

David Parisher

Edgecombe County

### County Commissioner Interview and Tour of County Building

My name is David Parisher and I am a 17 year old 4-H'er from Edgecombe County. I interviewed county commissioner Mr. John Felton who is the vice chairman of the board. Mr. Felton has been a county commissioner for 19 years and will run for re-election next year. I asked him several questions about short term and long term issues that he has faced or is now facing. He said that right now one of the biggest issues that citizens are asking him about is an argument concerning Nash County and the way the school system runs. As of right now any student within the Rocky Mount city goes to Nash Rocky Mount schools no matter which county they are from. Nash County wants to make it so that all students on the Edgecombe side of Rocky mount go to Edgecombe County Schools which would create a mass influx of students. Edgecombe County is trying to fight this because of the money involved with it. Edgecombe County also just approved to building the largest solar farm in the world. He also said that one of his most important goals was to keep the tax rate down because Edgecombe County is one of the poorest counties in the state per capita and he said that is one of the hardest topics he has worked on. Mr. Felton also stressed an important long term goal was to increase the industrial development within Edgecombe County. A giant industry moving into Edgecombe County would extremely boost the economy. He also said he wanted to make sure that there were people being trained to be hired for an industry to come into the area. He stressed that this could be done through the community college. Some of his other long term goals including making sure that public safety and education remain at a high level. One of the responsibilities that Mr. Felton was not aware of before he became a commissioner was public welfare. He didn't realize the amount

of effort that you had to put into emergency systems and how expensive they can be as well as how important it is. Mr. Felton was a great resource and I learned a lot from him.

I was also able to take a tour of our county building and observe many different departments that have a home within our county building. I met the head of the 4-H extension office Art Bradley as well as meeting a couple of people who work in the emergency services office. I also saw the county manager's office as well as several other offices. We went through the offices of the people who run the county taxes as well as the soil and water department. It was a great way to learn more about certain groups that the county funds and it was a great experience.

County Commissioner John Felton

workers in the emergency services office



county extension director Art Bradley

