



GRANITE FALLS BANK

THE ADVANTAGE

NEWSLETTER

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PHONE: 320-564-2111

FAX: 320-564-2114

www.granitefallsbank.com

How Much Is Too Much Rain?

I write this article with caution. We often spend our summers praying for enough rain and so most of us are uncomfortable asking for the rain to stop. However, I think we can all agree that we have had enough rain that we would have been more than willing to share some of it with others. Farmers are understandingly anxious about harvest and even many town folk have been affected by water in their basements as the ground has become so saturated it cannot take any more moisture.

So how much rain have we had? I have included precipitation data from 4 locations in the Table below to try to put together a picture.

Location	Precipitation (Jan.1-Sept.30) ¹	Average Precipitation (Jan.1-Sept.30) ²	Precipitation Above Average	Precipitation in September ¹	Maximum Annual Precipitation Recorded (in.) ²	Minimum Annual Precipitation Recorded (in.) ²
Granite Falls	41.05 in.	21.93 in.	19.12 in.	8.77 in.		
Marshall	27.76	21.36	6.40	11.43	39.83 (1993)	10.31 (1976)
Redwood Falls	28.04	22.56	5.48	8.04	37.56 (1979)	13.31 (1894)
Willmar	43.86	23.83	20.03	5.01	40.66 (1965)	12.53 (1976)

With 3 months to go, it appears Willmar has already set a record with data going all the way back to 1893. Although I don't have the data, I would venture to guess that Granite Falls has set a record as well. Marshall and Redwood Falls are well over their averages, but not at record levels. However, with the September rainfall total for Marshall at 11.43 inches, it's easy to see why there are so many new lakes in the Marshall area. Please also remember how much difference a few miles can make. I've heard from some in the greater Marshall area and their numbers are more in line with the Granite Falls - Willmar numbers.

As I write this letter in late September, we have pieced a few great autumn days together and I hear reports that some combines are moving. The 10-day outlook indicates we may have even more dry weather ahead. I hope this forecast is accurate, as it looks like there is a very good crop out in the field. Good luck to all our farm customers and may your harvest be safe. To everyone else, I hope your basement stays dry.

As to my original question – How much is too much rain? – I'm going to dodge that question. But we can all be thankful we are not challenging the records set in 1976.

1 - Granite Falls data from Linda Richter, weather recorder for the National Weather Service and the City of Granite Falls. All other data from Weather Underground, website - www.wunderground.com.

2 - All data from Midwestern Regional Climate Center, website - mcc.sws.uiuc.edu



John Virnig, President

NEW WEBSITE DESIGN



The Granite Falls Bank is proud to announce its new Website! Our new updated look is bright and easy to read. Navigation through our tabs allows you to gain knowledge about our products and services, contact us regarding any questions or comments, and learn some of the areas' organizations and events the Granite Falls Bank proudly supports. We offer a few hints as you become familiar with the new site. When you click "Online Banking" or "Fraud Prevention" another box will appear. This is simply a notice stating you're leaving the Granite Falls Bank website and entering another. It is OK to click "OK". If you are experiencing difficulties be sure to check your settings for "pop-up blockers". Your Online Banking pages and required information are exactly the same, just a slightly new look. Please feel free to contact the bank with comments or questions and we'll be happy to assist you! You can email information@granitefallsbank.com or call 320-564-2111.

Lend a Helping Hand... Winter Coat & Food Drive"

Needed: Gently worn or new Winter Coats, Hats, Gloves, Boots, Snow Pants for Youth Grades K-6 and Monetary Contributions and/or Non Perishable items for the Yellow Medicine County Food Shelf

DROP SITES: Granite Falls Bank, The Grinder, Chamber Office, & Citizens Sate Bank

The Granite Falls Chamber will distribute all food shelf donations to the YMC Food Shelf.

The Granite Falls Chamber will distribute all needed Winter Items to Bert Raney Elementary School and YMC Family Service Center.

For More Information Please Contact : Granite Falls Area Chamber at 320-564-4039

CONGRATULATIONS!

**Customer Service Representative,
Jamie Olerud and Bryan Wright
are proud to announce the birth of
Abigail Joann Wright
Born July 12, 2010
10:28 a.m. 6 lbs 2 oz 19" long**

**Our VISA Travel Cards & Gift Cards
make GREAT gift ideas!
See any Customer Service Representative
to get yours in time for the Holidays!**

CHERYL SCHMILLEN ~ 10 YEARS OF SERVICE



Cheryl Schmillen

We moved to Granite Falls in January 1997. After working at several businesses in town, an opportunity came for me to join the Granite Falls Bank staff. My career at Granite Falls Bank began in January 2001 as a Customer Service Representative in

the main lobby. In February 2009, I began working in the bank's Operations Department where my responsibilities involve the bank's daily processing.

My husband, Bob and I have been married 12 years. Bob has worked at Project Turnabout since our move here. We have a blended family including Aaron Schmillen & his wife Sarah of St. James, MN, Allison Halverson & her husband Grant of Madelia, MN, and Derek Pierson of Marshall, MN.

I served several years as a board member & treasurer of the Granite Falls Historical Society. I enjoy reading, especially about anything

historical. One of my greatest passions is breast cancer awareness because, as of January my Mother will be a 5 year survivor. In 2008 and 2009 I participated in the Twin Cities Susan G. Komen 3 Day for the Cure Breast Cancer Walk and I hope to do so again next year .



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH LIFE INSURANCE

Having children is often the 'catalyst' for buying life insurance, as young parents recognize the awesome, life-long responsibility they have assumed.

- When purchasing life insurance, consider covering both spouses, even if one stays at home and is not employed. In the event of the stay-at-home parent's death, the surviving spouse will need to shoulder all the responsibilities of the household.
- In determining the amount of life insurance to purchase, make sure to take into account your full childcare costs – especially for children under 5 years old and for kids with special needs. Take the time to estimate these costs carefully, and factor them into your decision-making process.
- Weigh the costs/benefits of purchasing whole life vs. term life insurance as part of your financial planning strategy. Whole life insurance policies build cash value and also pay a death benefit. But they are more expensive. If you can't afford whole life insurance right now, but may want it in the future, you may consider term life insurance with a conversion option that will let you change to a whole life policy for a fee when you are ready.

Or you may want to purchase term life insurance, which offers death benefit protection for a specified time period. For example, term life insurance may be appropriate to provide coverage during your child-rearing years or while paying off a mortgage. Term life premiums increase as you age. Term life is typically less expensive in your younger years than permanent life insurance, which covers you for your entire life and typically has level premiums. You may also want to consider purchasing a combination of term life insurance and whole life insurance.

Contact the F&M Agency 320-564-2111 or Email steve.virnig@fmagencygf.com or jennifer.hauge@fmagencygf.com



F & M INSURANCE AGENCY

*Insurance and Investment products are not a deposit or other obligation, or guaranteed by the bank or its affiliates. Insurance and annuity investments are not insured by the FDIC or any other Federal Government Agency of the U.S., the bank, or any of its affiliates. Insurance investment products may lose value. F&M Insurance Agency is an affiliate of the Granite Falls Bank.



GRANITE FALLS BANK
PO Box 8
702 PRENTICE STREET
GRANITE FALLS MN 56241

PHONE: 320-564-2111
FAX: 320-564-2114
WWW.GRANITEFALLSBANK.COM

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CONVENIENCE

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