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I interviewed County Commissioner Leon Inman on June 27, 2014. He informed me that it was his 12th year in office. He was originally appointed in 2002, when another commissioner resigned. I found out through this interview that the commissioner had many goals. His primary goal was to improve existing schools and build new ones, for one of his biggest concerns in our county is education. He talked about local priorities, a big one being he wanted to continue his servitude to the county, without relying on taxpayer dollars, as much as possible.

When asked what some of his longterm concerns for the county were, Commissioner Inman answered that some of them were: to bring more revenue to the county through bringing in businesses, while not losing any current ones; entrepreneurship; and pushing tourism. To follow up this question, I asked what he thought regular citizens could do to help further push things like tourism in our county. He encourages people to get involved in the local community and take an active part by going to council meetings and informing others about the county's many tourism options.

Commissioner Inman stated that taxation was the biggest issue he got asked about by locals. Schools, teachers, jobs and economic security were among some of the most frequent subjects of interrogation. When the subject of responsibilities he wasn't aware of upon taking on the office came up, he said that he hadn't realized all of the committees that a commissioner has to be part of. The Juvenile Justice Board, for instance, was one of the many committees he had become part of.

Many decisions are not black and white; this is something I realized while discussing some of the commissioner's toughest decisions he had to make while in office. He inferred that there are varying shades of gray sometimes, and when making decisions it is best to get all of the information from both sides of the issue.

The every day life for this commissioner includes: staying active in his community, marketing real estate with a company he co-owns with family, tending his garden and meeting new people not only in his community but from all over the country.

When questioned about his future plans, he informed me that he was most likely not going to run again for his current position. Because of his long career in the school system (33 years) and all of his consecutive years as county commissioner, he will most likely retire to his home and garden.

Mr. Inman's favorite thing about the job was serving the people. He said it is truly an honor knowing that he's influencing the people in a positive way.

This interview opened my eyes to all that is involved in being a county commissioner. It allowed me a slight glimpse of this sometimes difficult but rewarding job.