

Dajon Williams  
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain  
Jack Minges Unit

Beth B. Ward Vice Chairman

On August 18<sup>th</sup> I had the honor of sitting down and interviewing the Vice Chairman of the Pitt County Commissioners Beth B. Ward. A native of Pitt County, Mrs. Ward grew up on a farm in Farmville and attended Farmville High School. She originally had intended on going to school at the Women's College of Greensboro (now UNC-Greensboro), but had a change of heart after taking several classes at East Carolina University. Mrs. Ward married her high school sweet heart and later had three children. In the midst of having a family, she was the teacher, principal, and professor at East Carolina University. Her oldest son played football for ECU and then later moved to New York to pursue a career in the film industry. Her second son is popular photographer in the Greenville area by the name of Gregg Ward, owner of Gregg Ward Photography and her daughter works at ECU in the grants department. Mrs. Ward has eight grandchildren ranging from 21 to 2 ½ years old. I learned that the County Commissioners are responsible for building schools in Pitt County as well as adding on buildings to Pitt Community College as well. I also learned that the County Commissioners are responsible for using taxes that my parents pay fund various departments, salaries for sheriff's department; build the jails and court houses. Mrs. Ward was very clear about her passion for education and that the County Commissioners in our county have always put education first. I was also able to take a quick tour of the County Office. I never knew that so many agencies were housed all in the same building. This experience taught me a lot about how important our local government is when it comes to the day to day operations of our community.