The junk man cited

Borden awarded for role with congress

By MONA CASTEEL

A man whose auto salvage business along U.S. 11, south of Woodstock has attracted scorn from neighbors and county government, has been honored by the Republican National Committee.

Gerald Borden, whose business prompted county supervisors last year to seek state legislative approval for salvage yard screening, has received the National Leadership Award from the National Republican Congressional Committee.

A neighbor who complained a few years ago that oil leaking from inoperable vehicles stored at Borden's had contaminated his well said Tuesday he was told last week that county officials are "trying to get him to clean the place up."

Borden's business, located on the south entrance to Woodstock and only a few yards from the corporate limits, is considered an eyesore among county officials and local promoters of tourism.

Though the county's request for local junkyard screening was approved by the General Assembly, county supervisors have yet to impose it.

Despite being the object of official and neighborhood scorn, Borden says he finds time to share views on hefty national issues, including calls for a balanced budget, with congressional Republicans.

Congressman John Linder, who chairs the Congressional Committee, released a statement saying, "We are grateful for all of Mr. Borden's support of Republican ideals, particularly for his commitment to tax reform and spending cuts."

Borden said the last year has been so full of upheaval and turmoil, both personally and professionally, that he really doesn't recall just what he has done to promote that tax reform and those spending cuts.

"I really haven't taken it a lot to heart," he said this week.

Officials with the Congressional Committee said Borden served as an honorary co-chairman of the Committee's Business Advisory Council founded by House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Yet Borden was surprised to learn he was being considered for the award and even more so that he was a recipient.