

Savannah Bell

Rutherford County

Interview with County Commissioner Bryan King

On July 2, I interviewed County Commissioner Bryan King at his home in Rutherfordton. This is Mr. King's first year as County Commissioner. He was not only elected to be a commissioner but his colleagues elected the Chairmen as well. The fellow commissioners chose him as chairman because of his exceptional leadership skills he has gained from past experiences. Mr. King has a plethora of passed experienced that has helped him to assume the role as county commissioner. He served on the Chamber of Commerce, Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy school board, a board member of Foothills Connect, and volunteered at several organizations within the community. Mr. King owns Lakeside Mills, a four generation family business, giving him a business prospective on county issues. Mr. King said "having diverse backgrounds bring value and different tools to the table." He is able to bring his knowledge of big business, negotiation, and success to the table. He says that to be a successful leader you need to bring your whole history in, from fatherhood to business.

Since it was his first year as a commissioner, I wanted to know the inspiration for his campaign and what his plans were for the county. Mr. King said his inspiration came from one of the county commissioner meetings. He was interested in the meeting about extending the school days, he wanted to know how the county schools would handle the change with the budget. During the meeting, he saw that this county needed someone with good governing skills and who will restore the public's trust. Now that he is county commissioner he has big plans for the future of our county. He hopes to better the quality of life of our citizens. He wants to create a place where people want to live, work, and play. He plans to do this by not only trying to create plans

for boards today but for in boards in the future. These boards will help bring in jobs, better the education system, and reduce the drug problem. Along with bettering our county, Mr. King wants to create transparency within the local government, essentially reestablishing public trust. Mr. King wants to create a place his daughter would want to come back to.

During my interview I found out that 4-H and the King Family have a very interesting tie. Mr. King told me that his business, Lakeside Mills, used to be a big supporter of 4-H. The mill used to print the 4-H clover on the bags and recipe books. I thought it was amazing to find out our county commissioner used to have ties with our 4-H.

I highly enjoyed my interview with Bryan King. I am very involved with my community and see the daily struggles of its citizens, it is nice to see someone who is dedicated to helping the community as much as I am. Mr. King believes in putting Rutherford County first, and that all other affiliations are subordinate.