



# TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS

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

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



April 2010

## OATH OF OFFICE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING



(L-R) Councilmen Max McRary, Frank Mackie, Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Retired Town Manager Linda Story and Mayor Barry Hayes

Mayor Barry Hayes administers the oath of office to Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Frank Mackie and Max McRary at the organizational meeting of the council on Monday, December 7, 2009. Members of the council selected Dr. Caryl B. Burns as Mayor Pro Tempore.

### TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Contact the Police Department at  
**(828) 396-3358**

during holidays or after hour emergencies.

### MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday 12:00 NOON – 4:00 PM • Sunday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

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
- Don Kirkpatrick ..... 396-3956
- Frank Mackie. .... 396-5687
- Mike Mackie ..... 396-3546
- Max McRary ..... 396-7100
- Tracy Townsend ..... 396-9055

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

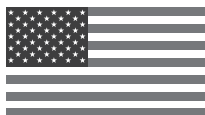
The Town Office, Recreation Center, Electric and Public Works Departments will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

**Easter** – Good Friday, April 2, 2010.

**Memorial Day** – Monday, May 31, 2010.

**July 4** – Monday, July 5, 2010. (Pool will be open)

**Labor Day** – Monday, September 6, 2010.



**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.

## BE COUNTED!



The US Constitution mandates a headcount every 10 years, of everyone residing in the United States. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and noncitizens. The population totals from the 2010 Census will determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. The totals also affect funding in our community and data collected in the census

helps inform decision makers how our community is changing. Around \$300 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year. This includes educational grants, head start programs, public transportation, road rehabilitation and construction, programs for the elderly, emergency food and shelter, and others. The data also helps determine where jobs and job programs are needed. It helps homeowners research demographic information and corporations decide on locations for commercial and retail businesses. Your answers are protected by law and are not shared with anyone.

**You should have already received your Census form in the mail. If you do not want a visit from the Census workers – fill it out and mail it in!**

## BE COUNTED – BUT BE CAUTIOUS

If a U S Census worker knocks on your door, they will have an ID badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see all of these items before answering their questions to verify they are legitimate Census workers. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home, even if they work for the government. Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the US Census.

The 2010 Census will ask for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home – just 10 simple questions that will take about 10 minutes to answer. The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, green card, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor should any Census employees solicit donations. Anyone asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau. Eventually, Census workers could contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by email, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census. Never open any attachments that are supposedly from the U S Census Bureau.

## SAVE THE DATES

### ART IN THE PARK – JUNE 16, 2010

On Tuesday, June 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., the Town of Granite Falls and the Caldwell Arts Council will sponsor ART IN THE PARK in downtown Granite Falls. Performing at this year's event will be The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band-Heritage Aire Celtic Ensemble. Heritage Aire blends a contemporary music approach with traditional Celtic music style featuring performances on instruments such as the Irish flute, tin whistles, clarinet, bodhran, acoustic guitar and accordion. **ADMISSION IS FREE!** Come join the fun.

### 2nd Annual Granite Falls Merchants Festival Saturday, September 18, 2010

## KERLEY AND PITTS FIREFIGHTER AND ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



**Travis Kerley** was honored when he was named the 2009 Firefighter of the Year for the Granite Falls Fire Department. This award is determined by a vote of the membership. Although Travis has only been a volunteer since July of 2008, he has been very active participating in training, call response, and assisting with duties around the station. He is also in the process of obtaining certification classes in both Fire and Rescue.

**James Pitts** was honored as the Granite Falls Fire Department's Rookie of the Year by a vote of his peers. James joined the department in January of 2009 as a volunteer. A firefighter is considered a rookie if he has less than 18 months with the department, but James brought with him experience he obtained as a member with Blowing Rock Fire & Rescue. James is very active in seeking certification classes in both fire & rescue, as well as training and call response.



### Early Voting at Granite Falls Recreation Center

April 15 – May 1, 2010

Primary Election Day – May 4, 2010

Polls Open 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Last Day to Register to Vote – April 9, 2010

### POLITICAL SIGNS

The Town of Granite Falls adopted new regulations in 2007 regarding the placement of political signs. These regulations are contained within the Town of Granite Falls Zoning Ordinance and are applicable within the corporate limits and the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) of the Town of Granite Falls.

#### Section 1414 Political Signs:

Temporary signs of candidates for election or for issues on a ballot shall be allowed in any zoning district providing such signs do not exceed ten (10ft<sup>2</sup>) square feet in area per display face and two faces per sign. All such signs may not be erected prior to sixty (60) days before the appropriate primary, general, run-off or referendum and must be removed within five (5) days after the primary, general or run-off election or referendum. In all cases, the property owner and the political candidate shall be equally responsible for removal of the signs. Signs placed in the right-of-way of a public street may be removed by Town Staff without notice (per Section 1404.4).

