



Town of Granite Falls

P.O. DRAWER 10 • GRANITE FALLS, NORTH CAROLINA 28630
www.granitefallsnc.com • (828) 396-3131



May 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN GRANITE FALLS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 5, 2016 - Noon

The National Day of Prayer will be held in the Town Square. Rain location will be the Family Life Center at the First Baptist Church.

ART IN THE PARK CONCERT FEATURING FOX AND COMPANY

Monday, May 16, 2016 - 6:30 P.M.



The Caldwell Arts Council and The Town of Granite Falls are sponsoring the annual Art in the Park concert in downtown Granite Falls on Monday, May 16, 2016, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This year, the featured artist for Art in the Park is Fox and Company, a six-piece band specializing in everything from George Jones to Journey. The six family members will play a variety of hits that everyone in your family is sure to love!

The annual Art in the Park concert is held on the square in downtown Granite Falls as a public service to the community. **ADMISSION IS FREE!** Bring your lawn chairs and spend the evening listening to live music in downtown Granite Falls. Make sure you bring your dancing shoes too!

This program is supported by the Caldwell Arts Council and by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, September 17, 2016 - 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

8th Annual Granite Falls Merchants Association Festival on Main
Bring your family and friends for a day of food, entertainment, and fun!

Thursday, November 10, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

Veteran's Day Ceremony - Recreation Center Gymnasium

Monday, November 21, 2016 - 6:15 p.m.

Festival on the Square and
Light Up Granite Falls Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 3, 2016 - Noon

Granite Falls Rotary Club Christmas Parade

TOWN HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day
Monday, July 4 - Independence Day
Monday, September 5 - Labor Day

NEW TOWN SEAL

The Town of Granite Falls has a new Town Seal. The Town would like to say "Thank You" to Town resident and graphic designer, Ben Arrowood for his assistance in creating the updated Town Seal.

VETERANS MONUMENT NAME INSCRIPTIONS

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2014, the Town of Granite Falls dedicated a Veterans monument to honor all Veterans, living or deceased, who actively served in the U.S. Armed Forces, received an honorable discharge and have connections to the Granite Falls area. The monument was extremely well received by the community as almost 500 Veterans' names have been inscribed on the monument.

The Town of Granite Falls will accept applications for Veterans name inscriptions on the monument through July 31st each year for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Those names collected after July 31st each year will be inscribed on the monument walls the following year. Applications for name inscriptions on the Veterans Monument are available on the Town website www.granitefallsnc.com or at the Town Office.



ARE YOU CONNECTED?

The Town of Granite Falls uses the Blackboard Connect system to inform citizens of events and emergencies in the Town. Connect calls are used to notify citizens about parades, festivals, concerts and other local events. The system is also used to provide emergency weather alerts and notices about road construction projects, street closings and fire department training exercises and hydrant flushing. Residents and businesses have the options of "staying connected" through their home phone, cell phone, email and text messages. If you are not in the connect system and would like to be "connected," please contact the Town office at 828-396-3131.

TOWN ORDINANCES UPDATED

Chapter 90 Animals and Fowl, Section 90.34- The ordinance prohibits animals from Town events unless the animal is a part of the authorized event, exhibit or parade. The revised ordinance does not apply to service dogs or other animals relied upon by persons with disabilities, animals owned and controlled by law enforcement agencies or to animals used by a vehicle for hire in accordance with applicable Town ordinances. An event organizer may request a waiver from this ordinance if the sponsor submits plans specifying how the public will be protected from the animals at the event.

Chapter 96 Solicitation and Begging, Sections 96.01, 96.02 and 96.99- The ordinance prohibits solicitation and begging on any street, highway or right-of way, excluding sidewalks, and from soliciting the driver or occupants of any vehicle. The ordinance also limits the conduct and solicitation tactics.

