



TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS

P.O. DRAWER 10 • GRANITE FALLS, NORTH CAROLINA 28630

www.granitefallsnc.com • (828) 396-3131



October 2015

THIS EDITION OF THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS NEWSLETTER IS PINK IN OBSERVANCE OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.

TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS IN DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The Catawba-Wataree Drought Management Advisory Group drought trigger update September 1, 2015 indicated through the Low Inflow Protocol drought indicators, that the Catawba River basin is in Stage 1 drought conditions for the first time since December 2011. Stage 1 drought conditions require the Town of Granite Falls to provide notices to residents and businesses asking for voluntary water conservation in order to achieve a 3% to 5% reduction in water use. Suggested measures to achieve this reduction include limiting the watering of grass and shrubs to two times a week with no more than one inch of water in total, turning water off while brushing teeth or washing your face and repair all leaking faucets and/or toilets. We appreciate your assistance in helping achieve this voluntary reduction in water usage. If adequate rainfall does not occur soon and we do not achieve a voluntary reduction in water usage, water usage reductions will be mandated in our area.

EVENTS COMING UP IN NOV. & DEC.



The 10th Annual Festival on the Square will be in downtown Granite Falls on Monday evening, November 23rd from 6:15-7:30 p.m. The Festival brings the Christmas season to life at the 10th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! In addition to booths from local businesses and churches, the evening will be filled with the sounds of Christmas music from local school choral and band departments. The Festival Choir brings together the best of local church and community singers and musicians to round out the evening with your Christmas favorites, and back by popular demand the New Grace Trio. Don't miss the most exciting Christmas event in Granite Falls as we light up the streets with the sights and sounds of Christmas!

Light Up Granite Falls Monday, November 23rd

The Granite Falls Merchants Association is sponsoring the fifth annual Light Up Granite Falls event. Local businesses are asked to sponsor a Christmas tree in the downtown area. The trees will be decorated by students from the local schools and will be on display throughout the holiday season. This event coincides with the Light Up Caldwell events in other Caldwell County municipalities to encourage citizens to visit the local downtown areas and to shop locally whenever possible.



SAVE THE DATE 2015 CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 5, 2015

The Town of Granite Falls Rotary Club will sponsor the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 5th at 12:00 noon downtown. For more information contact Jeff Prince at 499-0831, 396-3326 or jwprince1326@gmail.com.



VETERANS CEREMONY

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

The Town of Granite Falls will host a ceremony to honor Veterans on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the monument site at the Granite Falls Recreation Center near Philadelphia Lutheran Church. The ceremony

will honor all Veterans including over 100 Veterans whose names have been inscribed on the monument since the dedication ceremony last year.

All Town residents, as well as other individuals wishing to honor Veterans, are invited to attend this special event. Due to limited seating, we encourage you to bring a comfortable lawn chair.

The Town of Granite Falls will continue to accept applications for Veterans name inscriptions on the monument. The names will be inscribed in phases and applications will be accepted 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 and recognized at the next Veterans Day program.

Applications for name inscriptions on the Veterans Monument are available on the Town website www.granitefallsnc.com or at the Town Office.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Town Office, Recreation Center, Electric and Public Works Departments will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Veterans' Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Thanksgiving	Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2015
Christmas	Wednesday-Friday, December 23-25, 2015
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2016
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2016
Good Friday	Friday, March 25, 2016

For all above holidays: The Police and Fire Departments and the Water and Wastewater Plants will be on duty as scheduled. Garbage Disposal Service will pick up garbage/recycling on regular schedule.

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 after hour emergencies.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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

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

TWITTER ACCOUNT

Follow the Town of Granite Falls updates and information at <http://twitter.com/GraniteFallsNC> (exactly as shown).

There is also a link on the Town's website – www.granitefallsnc.com

RECREATION INFORMATION

The Parks and Recreation Department recently received a grant to transform a public area into an imaginative space for families to play and be active outdoors. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association are supporting healthier communities by installing PlayPrints across the state. PlayPrints are ground markings, or colorful shapes and games that are painted on existing pavement. The bright colors and interactive designs are meant to encourage visitors to take part in more physical activity. Community agencies across North Carolina were invited to apply. PlayPrints will be installed next year beside the playground at the Granite Falls Recreation Center on a newly resurfaced asphalt area. This location is currently not being used and was previously used as an outdoor basketball and volleyball court.

Youth Basketball registration ages 6-12 will be held October 1 - November 1. Cost is \$40 residents and \$50 non-residents. Fee includes uniform.

Bantam Basketball registration ages 4-5 will be held January 4 - February 17, 2016. Cost is \$10 for all participants.

Baseball and Softball registrations will be held in February, 2016.

Aerobic Classes Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$3 per class.

Yoga Classes Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. \$3 per class.

Lakeside Park is open to the public from daylight to dark. To reserve the picnic shelter, call 396-1221.

Our newly renovated Men's and Women's fitness rooms are open. Cost for the fitness rooms is \$1 per visit and memberships are also available on a trial basis for \$15 per month or \$50 for six months.

