



# Town of Granite Falls

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

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



September 2016

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN GRANITE FALLS

### 8th ANNUAL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL ON MAIN

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

The 8th annual Granite Falls Merchants Association Festival on Main will be held Saturday, September 17th from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. in historic downtown Granite Falls. Vendors will sell various crafts including jewelry, pillows, dolls, stuffed animals, crocheted items, art works,



prints, wooden signs, floral arrangements and other items including cosmetics, clothing and accessories. There will also be a variety of other displays including a demonstration of Holland grills. Food vendors will offer an outstanding assortment of foods and beverages including barbecue, turkey legs, hot dogs, hamburgers, kettle corn, funnel cakes, lemonade and a wide variety of soft drinks, smoothies, slushes and ices. The Festival will have its third annual beer garden featuring craft beers from Granite Falls Brewing Company. The Festival will also have its first annual wine garden featuring local wines from Twisted Vine Winery, Shadow Line Vineyard, and Waldensian Heritage Winery and these products will also be sold for off premise consumption. The Festival has a special section for Kids with bounce houses, DARE program and a Safe Kids display. The medical motor coach from the West Caldwell Health Council, Inc. will be at the festival with medical providers offering free health related services including blood pressure checks. The NC Division of Public Health "BAT" Mobile Unit will be on-hand with free handouts geared to combat drunk and drugged driving. The Rotary Club will be selling raffle tickets to benefit their backpack program with drawings for prizes including Eric Church memorabilia. Entertainment scheduled includes the South Caldwell High ROTC, Jazz and Marching Bands and Dance Team, a Zumba demonstration, a Belly dancing demonstration, The Sims Country Cloggers, and The Night Move Band (R&B, Beach, Classic Rock, and Funk) Bring your family and friends and join us for a day of food, entertainment and fun. Bring your dancing shoes too! Please remember that animals (with the exception of service animals) are no longer permitted at Town events. You can visit the Merchants Association website ([www.granitefallsmERCHANTSnc.org](http://www.granitefallsmERCHANTSnc.org)) for more details and a schedule of events.

### VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

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



The Town of Granite Falls will host a ceremony to honor Veterans on Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the gymnasium at the Granite Falls Recreation Center at 56 Pinewood Road. The ceremony will honor all Veterans including almost 40 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.

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 or at the Town Office.

## Festival On the Square

The 11th Annual *Festival on the Square* will be in downtown Granite Falls on Monday evening, November 21st from 6:15-7:30 p.m. The Festival brings the Christmas season to life at the 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.

Rehearsals for the community choir will begin Tuesday, September 27th in the First United Methodist Church choir room, from 7:15 to 8:30 and will be held each Tuesday through November 15th. Anyone can sign up to participate in the choir or to host a booth by contacting the Festival Coordinator Jerry Anderson at 704-616-0279 or at [festivalonthesquare@gmail.com](mailto:festivalonthesquare@gmail.com). You can also contact the Town Office at 396-3131 for more information.

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 - November 21st

The Granite Falls Merchants Association is sponsoring the sixth 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. If your business is interested in sponsoring a tree, please contact Tammy Hagerty at 396-1150.



### 2016 CHRISTMAS PARADE



The Town of Granite Falls Rotary Club will sponsor the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 3rd at 12:00 noon downtown. This year's theme is "Magical Musical Christmas." Registration forms can be picked up at the Granite Falls Police Department, Dr. Bogg's office, or Southeast Retirement Planners (3rd floor of PNC bank building) starting on November 1. For more information, contact Jeff Prince

by phone at 499-0831, 396-3326 or by e-mail [jwprince1326@gmail.com](mailto:jwprince1326@gmail.com).

## BACK TO SCHOOL 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.

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

## RECREATION NEWS

The Recreation Department will be closed November 21, 2016 - November 26, 2016 for building/ gym floor refinishing and the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Lakeside Park is open from dawn to dusk. Swimming is prohibited at the "Tater Hole" and camping and open fires are prohibited at the park. Lakeside Park restrooms will be winterized and closed December 1, 2016 - March 1, 2017



Co-Ed Youth (Ages 6-15) Basketball registration will be held October 3, 2016 - November 1, 2016.

\*Fee includes uniform\*

\$40.00 for resident of Granite Falls

\$50.00 for non-resident of Granite Falls

Co-Ed Youth (Ages 4-5) Instructional Basketball registration will be held January 3, 2017 - February 18, 2017. Cost is \$10.00 (No uniforms are needed for this program).

Co-Ed Youth (Ages 4-12) Tee-Ball, Baseball, and Girls Softball registration will be held February 13, 2017 - March 13, 2017.

\*Fee includes uniform\*

\$40.00 for resident of Granite Falls

\$50.00 for non-resident of Granite Falls



### EARLY VOTING WILL BE HELD AT THE RECREATION CENTER

Early Voting will take place from October 20, 2016 - November 5, 2016. Polls are open 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and 8:00am - 1:00pm on Saturday. You will not be able to early vote on Sundays or on Monday, November 7, 2016. The Recreation Center will also be a voting site on Election Day, November 8, 2016, from 6:30am - 7:30pm.



