

town growth and participation. Possible areas for improvement include removal of power lines in the downtown area, additional parking, upgrading of sidewalks, assisting property owners in renovation of their businesses and adding street lights city-wide.

Wowra: Much is being done at this time to revitalize the appearance of downtown Raeford. Specifically, I will actively seek funds to place overhead lines underground; encourage and officially recognize individual merchant's revitalization efforts; ensure that the city maintenance department maintains and upgrades downtown Raeford on an ongoing basis; direct that all downtown parking areas be more clearly marked and better maintained.

As appearance is a barometer of pride, the condition of downtown Raeford must be a priority.

Thomas: The businesses downtown are mostly privately owned and should be the responsibility of their owners to fix them up.

McGuire: Raeford's downtown is similar to downtown in many other towns. Downtown America is dying and moving to the mall on the by-pass. Raeford could improve its downtown image considerably by getting rid of the two-hour parking and ticketing scan currently in effect. The most visually exciting downtown I've ever seen is Marion, S.C. The Raeford City Council should pay a visit to Marion to see what a downtown can be.

Graham: Simply by bringing and encouraging small business people and vendors to establish here in Hoke County. Provide seminars and workshops. Create a merchant association and an economic strategic planning committee.

McLeod: There are many towns and cities across our nation that would like to know the answer to this question. Most of the recommendations for downtown revitalization require spending large amounts of money by local governments or from merchants and industry. In our case, there has not been enough money to accomplish a great deal, but the city is committed to helping revitalize downtown. The city's budget has money allocated each year for this purpose, and a member of the City Council serves on the downtown revitalization committee. This committee has worked hard and has the strong support of the City Council. Sidewalk restoration and utility pole removal are a couple of long range things that could be done.

Fields: Downtown revitalization is a subject we've heard an awful lot about but haven't really seen much of. Concrete flower pots and banners are nice and I'm glad we have them but its like Ross Perot says, "Is this one we just

want to talk about or is this one we're ready to do something about?"

If we're ready to do something about it, in my opinion these are some things we need to do.

First, no burned-out dilapidated buildings need to be left standing as an eyesore and potential safety hazard. All the sidewalks and curb and guttering (in areas that need it) should be repaired. Potholes, broken and uneven spots, etc. and metal plating put in the road alongside the steel tracks at all railroad crossings. We should have the utilities (wherever possible) put underground downtown and then plant trees every 50 feet or so along the streets. Merchants and owners of buildings should be urged (by the Chamber of Commerce) if necessary to keep their buildings, front and rear entrances, etc. clean and spruced up and looking like they're ready for business. Once the town looks the part, like its really a nice place to spend some time, the Chamber could press for tight enforcements of ordinances like no bicycles on sidewalks, no littering, no profanity in public places, etc. Even pass new ordinances if necessary to keep the town looking the way we worked so hard to make it look. The Chamber might even put out a "Raeford Calendar" every year with twelve pictures of different businesses.

Next would be to again do everything in our power to attract good new businesses to town. If all this worked fairly well we could look into starting a shuttle bus that makes periodic stops at different points throughout the city. There's many other ways also to revitalize downtown, but we have to have the will to do it and the goals have to be within reach.

McNeill: I think we should support the Downtown Revitalization Committee to the fullest. They do a great job.

Q: Raeford has experienced problems with its water lately. How would you address these problems?

Gentry: First of all, the problem is not water quality, but quantity and pressure. With deep wells providing our water, quality has always been and continues to be excellent. The pressure problem is most prevalent in the western part of our City and much of it is outside city limits. We recently asked our engineers to address this problem and to provide a solution to remedy this situation. Their findings were to place smaller water lines with larger ones (in some instances

as much as 12 inch lines are needed and we have none over 6 inches now) and secondly, to build another water tank in this area. This would be very costly, but if we phase it out over a period of three to five years, we can pay for it as we go which has been our practice lately as opposed to going into debt. The problem is partially a result of our efforts to provide services to those high growth areas.

Phillips: Raeford has not positioned itself for the growth that it is experiencing. A study addressing future water needs was conducted by engineers approximately 10 years ago. If the recommendations of this study has been implemented at that time, we would be poised for the growth that we are presently experiencing. At the present time the Council has adopted a phasing in of a plan that is addressing and will solve these water problems. I support a progressive posture for providing water and sewer for future growth.

