

NCACC Youth Summit
County Commissioner Interview – Steve Jarvis
written by Matthew Modlin

On July 2, 2013, I had the privilege to tour the Davidson County government building and meet several of the people that help our county run including Finance Director Jane Kiker, Chief Information Officer Joel Hartley, Planning Director Guy Cornman, County Attorney Charles Frye, Assistant County Manager Zeb Hanner and County Commissioner Steve Jarvis.

While there, I had the opportunity to sit down with Commissioner Jarvis and ask him a few questions about his involvement in politics and how he got started. When asked why/what had made him want to run for county commissioner and get involved in politics, Commissioner Jarvis responded, “ I always thought I would run for political office but those plans were put on hold because of having kids and raising a family ”. He also stated that he believed Davidson County was the best county in North Carolina because of its accessibility to many major cities, the mountains and the coast. When asked of future plans for political advancement and higher office, he thought that a higher office was in his future depending on circumstances. When being elected to office, Commissioner Jarvis was somewhat surprised at the volume of meetings that he had to attend, some 10-15 meetings per week. One of the biggest challenges facing the commissioners is attracting new businesses, industries and jobs to the area. “Attempting to *‘be everything to everybody’*, is one of the hardest things,” said Commissioner Jarvis. When asked what gave him the most satisfaction, he answered, “Helping the county save money, making things work better, helping people and getting thanked for doing a good job.”

Another person I was able to talk to quite extensively was Zeb Hanner, Assistant County Manager. I learned Mr. Hanner was principally in charge of doing the budget, assisting the county manager in his duties and taking charge in the county manager’s absence.

My plans are to attend the county commissioner's meeting on August 1, 2013. I hope to gain more experience and knowledge about our county.