Chapter 34 General Polices, Section 34.01- The Town Smoking Policy now prohibits the use of electronic smoking devices in Town buildings and vehicles.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BILL HAMILTON RETIRES



Bill Hamilton retired December 1, 2015 after 32 years of faithful and dedicated service to the citizens of Granite Falls. Bill began his career in 1983 and worked in Street Maintenance and as Street Department Crew Leader until 1987. He then became what is now known as Public Works Director for the Town. Bill spent his career helping to ensure the public health and safety of all Town residents. A donation

was made in Bill's honor to the Granite Falls Rotary Club Backpack Program. Please join us in wishing Bill the best of luck in his retirement and future endeavors.

NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



Town Manager Jerry Church is pleased to announce the hiring of Randy Smith as Public Works Director on January 19, 2016. Prior to coming to work for the Town of Granite Falls, Randy was employed with the Town of Valdese and the Town of Maiden. Randy is a graduate of Western Piedmont Community College. Randy's education and experience will be an asset to the Town as he manages the Town's water distribution and wastewater collection systems, leaf and limb collections, snow plowing, waste and recycling collections, and grounds and cemetery maintenance. Please join us in congratulating and supporting Randy in his new role with the Town of Granite Falls.

Citizen Safety Initiatives

For several years, many members of the Town staff take annual CPR training. This year, the Town added Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training as part of our ongoing efforts to increase the safety of our citizens. The Town has purchased AEDs for most departments in case of emergencies.

The Town Police Department has implemented a program to equip officers with Naloxone to be used for certain types of drug overdoses. The hope is that the officers never have to use this equipment, but they will be trained to do so for this type of emergency.

KEEP OUR METER READERS SAFE

The Town strives to provide customers with accurate and timely utility bills. Electric meters and water meters are Town property and must be accessible to be read monthly. Meters are normally read between the 10th and the 17th of each month. The Town's utility customer agreement specifies, "The customer agrees to provide unrestricted access to both water and electric meters and to keep vegetation trimmed around both meters." Utility customers must trim back any bushes, hedges, or limbs that obstruct access to meters. No cars should be parked over water meters and all gates should be unlocked during meter reading time. If you have a loose dog in your yard, please contact the Town Office at 828-396-3131 to determine a safe method to read your meters each month. If our records indicate that you have a dog on your property and the meter reader cannot see that your dog has been restrained, they will not enter your property to read the meter. We have found the use of electrical underground fencing does not deter a dog from attacking. Our meter readers must feel comfortable and safe before entering your property. For their safety, we require meter readers to remain outside of your property until your dog is properly secured. If a dog approaches, readers may protect themselves by using dog spray or other deterrent devices if they fear the dog is about to attack or bite. This is to ensure the safety of Town employees. **If you have dogs or a gate that cannot be unlocked, you must call your reading in to the Town Administrative Office at 396-3131 no later than the 15th of each month. Your meter will still need a periodic verification by the Town at least every 3 months.**

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE GREASE GOBLIN

Please remember that fats, oils, and grease can cause costly and unsanitary overflows of the Sewer system.

YOU CAN DO YOUR PART BY:

- ✓ Placing excess grease from cooking in a container and disposing of it in the garbage.
- ✓ Only placing items in your drains and toilets that are meant to go there.
- × **NOT** putting grease, food scraps, diapers, rags, personal hygiene products, pills, etc down the drain.

By helping to protect the Town's Sewer system you also protect your own home, money, and the environment.



Limbs will be chipped on a regular schedule. Weather and work load permitting, we try to cover the entire town every week. Please stack tree limbs to be chipped with the trunks to the road and branches pointing toward the house. Do not place any other trash onto the limbs. All roots and dirt balls should be removed to prevent damage to the machine and safety hazards to workers.

Please do not blow grass into the streets and gutters. When it rains, clippings are washed down the storm drains and eventually end up in our drinking water resource. Bag your grass clippings in manageable amounts (50 lbs. or less) and they will be picked up on Thursdays. Bags may be obtained at the Town Administrative Office. Blowing grass into streets is littering!

Trash (such as chairs, household items, non garbage materials) is picked up every Thursday. Put your items out late Wednesday to ensure pick up. We are unable to dispose of wet paint, bricks, rocks, stones, cement, tires or batteries. However, when you purchase tires or batteries, a recycling fee is included in the price and the retailer must dispose of it for you. If you have brick, stone, rock or cement work done; have your contractor dispose of these materials. The landfill has a special section for such items including roofing shingles.