Wowra: Currently, the City is doing what is expedient: having outside feasibility studies performed, evaluating these studies, making prudent expenditures as dictated by the studies.

Thomas: We should improve our water system so that we accommodate any future growth and need of the city.

McLeod: The city has a problem with quantity of water and water pressure as the distance increases away from the water tanks. We do not have a problem with water quality. The City Council has just approved a project to put in larger water lines and to extend those lines to those locations that are experiencing low water pressure. This first phase will address those locations within the city limits. Another phase will have to be studied and approved to provide water for those areas outside the city that are requesting it. This phase would include the possible construction of a new water tank.

Graham: Get out on November 2nd, and vote for bond referendum #4: State of North Carolina clean water bonds. Water is an essential commodity. We need all available resources to secure this service and rehabilitation and improved existing water systems. To do this, we first need money. Secondly, we need to vote on the bond issue to secure the money. Finally, we must identify our problem with all the technical expertise available and register this report to the state asking for clean water grants. I would keep the citizens informed of all matters concerning clean water method and means on state and federal levels. As an elected official I intend to keep the people informed of problems and developments.

McGuire: The most effective way to address a water problem is to check

with other cities to see how they addressed similar problems, choose the solution best suited to Raeford and act on it.

Fields: I don't have the advantage of access to all the information but I'll answer the answer this question based on what I think the problem is. The water pipes are too small to carry enough water pressure to some areas of town that need more to accommodate development. For instance, the western part of town seems to be where the most problem is right now.

I would address the problem by first identifying exactly what our goals are. In other words how much additional water pressure is needed to carry us well into the future.

Then I would remain the most economical ways to achieve our goals whether a new pumping station, more water pipes, another water tank or whatever is needed.

These are things we're bound to go into in detail in the very near future. One thing I might add is that #4 on the bond referendums. We will be voting for or against on November 2nd is the issuance of \$145,000,000 of N. C. Clean Water Bonds with a portion of that going to local governments in the form of grants to pay for all or a portion of the costs of clean water projects, without raising taxes. I would urge every voter to get a sample ballot and read these referendums carefully, some of which could benefit us too here in Raeford and Hoke County. Too often we go to the polls and see these referendums for the first time and vote no because we simply don't understand them. You can vote for the ones you like and against the ones you don't. As of this writing I like all 4 referendums because I see future benefits in them for us. I am against #1, the constitutional amendment, because the General Assembly does not need to make this decision, the people do.

McNeill: I believe that water service should be supplied adequately to the citizens of Raeford before expanding services outside the city. We are currently conducting a study of this matter.

Q: City-county relations reached a zenith this year with its solid waste deal, then plummeted with the Planning Commission issue. What do you think needs to be done to improve relations?

Gentry: I do not feel that all is lost because we still are together on garbage

disposal, communications center and tax listing.

I have recently come to the conclusion that we now need to combine County and City Government. This would entail one Board which should be expanded to include 13 members. There would be one member elected from each voting precinct in the City and the County. The Mayor could be the Moderator, or Chairman, without a vote (except to break a tie vote). This would give every area representation on the Board. There would be one manager with an assistant manager and both should be very knowledgeable and committed to planning, economic development, and downtown revitalization. I would propose that we hire an experienced, professional public safety officer who would supervise the activities of a joint Sheriff and Police department, all fire departments, emergency medical personnel, rescue squad, and school safety program. Combine the City and County tax listing and collection departments, garbage collection departments, vehicle repair and maintenance, combine City and County water systems and begin plans to start sewer treatment facilities for our County. It appears as small as our County is, with only one municipality, it can work. Consolidation of City and County governments would have to be brought before the people via a referendum or through action of the state legislature.

Phillips: The City and County governments need to take advantage of every opportunity to establish common ground and work together to save our citizens tax money from duplicated services whenever possible. Realizing that no two governing bodies are going to think alike, all elected officials should make decisions based upon what is good for the majority of the citizens and not for special interest groups nor "backroom politicians." I welcome the opportunity cooperatively work with our County leaders.

Wowra: Relations break down when communications break down. To better keep city and county officials "in touch" with ongoing mutual issues, joint quarterly informative meetings should be held.

The city and county should have similar long term objectives: sound government, sound growth, performance from tax paid employees.

Thomas: We should act professional, leave our personal feelings out of an issue and do what's best for Raeford as a whole.