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 Greg Wilson, Town Planner at (828) 396-3131.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM YOUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Please note that leaf pick-up concluded March 31, 2010. Over 130 tons of leaves were collected and recycled! If you still have leaves and small debris, please put them in plastic bags and they will be picked up on Thursdays. Bags can be obtained from the Town Administrative Office.

Please 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.

**Keep up the good work, everyone! Our recycling average leaped from 64% to 77%!**

Limbs will be chipped on a regular scheduled basis. 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. We try to offer a wide range of services, but work forces are sometimes limited.

Meters are generally read between the 12th and 17th of each month. Please keep electric meters and water meters accessible to be read. Please trim back any bushes, hedges or limbs that are obstructing meters. 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.**

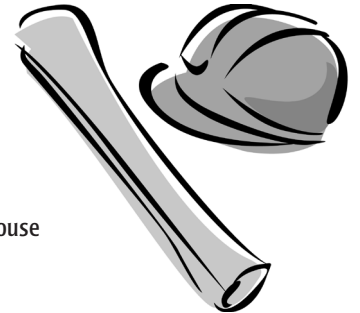
Please do not blow grass into the streets and gutters. When it rains, clippings are washed down the storm drains and eventually end up in our drinking water resource. Only water should go down storm drains. Bag your grass clippings in manageable amounts (50lbs or less) and they will be picked up on Thursdays.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

Please remember that household garbage intended for pickup cannot be placed out for collection any earlier than the night before scheduled pickup. Thank you for doing your part to help keep Granite Falls clean and safe.

### DO YOU NEED A ZONING PERMIT?

If you are:

- Building a new house
- Building an addition to an existing house
- Adding or replacing a deck or porch
- Adding a swimming pool (above or below ground)
- Placing a storage building or carport on your property
- Building a sign structure of any kind or size (freestanding signs, wall signs, etc.)
- Conducting any commercial or industrial construction or expansion
- Starting a new business (whether in an existing commercial building or from home)



If so, then you will need to obtain a Zoning Permit from the Town of Granite Falls. 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. The fee for a Zoning Permit is \$20 and can be paid with cash or check. Most projects will also require a Building Permit from Caldwell County. The Building Inspections Office can be reached at (828) 426-8585.

## ELECTRIC REBATES

The Town of Granite Falls continues to offer rebates on purchases of residential heat pumps and electric water heaters to our electric customers. To qualify, the heat pump needs to have a seer rating of 14 and a minimum size of 1 ton up to 5 tons. The heat pump rebate will be \$400.00 per installed unit with no maximum number of units to a customer/builder/developer. The rebate for electric water heaters is still \$150.00. The water heater can be no smaller than 30 gallons.

Energy audits are offered to all electric customers. An energy audit will be performed to help you understand and lower your energy consumption. In order to qualify for an energy audit, you must be a homeowner and use all electric appliances.

Always inspect your air filters at least once a month. Dirty air filters will reduce efficiency of your air handler and increase power consumption.

Please remember that after 5:00 pm electrical emergencies shall be directed to The Town of Granite Falls Police Dept. They can be contacted at 396-3358. Please make sure that you give them your address and phone number as a line technician may need to contact you.

Remember, it is tax time and if you have made any energy efficient changes to your home, you should check out the website below. You may be entitled to some tax credits. This includes heat pumps.

<http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?re=1&ee=1&spv=0&st=0&srp=1&state=NC>

## OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY

The Town of Granite Falls reminds you to be aware of power lines and stay away from them.

Power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity and are not insulated. Both direct and indirect contact can be instantly fatal.

- Never climb a utility pole in an attempt to remove an entangled object (tree limb, kite, model airplane, etc.) from a power line. Call the town office for safe removal.
- Never attempt to remove tree limbs that are growing near or into power lines. Instead, call the town office for assistance.
- When installing or removing an antenna, make sure its distance from any power line is 10 feet or twice its height whichever is greater. If the antenna starts to fall, let it go and stay clear.
- Fly kites in open areas away from power lines and busy streets, using non-metallic string. If the kite or any like object is moving toward a power line, let go of the string immediately.
- Plan carefully when planting vegetation near power lines. Avoid planting trees that will mature to a large size and eventually interfere with electrical conductors or equipment.
- When working with a ladder, make sure its distance from any power line is 10ft. or twice its length, whichever is greater.
- If you see a sagging or downed power line, assume it is energized and immediately call the town office. Do not attempt to remove the line or any object that may be in direct contact with it.
- Before installing a pool, contact the town office at 396-3131 to help determine the safest location with regard to power lines. With existing pools, be aware of power lines whenever using long-handled pool cleaners or rescue poles.