White goods (refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, etc.) are picked up the first Friday of each month. As a safety precaution, make sure doors are removed or taped shut. As with tires and batteries, a disposal fee is included in your purchase price of these items. Your retailer should dispose of these items for you.

Please remember that household garbage intended for pickup cannot be placed out for collection any earlier than the night before scheduled pickup. Each Town residence is allowed one trash cart provided by Republic Services and one recycling cart provided by the Town. If a cart needs to be replaced or you need an extra cart, a fee of the current cost of the cart will be required. Also remember, if you move, these carts are the properties of Republic Services and the Town of Granite Falls and they are to remain at the residence. ***You will be billed for any carts taken from the residence.***

Zoning Permit Required for Storage Buildings & Carports

If you are planning to add a storage building or detached carport (canopy) to your property, don't forget to contact the Town Office first. Storage buildings and carports must meet all required setbacks from property lines and other Town standards for size and location. You will also need to obtain a Zoning Permit from the Town of Granite Falls **before** having the building or carport delivered to your property.

Please call Greg Wilson, Town Planner at 396-3131 to verify that your project will be compliant with the Town of Granite Falls Zoning Ordinance before beginning any work. Most projects will also require a Building Permit from Caldwell County. The Building Inspections Office can be reached at (828) 426-8585.

RECREATION NEWS



Granite Falls Recreation Department Swimming Pool will open to the public on Saturday, June 11, 2016 and will remain open until Sunday, August 28, 2016.

Pool Hours

Monday- Saturday - 1:00pm-5:00pm

Sundays - 2:00pm-5:00pm

Monday Night - 6:00pm-8:00pm

Adult Lap Swim (M-F Only) - 12:00pm-1:00pm

Must be 18+ for Adult Lap Swim

Cost

Adults \$4.00 (Mon.-Sat.) / \$3.00 (Sun. and Mon. Night)

Children \$3.00 (Mon.-Sat.) / \$2.00 (Sun. and Mon. Night)

Senior (65+) \$2.00 (Mon.-Sat.) / \$1.00 (Sun. and Mon. Night)

Adult Lap Swim (18+) \$1.00 (Mon.- Fri.)

Pool Rentals

Pool is available for rent every Saturday and Sunday evening from 5:30pm-7:30pm from June 11th - August 28th.

General Public / Corporate \$120.00 includes lifeguards

Civic / Church Groups \$80.00 includes lifeguards

Swim Team

The Granite Falls Sharks Swim Team will hold registration every Saturday in May from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Granite Fall Parks and Recreation Department for ages 5-18 (as of June 1, 2016.) For more information visit www.granitefallssharks.com

The Granite Falls Sharks Swim Team will hold registration every Saturday in May from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Department for "Granite Falls Swim School." Weekly sessions are \$25.00 and participants must be 4 yrs. of age prior to June 6, 2016. There is no age limit to participate in Granite Falls Swim School. Swimmers may opt to take multiple weeks. Swim Lessons will be held the following weeks:

Week #1: June 6th - June 9th PM (5:30-6:15)

Week #2: June 13th - June 16th AM (11:15-12:00)

Week #3: June 20th - June 23rd AM (11:15-12:00)

Week #4: June 27th - June 30th AM (11:15-12:00)

Week #5: July 11th - July 15th AM (11:15-12:00)

Week #6: July 18th - July 22nd AM (11:15-12:00)

Co-Ed Youth (Ages 4-13) Fall Soccer registration will be held July 25, 2016 - August 29, 2016. *Fee includes uniform*
\$40.00 for resident of Granite Falls
\$50.00 for non-resident of Granite Falls



LAKESIDE PARK

Lakeside Park is open from Dawn until Dusk. Swimming is prohibited at the "Tater Hole" and camping and open fires are prohibited in the park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood Park is open from Dawn until Dusk.

REMINDER LIST FOR PET OWNERS

As summer approaches and more people are enjoying outdoor activities, the Granite Falls Police Department would like to remind our citizens of just a few of the responsibilities of pet owners. The below listed items are from the Granite Falls Town Code of Ordinances:

90.10 - Owners of animals are fully responsible for the acts of their animals. The owner of any animal which commits a nuisance upon the property of another person, or which damages another person's property, is fully responsible and accountable for these acts.

