

# ★ Spencer Board of Aldermen ★

Choose 6 from candidates on Pages 4D and 5D

## On the issues...

### Scott Benfield

**Write-In**  
**Age:** 49  
**Education:** Educated in Rowan-Salisbury School System and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.  
**Employment:** Owner of Scott's Plumbing.



**Why did you decide to run for alderman?**

I'm running because I love this town. The finest people I know live and work in this community. Therefore, I want to serve them. If chosen, I will work hard.

**What would you do to attract new business to Spencer?**

I would work toward keeping Spencer clean and well-maintained, so businesses would be proud to be in Spencer. Also, I would work toward maintaining a low crime rate and excellent fire protection. An incentive package would be nice to offer businesses, as well.

**What would you do to help rectify the problem with absentee landlords?**

Absentee landlords have been a problem in Spencer. We do have some good minimum housing ordinances in place. However, we need to enforce them to the maximum. We may need to have more home inspections.

### Nick Bishop

**Age:** 59  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree from Catawba College and a master's degree in theater and speech from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.  
**Employment:** Manager of Stoudemire Furniture.



I'm trying to progressively approach the needs of the town. I'm pushing a way of marketing the town on a Web site.

We need to make the town look enticing. We need to deal more with marketing the town to businesses and homeowners.

Make sure the appearance of the town stays appealing. We have to market the town as a place to live and a place to work. Back code enforcement as best we can.

### Lawrence Bolen

**Age:** 42  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree from Concord University in Concord, W.Va.  
**Employment:** Science teacher at Henderson Independent High School and owner of the PC Doctor, a computer repair business.



I have lived here for nine-plus years and was unhappy with the direction our town has taken the last two years and felt a change was needed.

By promoting ourselves more through the Rowan Economic Development Corporation as well as forming our own EDC and working cooperatively with EDC's in the surrounding area.

I would like to see absentee landlords held accountable for property conditions, i.e. certificates of occupancy. Also, work for programs that promote home ownership leading to pride in the property maintenance.

### Donnie Hinson

**Age:** 53  
**Education:** Graduate of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College with a degree in Basic Law Enforcement Training and has completed additional training at the school in the years since.  
**Employment:** Deputy with the Rowan County Sheriff's Office where he serves as a bailiff. Former chief of the Spencer Police Department, serving in that capacity from 1987 to 1991.



With my experience as a town employee, I know what the people need. Hopefully, we'll create a better environment for all our citizens.

I feel a community development committee will get people interested in the town. The town has a lot to offer if everyone works together to get the community back to the way it was in the 1970s.

If there's a problem, talk to the renter. If we don't get satisfaction, go to the homeowner. Have the problems documented and maybe in the future have the home declared a nuisance.

### Jeff Morris

**Age:** 44  
**Education:** Graduate of Catawba College with a bachelor's degree in International Business. Juris Doctorate degree from Wake Forest University.  
**Employment:** Attorney who practices in Salisbury.



I've decided I'm here to stay, and I want to contribute to Spencer's tradition of fine "hometown" leadership.

Promote our historic downtown area, and advance the area north of Long Ferry Road up to the Yadkin River as a coveted location for commercial and light industrial development.

We will hold all homeowners accountable, to prevent disrepair from becoming an eyesore. We should also mandate steeper roof pitches on new housing, to maintain compatibility with existing historic structures.

### David H. Smith

**Age:** 61  
**Education:** High school graduate and completed some college courses.  
**Background:** Retired from U.S. Army and still works as an Army consultant, doing security work.



Spencer is my town. I want improvement as well as safety. My expertise should be used, not dormant. I want to make a difference.

I will actively pursue an economic development commission serving the town of Spencer. I want the town of Spencer to attract new business and support their existing businesses.

To establish an ordinance that when tenants move out, code enforcement should be allowed to inspect the building to make sure it meets code standards and fines to be established for violations.

### C. E. Spear

**Age:** 83  
**Education:** High school, Baldwin, Ga.  
**Employment:** Retired boiler maker, Southern Railway. Also retired from the insurance business and operated Industrial Repairs, a machine shop.



With my years of serving on the board, I want to remain in a position to help the mayor and board make good decisions for the town.

The town supports economic development and has the expertise to attract new businesses. The board is frequently asked to amend ordinances to encourage a viable business to locate here.

Locally, the landlords maintain their property. Absentee landlords seem to be in it for profit only. Tenants should maintain the property as if it were their own.