For more information on classes, activities, fitness room memberships and room rentals at the Recreation Center, call 396-1221 or visit our website at www.granitefallsrecdept.com.

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.

EARLY VOTING WILL BE HELD AT THE RECREATION CENTER

Weekdays beginning Thursday, October 22nd and Friday, October 23rd.
Monday October 26th - Friday, October 30th
8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday, October 31st. 8:00am - 1:00pm

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2015 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum needs volunteers to open the museum and serve as hosts and hostesses on Saturdays and Sundays. The museum is open Saturday from noon until 4:00 and on Sunday from 2:00 until 4:00. 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.

In addition to the regular historical exhibit, the museum is currently selling vintage cookbooks, which have been donated to benefit the museum. Persons interested in acquiring one or more books should visit the museum during normal open hours or call the Town Office to request a private viewing. The Town Office can also arrange group tours during the

BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS

Here are some safety tips from the Granite Falls Police Department to start off the new school year:

Take Time and Be Patient

The new school year comes with a substantial increase in morning and afternoon traffic. Please allow an extra 10 or 15 minutes for your commute. The extra time will not only reduce stress but will help keep our roads safer. Drivers are less likely to speed or engage in other dangerous driving habits when they aren't running late.

Student Pedestrian Safety

With school starting back there will be an increase in school age children walking to and from the bus stops and to and from schools. Please pay attention to your speed and watch out for them. Reinforce the following safety tips with your children:

- Stay alert to surroundings at all times
- Don't talk on the phone or text while walking
- Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. Lacking a sidewalk, children should walk on the edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- If the child has to cross the street, it should only be done at a designated crosswalk. If a crosswalk is not available then cross at a stop sign.
- Avoid sitting or standing on the edge of the roadway while waiting on the bus.
- Do not engage in horseplay while waiting on the bus.
- If a child is approached by a stranger, the child should flag down another passing motorist or run to a neighbor's house for assistance. Children should call 911 first before calling parents.

School Bus Safety

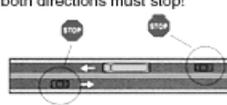
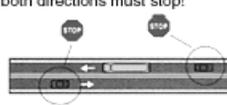
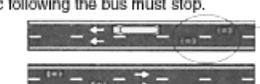
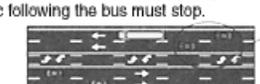
One of the most dangerous traffic law violations a driver can commit is to pass a school bus that has stopped to load or unload children.

Failing to stop for a school bus that is loading and unloading children can have tragic consequences for both the child and the driver. While some drivers deliberately violate the law, others are not paying attention or unsure when to stop.

Drivers are often running late, talking on the cell phone or otherwise distracted. Please review the law and take a moment to examine personal driving habits that could potentially lead to disaster.



NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BUS STOP LAW

<p>1</p> <p>Two-lane roadway: When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Four-lane roadway without a median separation: When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!</p> 
<p>2</p> <p>Two-lane roadway with a center turning lane: When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop!</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation: When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.</p> 
<p>5</p> <p>Roadway of four lanes or more with a center turning lane: When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.</p> 	



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.



Back L-R Council Members: Marc Church, Tracy Townsend, Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Mayor Barry Hayes, Council Members Martin Townsend, Jim Mackie and Mike Mackie. Front: Allen Spencer and wife Paula Spencer

ALLEN SPENCER RETIRES

Allen Spencer retired July 17, 2015 with over 26 years of service with the Town of Granite Falls Public Works Department. The Town held a reception in his honor and Mayor Hayes and the Town Council presented Mr. Spencer a Boston Rocker in appreciation of his dedicated service to the Town at the Regular Council meeting August 17, 2015.



Back L-R Council Members: Marc Church, Tracy Townsend, Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Mayor Barry Hayes, Council Members Martin Townsend, Jim Mackie and Mike Mackie. Front: Christie, Dean and Emma Isenhour

DEAN ISENHOUR RETIRES

Dean Isenhour retired July 31, 2015 with over 23 years of service with the Town of Granite Falls Electric Department. The Town held a reception in his honor and Mayor Hayes and the Town Council presented Mr. Isenhour a Boston Rocker in appreciation of his dedicated service to the Town at the Regular Council meeting August 17, 2015.

SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILD SEATS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A CHILD'S BEST PROTECTION

1) Rear Facing: Use rear-facing child restraints as long as possible, but at least until age two for maximum protection. Children are five times safer riding rear-facing than forward-facing into the second year of life. Many current seats can and should be used rear-facing up to at least 30-35 pounds.

2) Forward-Facing: Once a child is turned to face the front of the car, use a child restraint with a harness until the harness is outgrown. This can be from 40-80 pounds or more, depending on the model.

3) Booster Seat: Once a child outgrows the harness, use a belt positioning booster seat until the child is large enough for the seat belt to fit correctly. This is usually around 4'9" tall and between 8 and 12 years old.

