



Vote for mayor, 2 aldermen

# Granite Quarry

**Question # 1**  
*What's the best asset(s) you would bring to the town board?*

**Question #2**  
*What should be the town's top three priorities over the next four years?*

**Question #3**  
*What's the most challenging thing Granite Quarry faces in the future?*



**Bill Feather**

**Address:** 135 E. Kerns St.  
**Age:** 60  
**Occupation:** commercial properties consultant  
**Education:** graduate, Winber (Pa.) Area High; attended University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

"The biggest thing is my knowledge and experience." Feather says he doesn't think anyone else knows as much about the background and history on projects and town business in general.

Completing the industrial park and a 250-home subdivision and making sure they are done right; revitalizing the downtown and that whole business corridor; improving the town's appearance and make it look more inviting.

"The (U.S.) 52 bypass is the biggest challenge. ... It could be one of the best things, or one of the worst things." Feather says the town will have to figure out how to keep the downtown vital while also planning for growth along a new bypass.



**Mike Brinkley**

**Address:** 115 S. Jack St.  
**Age:** 65  
**Occupation:** owner, W.F. Brinkley & Son Construction  
**Education:** graduate, East Rowan High; attended Gaston, Catawba colleges

"My institutional knowledge. I know what has worked in the past and where we've made mistakes and to not repeat them." Brinkley adds he knows how the town works through his past experiences serving Granite Quarry.

Growth, but managed growth with good planning; taking a business approach to town finances and keeping an eye on how taxpayer money is spent; knowing what residents want in amenities because growth is coming.

"Downtown revitalization is going to be critical. What form that takes, I don't know, and the U.S. 52 bypass will open up more growth opportunities." Brinkley predicts the bypass will be here in 10 years, "and I hope we're ready for it."



**Kim Cress**

**Address:** 717 Weldon Lane  
**Age:** 62  
**Occupation:** Retired maintenance director, Granite Quarry  
**Education:** graduate, Salisbury High; attended Wingate University

Cress touts his "many years of knowledge and experience of town operations" as its longtime maintenance director.

Maintain low taxes; support public safety; strong code enforcement.

"Smart growth, focusing our investments in the most high-returning areas of our town. Foster economic development."



**John Linker**

**Address:** 402 Elm St.  
**Age:** 68  
**Occupation:** Retired from McCormick & Co.  
**Education:** graduate of East Rowan High; business degree, Catawba College

"My experience is probably the biggest asset." Linker notes his service as a former mayor and alderman, his past role as chairman of the Rowan County Planning Board and being in business for himself.

Planning related to the new State Employees Credit Union and U.S. 52 bypass; addressing neglected streets and sidewalks; determining whether the maintenance staff is adequately equipped and staffed.

Making the downtown attractive and enticing. "Granite Quarry is not a destination. Everybody passes through it to go somewhere else." The challenge will be to make the town a destination and the streets more walkable.



**Wes Rhinier**

**Address:** 208 Brookstone Way  
**Age:** 45  
**Occupation:** Information technology technician for Dillard's  
**Education:** electronics training, U.S. Air Force

"My willingness to make hard choices and stand up for the people of Granite Quarry. People want less government, and I aim to shrink or eliminate government wherever possible."

Cutting taxes; shrinking government; bringing back a grocery store.

"Keeping the city of Salisbury from raping citizens of Granite Quarry to prop up the Fibrant debacle throughout our utility bills."

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## Doug Shelton

**Address:** 135 N. Main St.

**Age:** 69

**Occupation:** retired accountant

**Education:** graduate, Boyden High School; bachelor's degree, UNC-Greensboro

**Question #1**  
*What's the best asset(s) you would bring to the town board?*

"I think my No. 1 asset is that I'm not already invested in a personal agenda," Shelton says. He thinks he would bring fresh eyes and no preconceived notions to the job. "I bring an open mind," he says.

**Question #2**  
*What should be the town's top three priorities over the next four years?*

Maintaining continuity in town staff. "We have had a lot of turnover in the past two years"; following through on a lot of things the town has started, such as the industrial park; being attractive to business and residents to keep the town vital.

**Question #3**  
*What's the most challenging thing Granite Quarry faces in the future?*

"The most challenging thing right now and for the next 10 years is getting a more vibrant downtown. ... We're not a destination." Shelton says if Granite Quarry can stay a good place to live, it could bring other opportunities. "It's all about demographics."



## Arin Wilhelm

**Address:** 1321 Stonewyck

**Age:** 41

**Occupation:** community engagement specialist

**Education:** bachelor's, California Coast University; master's, Hood Seminary

Wilhelm touts his experience in community engagement through his work on the board and his job with Cardinal Innovations. He says he brings a lot of energy, "and I like to think big." He says he's good at creating collaborations.

The town must stay ahead of the opioid crisis; steady economic development; developing educational programs for adults and youth.

Creating a better community without increasing the burden on taxpayers. Growing smartly and finding the right mix of industry, new homes and a revitalized downtown without putting too much attention on one thing.