90.11 - Collar identification

• Every owner is required to see that his/her dog, when off the owner's property, is wearing a collar with the owner's name and address stamped on or otherwise firmly attached to it.

• The collar shall be worn at all times.

• Every owner is required to see that his/her dog is currently vaccinated for rabies.

• Any animal caught not wearing identification as prescribed in this section shall be immediately turned over to Caldwell County Animal Control.

90.13 - Dogs, cats, and other animals at large

• It shall be unlawful for a dog and/or cat owner to permit a dog and/or cat to run at large in the town.

• The presence of a dog when off-premises often creates substantial anxiety and concerns for people regarding safety and free movement and therefore the owner has an obligation to the citizens of Granite Falls for the effective confinement of one's dog.

• The possibility of a dog bite is a serious anxiety for citizens, neighborhoods and areas in Granite Falls; and therefore, owners have an obligation to prevent the creation of that apprehension and concern.

• A dog owner has a particular responsibility for being conscious of and sensitive to any possible dangers for children under the age of 8 who are unable to fully appreciate the possible danger presented by a dog's reaction to a child under the age of 8.

90.15 - Public Nuisances

• An animal may be determined by Animal Control or the Chief of Police or his/her designee, to be a public nuisance when it commits any of the following acts 2 or more times, or any combination of 2 or more of the following acts 1 or more times:

• Chases, snaps at, attacks, or otherwise molests pedestrians, bicyclists, motor vehicle passengers, farm stock or domestic animals;

• Turns over garbage pails;

• Damages gardens or other foliage or other real or personal property;

• Habitually or continuously barks, whines, or howls in an excessive fashion;

• Habitually or continuously loiters on school grounds or official town recreation areas and/or;

• Commits other acts that constitute a public nuisance.

Thank you for taking these requirements into consideration when it comes to your pets and thank you for being responsible pet owners.



ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

1. Energy Efficiency kits are available to all electric customers at the Town Office **while supplies last.**

2. Rebates for heat pumps and electric water heaters are still being offered. A rebate of \$400.00 for heat pumps and \$150.00 for electric water heaters will be awarded for qualifying units. **A seer rating of 15 or more is required to qualify for a heat pump rebate.**

3. Please remember street light repairs are normally done on Fridays. **Please have the pole number available when calling the Town Office to report a problem with a street light.** Each pole is visibly tagged for your convenience.

4. **Questions regarding utility bills should be directed to the Town Office at 828-396-3131, not the Electric Department.**

5. If you have an electrical emergency after normal working hours or on a holiday, please call the Granite Falls Police Department at 396-3358.

6. Beginning in **June**, the Town will charge all customers on the cut-off list a reconnect/non-payment service fee and their past-due balance if they are on the list that leaves the office on cut-off day.

GRANITE FALLS GARDEN CLUB

Each year, the Granite Falls Garden Club plants flowers in the garden on the Town Square. The club will plant flowers on Tuesday, May 2nd.

This year's theme is "Granite Falls Garden Club Hands are Working for You!"

The club will be using clusters of colors in the garden this year.

The Town of Granite Falls thanks the Garden Club for their downtown beautification efforts.



Reminders from the Granite Falls Fire Department

Granite Falls Fire Department would like to give you some tips on how to remain safe in your home before and during a fire. The following are some safety tips that are easy to follow. If you do not have a smoke detector in your home please call Granite Falls Fire Department and we will assist you in obtaining one for your residence.

Smoke Alarms

•Install smoke alarms. Properly working smoke alarms decrease your chances of dying in a fire by half. •Place smoke alarms on every level of your residence. Place them outside bedrooms on the ceiling or high on the wall (4 to 12 inches from ceiling), at the top of open stairways, or at the bottom of enclosed stairs and near (but not in) the kitchen. •Test and clean smoke alarms once a month and replace batteries at least once a year. Replace smoke alarms once every 10 years.