## TOWN HAS TWITTER ACCOUNT

The town has established a Twitter account of the town's website. Follow the updates and information at <http://twitter.com/GraniteFallsNC> (exactly as shown). There is also a link on the town's website.

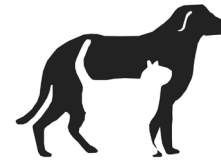
[www.granitefallsnc.com](http://www.granitefallsnc.com)

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE TOWN DEPARTMENTS  
CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE



## RECREATION CENTER NEWS

- Registration for swim lessons starts May 1, 2010 for ages 4-12. The cost is \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. We will register until classes are full. Classes will start June 14, 2010.
- Registration for the Granite Falls Swim Team will be held every Saturday in May from 12:00-2:00 at the Recreation Center.
- We are currently taking reservations for pool parties. The cost is \$60 per hour. Call Tim Cooke at 396-1221.
- Public swim will be Monday – Saturday 1:00 – 5:00, Sunday 2:00 – 5:00 and Monday Evening 6:30 – 8:00. The Pool will be open Memorial Weekend and June 5th and 6th. Starting June 12th, the pool will be open daily through August 20th.
- For more information on classes and activities at the Recreation Center, please call 396-1221.



## DOGS AND CATS RUNNING AT LARGE

Dogs and/or cats running at large can be a serious problem in town. Citizens who allow their pets to run at large cause problems for their neighbors, property owners, adults and children who walk, etc. Please review a list of responsibilities that animal owners have to their pet and their neighbors. Owing an animal is a serious responsibility and should be treated as such. The following are the responsibilities of the owner of a dog/cat and the town's responsibility.

### TOWN'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Respond to citizen's complaints concerning dogs. It would be helpful if the caller can identify the owner of the dog, the breed of the dog, the color and any other information that would assist in locating the dog and its owner.
2. A Granite Falls Police Officer will discuss the violations with the owner of the dog/cat, if the owner is known or can be located.
3. A Granite Falls Police Officer will leave a copy of the Granite Falls Animal Control Ordinance for the pet owner.
4. When necessary, contact the Caldwell County Animal Control Office for assistance in picking up dogs/cats. When this occurs, dogs/cats will be taken to the Animal Shelter in Lenoir.

### OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Owner shall not allow their dog/cat to run at large. Those who do are subject to violation of Section 10-8 of the Granite Falls Town Ordinance.
2. All dogs four months old or older shall have received the appropriate vaccinations.
3. Keep the dog or cat on your property and under the control of the owner at all times.
4. Owner can be charged with a misdemeanor if violations continue after appropriate warnings.
5. Contact the Caldwell County Animal Shelter at 757-8625 when you can no longer provide an adequate home for your pet.
6. Owner is responsible for ALL damages done by his pet.
7. Do not allow your dog to bark at unacceptable hours.
8. Be a good neighbor. Be responsible for your pets' actions. Ask your neighbors if your animal is causing any problems for them while you are away. Sometimes situations occur while the owner is away and a neighbor can assist you in assessing your animals' behavior.

# CITIZEN'S EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In an attempt to better serve the citizens of Granite Falls, the Town Office and Police Department staffs are requesting emergency information on citizens. This information will only be used in case of emergency involving the citizen. This information would be shared with Caldwell County EMS personnel if requested. The Town Office would use this information only in case of an emergency health problem or an emergency with the citizen's electric, water or sewer service.

Please fill out the attached form in its entirety and return it to the Town Office or the Police Department. Also for your convenience, you may drop this form in the night deposit located at the Town Office.

Because many of our citizens in Granite Falls live alone, we feel this information would be invaluable in locating family members in emergency situations. Please make this information available to us as soon as possible.

## CITIZEN EMERGENCY INFORMATION

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Name

-----  
Residence Street Address

-----  
Telephone Number

Emergency Contacts

-----  
Name

-----  
Daytime Phone Number

-----  
Address

-----  
Nighttime Phone Number

-----  
City/State/Zip Code

-----  
Cell Phone/Pager Number

-----  
Name

-----  
Daytime Phone Number

-----  
Address

-----  
Nighttime Phone Number

-----  
City/State/Zip Code

-----  
Cell Phone/Pager Number



-----  
Physician's Name

-----  
Physician's Telephone Number

-----  
Hospital Preference

-----  
Other Important Information or Instructions

-----  
Signature

-----  
Date