 2 until 8 p.m. - The Granite Falls Merchants Association will sponsor the 14th Annual Festival on Main with food, entertainment, and fun activities. The featured band will be Chris Taylor and the Rumor, playing favorite songs from the 70s to the present. Persons interested in sponsoring a booth should check the town's website - [granitefallsn.com/vendor](http://granitefallsn.com/vendor) for more information.

Friday, November 8 at 10 a.m. - The Town of Granite Falls will host the Veterans Day Ceremony at the rec center.

Monday, November 25 at 6:15 p.m. - The Town of Granite Falls will host Festival on the Square and Light Up Granite Falls Christmas Tree Lighting.

Saturday, December 7 at noon - annual Christmas parade

### PARKS AND RECREATION *News and Events*



Pool: The swimming pool will be open to the public from Saturday, June 1 through Sunday, August 11. More information about the pool, such as cost, hours, and private

rentals, may be found on the town's website - [www.granitefallsn.com/pool](http://www.granitefallsn.com/pool).

Team Sports: Registration for co-ed indoor soccer (ages 6-

13) and girls' volleyball (ages 9-15) began May 13 and will end on June 3. The cost for residents is \$40, and persons who live outside the city limits pay \$65. The fee includes a uniform.

Co-Ed youth (ages 4-13) may register for fall soccer between July 22 and August 12. The fee, which includes a uniform, is \$40 for residents and \$65 for non-residents.

### TOWN OFFICE *Changes in Utility Billing*

Utility bills were late being sent out in May 2024 due to an upgrade to the utility billing software. Although the due date remained the same on the bills (May 15), the town did not charge late fees. The new bills are still on postcards, but the bottom is torn off and returned with payment instead of the right side. The bills also feature new account numbers.

When the software is fully implemented, there will be a new online payment portal for persons paying with debit and/or credit cards. However, the phone number (828-386-9726) and the website ([www.granitefallsn.com](http://www.granitefallsn.com)) remain the same. Debit/credit card companies assess customers a utility convenience fee of 3.70% (\$2.50 minimum) and a tax convenience fee of 3.65% (\$2.50 minimum). The town office cannot accept debit/credit payments. Individuals who pay by automatic draft, by check, and by cash do not incur the convenience fees. Contact the town office for more information.

### *Holiday Closings*

The Town of Granite Falls will observe these holidays during the remainder of 2024:

Thursday, July 4 - Independence Day

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day

Monday, November 11 - Veterans Days

Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 - Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 24; Wednesday, December 25; and Thursday, December 26 - Christmas

Keep in mind that, even on holidays, employees provide fire/police protection, electricity, water, and sewer. For non-emergency police matters, call 828-758-2324. For utility outages and/or repairs, call 828-396-3131. Dial 9-1-1 for true emergencies only.

The theme for the 2024 National Day of Prayer was “Lift Up the Word - Lift Up the World.” It was taken from II Samuel 22:29-31 (ESV), “For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God - his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for those who take refuge in Him.”

The National Day of Prayer had its beginnings in 1953 when President Harry S. Truman signed a joint resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives. NPD events are non-sectarian and non-partisan, but the National Day of Prayer Task Force follows Judeo-Christian beliefs when choosing the theme and preparing materials. The focus is on praying for all aspects of society (family, church education, business, military, government, and arts/entertainment).



### **GRANITE FALLS GARDEN CLUB May Yard Of the Month**

April showers DO bring MAY flowers, well, a long with a lot of love and hard work by Brent and Karen Chapman, as you can see in the Garden Club's choice for Yard of the Month for May. Their front yard on Colonial Avenue welcomes you with a beautiful bed of deep yellow and purple pansies. Hanging baskets on the porch and all around the yard, add even more color...all made by Karen. Their cozy back porch, where Karen does a lot of her potting, is surrounded by another lovely bed of perennials and annuals, as well as the beginnings of a vegetable container garden, a grapevine, berry bushes, and chickens! Pink blooming rhododendron border the side of the house, leading back to the front yard and a small nature area of trees, blooms, and bird feeders. A special treat was getting to see a small nest of tiny baby wrens in a flowering basket. Even the birds feel the love in this special yard!

(Photo and article courtesy of Margaret Muse and the Granite Falls Garden Club)



Jay Worsley  
Church and Government



Casey Fenn  
Family



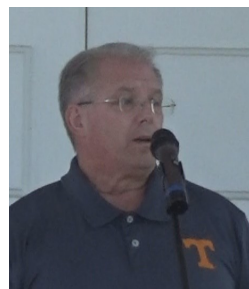
Dru Schneeberger  
Business



Mike Harris  
Education



Matt Bartlett  
Arts/Entertainment



Rob Evans  
Military

**HELP WANTED**

**Volunteers to open/close the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum and assist visitors on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m. The Granite Falls History Committee will provide on the job training and a resource manual. We can also accept volunteers who can only work on Saturdays. For more information, call the Town Office at 396-3131.**

leading to this special anniversary. On March 6, 1899, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation calling for an election to be held on the first Monday in May of 1899 (May 1) to determine incorporation and to choose a mayor and three commissioners if they chose to incorporate. According to records, there were 62 registered voters with 38 voting for incorporation, 6 voting against, and 18 not voting. All voters were men since women could not vote. Rufus E. Hefner received 33 votes to become the first mayor. His opponent, E. E. Cline, received 6 voters. He went on to serve as Mayor from 1900 - 1903. The following gentlemen became the first 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). After 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 held Saturday, June 3, 1899. The Town Council now meets on Mondays. June 3, 2024 just happens to be a regular meeting night, and the Council will commemorate the first meeting prior to its business session. Mayor Burns will recognize former town officials and/or their families/descendants, and she will share some of the first ordinances that were passed on July 29, 1899. She urges residents to attend this special meeting.



Above: Mayor Caryl Burns

Below: Town Manager Daniel Cobb



### GRANITE FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL *This Wall Can Talk*

Granite Falls High School alumni dedicated the History Wall at Granite Falls Middle School during Dining with the Demons, their annual reunion, which was held Saturday, May 4, 2024 at noon. Jeanne Whisnant, who chaired the Planning Committee, greeted attendees and introduced Principal Chris Ackerman who welcome alumni and their guests. Linda Richards Crowder, who helped design the history wall, pointed out some special features of the wall and introduced Dr. Caryl Burns, Mayor of Granite Falls, who dedicated the wall by ringing a bell. Mr. Ackerman concluded the dedication by blessing the meal.

Approximately 110 alumni and guests attended the 2024 reunion held for the second time in the Granite Falls Middle School cafeteria. DWTD organizers were Jeanne Whisnant, Linda Richards Crowder, Renae Kirby Winkler, Angie Settlemire Reid, and Teresa Teague Jackson. Renae, Angie, and Teresa identified names of deceased alumni and displayed posters under the heading "Demons Gone, But Not Forgotten." Candid shots of the reunion and class photos have been posted on Facebook under "Dining with the Demons 2024."

During DWTD, many alumni made tax deductible donations to The Education Foundation, Inc. of Caldwell County to raise funds for updating the school's technology. Persons who were unable to give during the reunion may mail checks to 1914 Hickory Boulevard SW, Lenoir, NC 28645. Checks should be marked for the GFMS Technology Fund.



*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.

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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](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org) or the Facebook page under "Granite Falls (N. C.) History and Transportation Museum."