The Town of Granite Falls would like to remind everyone that Granite Falls Fire Department is a permanent car seat checking station. Granite Falls Fire Department has personnel that are trained to provide citizens with the knowledge and confidence to properly install a child safety seat. If you need or would like to have your car seat checked, call (828) 396-2379 for an appointment.

LET'S KEEP OUR METER READERS SAFE

The Town strives to provide customers with accurate and timely utility bills. Accuracy begins with safely reading meters every month. You can help us provide reliable utility service by taking a few minutes to look at the area around your meters and ensure that the meter readers have safe and unobstructed access. By law, as a utility provider, Town employees have the right to enter your property to read and maintain its metering equipment without your permission. 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. We read meters from the 12th to the 18th of 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.

Remember that electric meters and water meters must be accessible to be read monthly. Trim back any bushes, hedges or limbs that are obstructing views. No cars should be parked over water meters and all gates should be unlocked during meter reading time. If you have dogs or a gate that cannot be unlocked, please call your reading in to the Town Administrative Office at 396-3131 no later than the 15th of each month.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM YOUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Please note that leaf pick-up does not start until November 2, 2015. If you have leaves and small debris, put them in plastic bags and they will be picked up on Thursdays. Do not over fill the bags so our workers can handle them safely. Bags can be obtained from the Town Administrative Office.

Remember that grease is the leading cause of sewer line blockages. Even dishwashing can lead to grease blockages. Drains can periodically be cleaned with a combination of vinegar, baking soda and hot water.

Limbs will be chipped on a regular schedule. Weather and work load permitting, we try to cover the entire town every week. Special cases of extremely larger amounts of chipping are generally done last. If this is not agreeable, you may have to find outside sources such as your contracted tree cutter to remove the chipping. 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.

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.

*** Televisions will be picked up on the first Friday of each month with the white goods. They will not be picked up if the backs have been removed and any copper or wires have been removed. The recycling center will not accept tampered with items.**

Please remember that household garbage intended for pickup cannot be placed out for collection any earlier than the night before scheduled pickup.

When mowing your lawn, do not blow grass onto the road. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can plug storm water drains.

Please make sure to pick up all Yard Sale signs after the day of the sale. Keep our neighborhood and Town streets looking their best.



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 Granite Falls Town Office at 396-3131 or the Granite Falls Police Dept. at 396-3358.

TREE TRIMMING REMINDER

Just a reminder that the Town of Granite Falls will begin its annual tree trimming program towards the end of September. If you notice trees or tree limbs that have grown close to or are in power lines, please call the Town Office to allow us to inspect the lines. This program allows us to keep our power lines clear and helps to prevent power outages and also to prevent safety issues. A tree that is contacting our high voltage lines can be dangerous and should be avoided. You should stay away from any tree that has come close to or is contacting the power lines and call us immediately at 396-3131.

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 for heat pumps and \$150 for water heaters will be awarded for qualifying units installed. A seer rating of 15 or more is required to qualify for a heat pump rebate.
3. Street light and security light repairs will be made 3-5 business days after they are reported to the Town Office at 396-3131. Please have the pole number available when calling. Each pole is visibly tagged for your convenience.
4. If you have an electrical emergency after normal working hours or on a holiday, please call the Granite Falls Police Department at 396-3358.

PUBLIC POWER WEEK

Public Power Week will be October 4th – 10th. Come by the Town Office on Tuesday, October 6th for Customer Appreciation Day. We will have light refreshments and free promotional items while they last. Town of Granite Falls owned electric service has highly reliable service and fast restoration rates after outages because the electric crews are locally based and live in our community. They offer face to face local hometown service and can quickly resolve customer service issues. Learn more about public power at www.ncpublicpower.com.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR.

GRANITE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDS YOU OF FIRE SAFETY

As the winter months are approaching, the Granite Falls Fire Department would like to remind you to change your smoke detector batteries when you turn your clock back on Sunday, November 1, 2015. This is also a good time to make sure your carbon monoxide detector is working properly. The winter months are a dangerous time for house fires. If you use a wood stove, be sure to clean and inspect your chimney before use. If you use space heaters, keep them a safe distance from walls and furniture. Never fuel a kerosene heater while it is still hot. If you have any questions regarding fire safety, please contact the Granite Falls Fire Department at 396-2379.

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 Offices 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.



NORTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC POWER COMMUNITY IS 1.2 MILLION STRONG.

That's 1.2 million people who benefit from public power's superior reliability and local customer service. NC Public Power Communities recently launched a new campaign and website to communicate the importance of public power and build pride in public power across North Carolina. The site, www.OverOneMillionStrong.com is packed with information to spread the word about public power. It includes helpful tips on energy efficiency and safety, promotes the many benefits of public power, and shares news and events that highlight good news in public power communities. The Town of Granite Falls is excited to continue promoting the value of public power.

TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ANNUAL REPORT ON TOWN WEBSITE

www.granitefallsn.com



2700 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$560, or 20.74 cents per copy. Paper contains 10% post-consumer fiber.