Escaping the Fire

•Review escape routes with your family. Practice escaping from each room. •Make sure windows are not nailed or painted shut. Make sure security gratings on windows have a fire safety opening feature so they can be easily opened from the inside. •Consider escape ladders if your residence has more than one level, and ensure that burglar bars and other antitheft mechanisms that block outside window entry are easily opened from the inside. •Teach family members to stay low to the floor (where the air is safer in a fire) when escaping from a fire.

Mosquito Season Is Here

Avoid Standing Water Around Your Home

An important part of mosquito control around your home is making sure that mosquitoes don't have a place to lay their eggs. Because mosquitoes need water for two stages of their life cycle, it's important to monitor standing water sources.

•Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed. •Loose tires should never be stored outside. •Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats. •Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt. •Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.



HISTORY AND TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum needs volunteers to open the museum and serve as hosts and hostesses on Saturdays and Sundays. Volunteers are asked to serve for two hours once every three months. If you can serve as a volunteer, please contact the Town Office at 396-3131. Volunteers will be trained for their work at the museum.

There will be an expanded exhibit of Granite Falls High School memorabilia at the museum during May. Joining items already on display will be more photos, scrapbooks, annuals, school newsletters, logo items, apparel, etc. The museum is open on Saturdays from noon until 4 pm and Sundays from 2 pm until 4 pm, except holidays. Private tours may be arranged by calling the Town Office. Please visit: www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org

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Don't get SCORCHED by High Summer

Electric Bills!

•Set your thermostat at 78 degrees - For every degree above 78, you will save 3-5% on cooling costs.
•Get your central A/C system checked by a professional once a year - An improperly running unit can bump up your monthly bill.

•Change dirty filters - Cheap filters work just as well as the expensive kind.
•Use a ceiling fan along with your A/C - A fan can make you feel 4 degrees cooler and costs only pennies to operate.

•Close drapes or window shades - Especially during the hottest times of the day; it's a simple way to cool your home.

•Properly insulate your home - This keeps hot air from entering and cold air from escaping, which helps your home stay cool in the summer.

POLITICAL SIGNS

Political signs may be placed on private property no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the start of early voting and must be removed within ten (10) days of the election. Signs on private property cannot exceed sixteen (16ft²) square feet in size. The Town's regulations are applicable within the Town limits and the Town's extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Also, political signs are prohibited on Town property, including the Recreation Center. The Town wishes to thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation with this ordinance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Town Planner Greg Wilson at (828) 396-3131.



Drivers Must Yield To Pedestrians At Crosswalks

According to North Carolina State Law, pedestrians have the right-of-way at marked and unmarked crosswalks in residential and business areas except where there is a traffic or pedestrian signal. Please remain alert for pedestrians, especially in downtown or near schools and churches.

STEALING ELECTRICITY IS A CRIME

North Carolina law specifically prohibits altering, tampering with and bypassing electric meters. This includes cutting the seals. People found guilty are liable for triple the amount of losses and damages to the utility or \$500.00, whichever is greater. Anyone who uses electricity from a tampered meter violates this same law. Both the person in whose name the account is registered in and the person using the stolen electricity may be liable. Reconnecting a meter that has been disconnected by the Town of Granite Falls is also illegal. This law also applies to water meters. You can find this law in the North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 14, Subchapter 6, Article 22 Section 114-151.1 The Town of Granite Falls loses revenue and spends time and money investigating meter tampering. When someone tampers with a meter and steals electricity, it costs you. We vigorously pursue each violation and enforce the state statute to the letter of the law. When prosecuted, the crime can carry stiff fines and even jail time. If you suspect someone has tampered with their electric meter or has turned themselves back on after being disconnected, please report it to the Town Office at 396-3131 or the Police Dept. at 396-3358.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Please feel free to contact your elected officials to discuss town government:

Barry Hayes, Mayor	396-2225
Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Mayor Pro Tem	396-3713
Marc Church	396-7663
Jim Mackie	396-5116
Mike Mackie	396-3546
Martin Townsend	396-1704
Tracy Townsend	396-9055

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm PHONE: (828) 396-3131
Contact the Police Department at (828) 396-3358 during holidays or for after hour emergencies.