

# Bank of Granite

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## **Bank of Granite Announces Bowman for South Caldwell Market**

Gary W. Bowman has joined Bank of Granite as South Caldwell market executive, a new position at the bank. Senior Vice President and Mountain Regional Executive Earl B. Searcy, III, made the announcement.

“We are so glad to have someone with Gary’s knowledge of the banking industry to lead our new South Caldwell County market area comprised of the Baton, Hudson and Granite Falls offices,” said Searcy. “He will be invaluable as we put his experience to work for our teams and our customers. And he will be a great compliment to his Caldwell County counterpart, Lenoir Market Executive Rahn Chase.”

Bowman graduated from Drexel High School in 1966 and then earned an associate degree in business from Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton. He has spent 38 years as a banker in the Valdese and Burke County markets.

Currently an active member of the Valdese Downtown Revitalization Committee, Bowman is also a trustee at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Morganton and former member of the Valdese Rotary Club. A native and resident of Drexel, he and his wife, Jan, have two children, Heath Bowman of Valdese, and Heather Murphy of Gastonia, and one grandson, 5-year-old Max Murphy.

“I’m excited to serve Bank of Granite’s customers in the South Caldwell area,” said Bowman. “It will be a pleasure to develop new relationships here.” Bowman will be working from the bank’s Granite Falls office located at 23 N. Main St.

In addition to Bowman joining the staff at the Granite Falls office, Searcy also announced other changes there. Beverly M. Fry will transition from office manager to loan review specialists and Customer Service Manager Jeff W. Prince has been promoted to office manager.

A long-time employee and Granite Falls native, Fry has spent her entire 36-year career at Bank of Granite. Having held numerous positions with the bank, she was named banking officer and Granite Falls office manager in 2002. She will now work as a loan review specialist in the bank's loan administration building at 116 Third St, N.W. in downtown Hickory.

A 1972 graduate of Granite Falls High School, Fry has also received a diploma from the American Institute of Banking. Strongly committed to community, she is a councilwoman for the Town of Sawmills, member of the Rotary Club of Granite Falls and board member for South Caldwell Christian Ministries and Lovelady Rescue Squad.

Fry resides in Hudson with her husband, Benny. She has two adult children, Scott Kirby, also of Hudson and Stephanie Kirby of High Point.

"I'm really looking forward to this new phase in my Bank of Granite career," Fry said. "I have always enjoyed helping our customers and will miss them, but I'm excited about the new opportunity for growth and development."

Prince, a Granite Falls native, joined Bank of Granite in 1994. He has been the Granite Falls office representative for fixed annuities and life insurance since obtaining his life and health insurance license in 1997. He earned his long-term care insurance license in 2003. Prince has consistently qualified for the annual national conference for top fixed annuity producers held in Las Vegas.

“I try to uncover and fully understand our banking customers’ financial needs and goals,” said Prince. “That’s how I can deliver the best solutions for each individual’s or family’s unique situation.”

Prince is a 1987 graduate of South Caldwell High School. He has completed numerous American Institute of Banking courses. He’s an active member and Sunday school teacher at Center Grove Baptist Church in Hudson. Prince has worked with Communities in Schools for more than 10 years, is past treasurer for the Rotary Club of Granite Falls and a former board member of the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce and Caldwell County Smart Start. Prince and his wife, Denise, reside in Hudson and have a 7-year-old daughter, Madelynn.

“Beverly has done a terrific job at the Granite Falls office and her staff and customers will miss her,” said Searcy. “I know she will be a great asset to the team in loan administration.” He continued, “This is a great opportunity for Jeff, and I know he will do well and benefit from Gary’s experience.” Searcy leads the bank’s mountain region consisting of the Burke, Watauga and Wilkes offices, in addition to those in Caldwell County.

*Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage are subsidiaries of Bank of Granite Corporation, whose stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol “GRAN.” The bank operates 22 full-service banking offices in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Forsyth, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Watauga and Wilkes counties, and a lending office in Guilford County. Granite Mortgage, headquartered in Winston-Salem, originates home mortgages in these counties and in Fayetteville and Salisbury, N.C.*

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Gary W. Bowman



Beverly M. Fry



Jeff W. Prince