

Vance County Commissioner Interview

On Tuesday, September 6th, 2016, I met with Mr. Gordon Wilder who has been a Vance County Commissioner since 2010. Mr. Wilder is a retired school administrator with Vance County Schools in 2002 in which he went on to work for Quality Equipment, Inc. until 2010. After becoming a commissioner in 2010 he decided to go in business for himself offering repair services to the residents of the county. He is also an active member in his church and other organizations such as serving on the ALC Board with Vance County Cooperative Extension.

Like many of our other commissioners that I met at the meeting, Mr. Wilder is interested in Vance County growing with educating our youth. He believes that education is essential to our futures and points out that anyone interested in becoming a commissioner or involved in government should stay in school. It gives you the best opportunity to learn from others and to see what the real issues are out in the world. He believes that caring for others is an important trait to have as a county commissioner. You also have to have leadership qualities and a positive attitude. These are important qualities and traits to have because you are helping to solve the issues in your local community for

the betterment of the people. He didn't become a commissioner for the money; instead it was because he wanted to be part of the growth in the community. He feels that being active, talking to people and attending meetings is the best way to get involved. What motivates him the most is the interaction with the people and knowing he's helping someone. He believes that anything is possible if you have goals set, a positive mind and people to support you.

Vance County has few opportunities, yet with strong minds and people helping and willing to listen, we are able to create more opportunities for the county. Right now, the commissioners are working on two or three projects involving businesses that they hope will spark an increase in local jobs. These projects are said to bring over 100 jobs to the residents of Vance County.

Samir Alston

Vance County 4-H