### POLITICAL SIGNS

Election season is fast approaching. 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 (16ft<sup>2</sup>) 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 on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Town Planner Greg Wilson at (828) 396-3131.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

NOVEMBER 6

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour and to change the batteries in your smoke alarms!



### 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. **As of June 1, 2016, 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.**

### 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.

### 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 their power back on after being disconnected, please report it to the Town Office at 396-3131 or the Police Dept. at 396-3358.

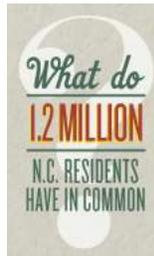
### LEAF PICKUP



Please note that leaf pick-up does not start until October 31. 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 for \$.60 per bag.

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Your meter will still need a periodic verification by the Town at least every 3 months.**



That's 1.2 million people who benefit from public power's superior reliability and local customer service. NC Public Power Communities communicates the importance of public power and builds pride in public power on their website [www.Over1MillionStrong.com](http://www.Over1MillionStrong.com). It is packed with information to spread the word about public power including helpful tips on energy efficiency and safety, promoting the many benefits of public power, and sharing 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.

### REMINDERS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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. Limbs must be under 6" in diameter. 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.

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, you will be required to pay the current cost of the additional or replacement cart. 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.**

### 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.**

### TREE TRIMMING REMINDER

The Town of Granite Falls will begin its annual tree trimming program toward 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.

## Reminders from the Granite Falls Fire Department

Granite Falls Fire Department would like to remind the citizens that we are a permanent car seat checking station. We can assist in installing and training with all types of child car seats. If you would like to have your child seat checked and training on how to properly install a car seat please call and make an appointment. (828) 396-2379



### Child Restraint safety tips:

- A child less than 5 years old and less than 40 lbs. must be in a rear seat if the vehicle has an active passenger-side air bag and a rear seat.
- Children younger than 8 years old or 80 lbs. must be properly secured in a child restraint or booster seat.
- When a child reaches the age of 8 years old (regardless of weight) or 80 lbs. (regardless of age), a correctly fitted seat belt may be used instead of a child restraint or booster seat. Placing a shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back is both illegal and unsafe.
- For all child safety seats: always follow the manufacturer's instructions and check height and weight limits. Never place a rear facing seat in front of an active airbag and, whenever possible, keep children younger than 13 years old buckled up in a rear seat of the vehicle.

## 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.

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](http://www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org)

### Granite Falls Historical Association

As people rallied together to preserve the Baird House as a museum, they talked about forming a historical society. The town attorney filed paperwork with the North Carolina Secretary of State to form the Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. A set of bylaws was developed with the intention of forming a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization "to preserve and protect the history/heritage of Granite Falls and Southern Caldwell County." However, the organization remained inactive.

On June 21, 2016, the Granite Falls History Committee met with other museum volunteers to start the process necessary to activate the historical association. They reviewed the purpose of the group and membership requirements. In accordance with the bylaws, they elected officers and chose a Board of Trustees. The following persons will serve as officers: Linda Crowder, president, Jeanne Whisnant, vice president, Adele Mangan, treasurer, and Mary Elizabeth Akalski, secretary. Dr. Caryl Burns will serve as the parliamentarian. Other trustees are Gaye Williams, Gifford Poe, Barbara Ross, and Cary Ross. The Board of Trustees will update the bylaws, plan the first meeting of the association, and designate categories of membership and dues. The target date for launching the new group is October.

### Loose Tires - Open Storage

Tires may no longer be stored outside of any residential or commercial property. The Granite Falls Town Council approved a Zoning Text Amendment in April, 2016 that requires all loose tires to be stored within an enclosed structure. When stored outside, loose tires provide a fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes and other vermin, create an elevated fire hazard and detract from neighboring property values. Loose tires used in playground equipment are allowed to remain as long as the tires are drilled to allow rain water to completely drain out. The Town is unable to pick up tires, but any citizen can dispose of their unwanted tires at the Caldwell County Landfill for no charge.

3000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$569.49, or 18.9 cents per unit.

## PUBLIC POWER WEEK

Public Power Week will be October 2nd – 8th. Come by the Town Office on Tuesday, October 4th 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](http://www.ncpublicpower.com).



## AUTOMATIC DRAFT AVAILABLE

The Town offers automatic drafts for utility payments that allows you to stop worrying about getting your payment in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. You can start paying by automatic drafts by bringing a voided check to the Town Office & signing a form. The draft will start on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the next month. Please contact Ramona Freeman at 396-3131 if you have any questions.

## TOWN HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

- Monday, September 5 - Labor Day
- Friday, November 11 - Veterans Day
- Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving
- Friday - Tuesday, December 23 - 27 - Christmas
- Monday, January 2 - New Years
- Monday, January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Friday, April 14 - Good Friday

For all above holidays: The Police and Fire Departments and the Water and Wastewater Plants will be on duty as scheduled. Republic Services 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 for after hour emergencies.



### 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



Our Facebook page is coming soon! Watch for @granitefallsnc to see news about the Town and our citizens!



Follow us on Twitter @granitefallsnc