McLeod: The City and County Governments have a very good relationship. One issue, such as the County Commissioners voting to dissolve the five-year old Planning Commission, should not keep the two boards from working to-

gether. The County Manager, Mike Wood, has shown that he wants the City and County to work very closely together. We are currently working together in communications, mutual aid with the fire departments, solid waste disposal, the airport, tax listings and billings, the animal shelter, the water system and many other areas that are important to our community. I think we will be able to find other ways to work together that will be beneficial to both the City and County.

McGuire: Replace the County Commissioners.

Fields: I don't understand the County Commissioners who voted to dissolve the Planning Commission at all. If there's some hidden wisdom in what they're doing, the time has long since passed that they should have shared it with the rest of us. I honestly don't know what, if anything can be done to improve relations with them, but I think the public needs to be made completely aware of everything that's happening and kept informed at election time.

McNeill: I think both bodies need to be open-minded and to try to address issues jointly when possible.

Graham: I think the current City-County relationship in the area of planning should continue. Raeford is going through a transitional period. New and energetic leadership must manifest to produce proper planning and administration. Prioritizing issues is a key factor. Again, I believe it is very important to be in touch with the citizens of this county. We must work together and take time to receive input from various sources. One city and one county, this is a unique situation. We don't have to deal with the complexities of neighboring counties who have more than one city to manage.

Q: Do you have any ideas for City planning since the County moved to dissolve the joint Planning Commission?

Gentry: Hopefully County officials will have second thoughts about dissolution, but if not, the City would have no alternative but to go back to having its own planning board. I do not feel we can justify hiring a full time planning director, therefore, the duties would have to be assumed by the city manager and superintendent. There could be a possibility of combining City Planning and Adjustment Boards. However, if County and City governments could be combined as noted in question #9, all boards would be automatically combined.

Phillips: Planning and zoning are

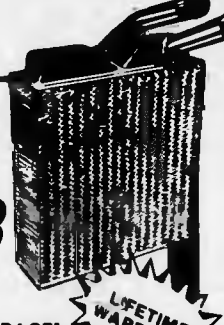
Advance Auto Parts

Serving Our Customers Since 1932

FEDCO

New Heater Cores As Low As

24⁸⁸ Each



30Wt., 30Wt.ND 10W30, 10W40 or 20W50 Motor Oil

.79 Each Qt.



YOUR CHOICE... 30Wt., 10W30 or 10W40 Motor Oil

.99 Each Qt. LIMIT 1 CASE / Reg. Price Thereafter

REGISTER TO WIN! A Chance to Drive in the Fast Track Driving School at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. See Store for Details.



Stant

Radiator Caps

2⁹⁹ Each / YOUR CHOICE



ARMOR ALL

Tire Foam

2⁴⁹ Each Mfg. # 40140



Front End Parts Tie Rod Ends As Low As

7⁹⁹ Each



Vinyl Fabric Cleaner, Carpet Cleaner or Velour Upholstery Cleaner

1.99 Each



SYLVANIA Halogen Headlight Truckload Sale

2 Headlamp System

9.99 Each Mfg. #'s H6024 & H6054

4 Headlamp System

4.97 Each Mfg. #'s H4656 & H4651



Alternators Or Starters As Low As

29⁹⁹ Each Exch.



WELLS

Ignition Modules

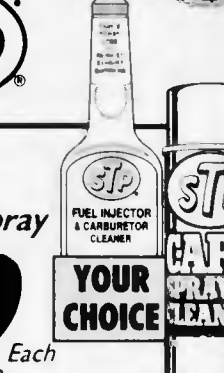
12⁹⁹ Each / Mfg. # DR-100 All Other WELLS Ignition Modules \$3.00 OFF



STP

Fuel Injector Cleaner or Carburetor Spray

1.29 Each



Autolite Spark Plugs

.89 Each / Resistor or Non-Resistor LIMIT 16



SOUND SOLUTION

Mufflers

16⁹⁹ Each Reg. Up to 23.99 Ea.



Prices Good Thru Saturday, October 30th, 1993 • We Reserve the Right to Limit Quantities • Complete Warranty Information Available at All Advance Auto Parts Stores

401 By-Pass & Teal St. RAEFORD, NC 875-2616

RAEFORD, NC We Recycle USED AUTOMOTIVE OIL & BATTERIES

Advance Auto Parts

PDQ SPECIAL ORDER MERCHANDISE NOT SUBJECT TO SALE PRICES