

★ East Spencer Alderman ★

Choose Three

On the issues...

Your priorities?

Biggest challenge facing East Spencer?

Why should people vote for you?

John G. Noble III

Incumbent
Age: 60
Address: 218 E. Hall St.
Education: Dunbar High School; bachelor's degree, Shaw University, Raleigh.
Background: Lieutenant in charge of courthouse security, Rowan County Sheriff's Office; seeking sixth term as alderman; N.C. Law Enforcement Officer Association board member; Western Star Lodge No. 9; Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.



Water bills and taxes, both too high; bringing more business and industry to town; emergency services center to combine fire and police departments; street repairs; affordable housing; developing I-85 area.

Finding the money to put more police officers on the street, either through grants or cutting jobs elsewhere.

"I would hope the citizens would see what I have done in the past and hope they would vote for me because I've lived here all my life and I love the town."

Deloris High

Incumbent
Age: 66
Address: 611 Pinetree Drive
Education: Associate degree in ministry, More than Conquerors College, Charlotte.
Background: Retired from BellSouth Telephone Co. in Greensboro; seeking a third term as alderman; substitute teacher, Rowan-Salisbury School System; Rowan Helping Ministries volunteer; board of directors, New Testament Word of Faith.



Transportation for young people to after-school sessions and other programs; recreation center; grocery, pharmacy and medical facility so older people can "get the basic things they need" in the town.

Continuing to fight unlawful activity, such as prostitution and drug-dealing. While those activities have been curbed, "you can always improve on unlawful activity ... and keep it at a minimum."

"I have the experience and I have a pretty good grip on what people want. ... If they vote for me, I would do my best to assist the citizens whenever possible."

Carlton Ellis

Incumbent
Age: 68
Address: 506 E. Geroid St.
Education: Dunbar High School.
Background: Retired from First Baptist Church; also worked for city of Salisbury; appointed alderman in August 2006 after Dr. Ronald Hash resigned from the board; fourth-leading vote-getter in 2003 Board of Aldermen election.



Straightening out "the bad water problem we're having." Better police and fire protection; more involvement by aldermen in town finances.

"Too much overhead. Too many high-paid people for the population of the town. We would have to reduce or do away with some of those positions."

"I have more experience in the water, since I worked at it."

Theodore Gladden

Challenger
Age: 58
Address: 501 E. Hall St.
Education: Dunbar High School; associate degree in business administration, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.
Background: Retired from U.S. Postal Service; U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam War; Disabled American Veterans; American Legion; Western Star Lodge No. 9; South Carolina combat veterans' group.



Decrease water bills; improve police and fire protection; return credibility to the town and its leaders. "Right now, they're doing nothing for it."

Increasing revenue by bringing new businesses to town, particularly along the Interstate-85 corridor, and encouraging more home building.

Some incumbents "have gotten somewhat complacent or they don't feel like they have to work for the citizens. I would be more accessible to the citizens."

Robert A. Smith filed to run for a seat on the Board of Aldermen but did not respond to interview requests.

SHARON E. JACKSON/SALISBURY POST

CG MAYOR

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Davis, who left in August to take a job in Mount Holly, a much larger town.

Where Welter focused on getting rid of Davis, Bringle credits the former manager with putting the town on sound financial footing. "We have the water and sewer distribution system to be able to support the growth that is projected. The biggest thing is the town is in a positive financial situation."

Bringle said the water rate hikes have been tough

on some folks. "Davis had to do some things that weren't desirable ... but we're not teetering on bankruptcy."

Welter says Bringle is reluctant to take on Salisbury over utility charges, particularly water rates. He cited a recent story about Lincolnton buying water at \$2.80 per 1,000 gallons in the midst of a drought. "We're paying Salisbury \$4.20 per 1,000 gallons."

Bringle shares Welter's concern about the utility contract with Salisbury. "It's put a heavy burden on us," said Bringle.

Both Bringle and Welter refuted Salisbury's claim of one-price water. Both said

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities sells water to Southern Power Co. at a much cheaper price than afforded other customers.

Although the town spent several months looking at possible legal challenges to the contracts with Salisbury, no action has been taken.

Bringle wants to focus on moving the town forward and hopes voters elect officials willing to work together.

"We need to have a board that will work for the common interest of the town and not individual agendas," said Bringle. "We need to be able to go through goal setting and determine what our

needs are and develop five- and 10-year plans."

Efforts to set goals in recent years have failed as the board's annual retreats have dissolved into name-calling and reliving past incidents and issues.

"Our (past) efforts have not worked," said Bringle. "A lot depends on who is elected."

Welter wants to focus on controlling growth and making sure developers pay their way. "We're not going to be able to bring back industry. We'll be what we are now, a nice bedroom community with a bunch of nice stores on U.S. 29 — not in the downtown."

Welter, who owns several buildings downtown, has pushed for more parking. But Welter said he doesn't support any downtown revitalization program that would involve tax dollars.

Over the past few years, he's rankled many in the town's business community with calls to move Hannah Park and create parking on Main Street. And he continues to push for removal of the crape myrtles on Main Street.

Whether he's elected mayor or not, Welter expects to have an active role in the town government, continuing to serve as an alderman.