



# Camden County

NEW ENERGY. NEW VISION.

## Now Open For Business ! Camden has a Library !

### Camden County Public Library

### *Camden Library Opened on 7/1/2013*

#### **Community Reaction to New Library:**

*(quoted from the NC State Library Blog)*

119 people (or 1% of the entire county's population) came to the soft launch opening of the library on July 1, including Representative Bob Steinburg from North Carolina district 1. So far, the community's reaction has been great. People are very excited to have their own library in the county. In the first week of the soft launch alone there were 398 visitors (4% of the county's population) and about 15% of the entire collection was checked out. A full quarter of the juvenile fiction materials were checked out in the first week. "We are very proud and excited. The reaction has been tremendous," said Mike Renshaw, Camden County Manager.

The library's hours are: Monday through Thursday from 10AM - 7PM, Friday and Saturday from 10AM - 5PM, Closed Sunday.

Services offered by the library include:

- Helping patrons find the right book, item, or information using the library's in-house collection and online resources such as NC LIVE
- Helping patrons with technology needs such as computers or devices such as eReaders, tablets and smartphones.
- Provide homework and research help for students of all ages.
- Printer, fax, copier service (fee applies). Interlibrary Loan outside of region (fee applies).
- Inter-Library Loan through the 8 member libraries of the East Albemarle Regional Library (EARL) System which includes all public libraries in Camden, Currituck, Dare, and Pasquotank Counties. A courier service runs between the different libraries several times per week.
- Reading, education, cultural, and technology programs for children, teens, and adults, including story times for babies and toddlers.

**There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony held on  
August 5, 2013 at 11:00 AM  
Come Join Us At The Library ! !**



## Contents

Camden County Public Library.....	1-2
Tax Department .....	3
Senior Center .....	4
Parks & Recreation.....	5-6
Planning Department .....	7-10
Dismal Swamp Welcome Center .....	11-14



**Camden County Public Library**



*Dig Into Reading  
At Camden's Library*

**August 2013  
Calendar of Events  
Camden County Public Library  
252-331-2543**



<b>Event Date</b>	<b>Event Time</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
Aug 1, 2013	3:00 PM	Beneath the Surface (for teens)	Megan
Aug 5, 2013	10:15 AM	Family Story Time / Library Tour	Linda
Aug 5, 2013	11:00 AM	Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	Linda
Aug 13, 2013	11:00 AM	Toddler Time: for children 18 months - 3 years	Krystal
Aug 14, 2013	11:00 AM	Big Kid Story Time: For children ages 3-5 years	Krystal
Aug 20, 2013	11:00 AM	Toddler Time: for children 18 months - 3 years	Krystal
Aug 21, 2013	11:00 AM	Big Kid Story Time: For children ages 3-5 years	Krystal
Aug 27, 2013	11:00 AM	Toddler Time: for children 18 months - 3 years	Krystal
Aug 28, 2013	11:00 AM	Big Kid Story Time: For children ages 3-5 years	Krystal

**Camden County Tax Department**

This is a particularly busy time of year for the Tax Department, tax bills will be going out in September, vehicle taxes will be coordinated through the DMV, and a county wide revaluation is under way. Below is more information on each of these.

- 2013 Tax Year - Bills to be mailed in August
  - Due on September 1, 2013
  - Grace Period: 9/1/13 through 1/5/14
  - Payment Plans Available - Call Tax Department for more details
- September Vehicle Tax / Tag Renewals
  - Taxes will be through DMV to coincide with registration renewals
  - More Info on this change: [www.ncdot.gov/dmv/vehicle/tagtax](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/vehicle/tagtax)
  - Tax Department still responsible for bill information, and processing values & situs which are then forwarded to DMV
- County Wide Revaluation
  - Goes into effect January 2015
  - Appraisers will soon be checking each property
    - Will have identification with them and be in signed vehicles
    - If in doubt about any person on your property, call the Tax Office for verification of identity. If on weekend, call Sheriff's Office.
- Online / Over the Phone Tax Payments
  - Can be made by contacting "Official Payments" (a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company contracted by the county).
    - Website: [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com)
    - Phone: 1-800-272-9829
    - Jurisdiction Code for Camden County: 4375
  - Payment Methods Accepted by Official Payments:
    - Visa
    - MasterCard
    - American Express
    - Discover
- Payments Made At Tax Department Office
  - Credit Cards Not Accepted for In Person Payments, to use credit cards Official Payments website must be used
  - Payment Methods Accepted: Cash, Check, Money Order
  - Drop Slot in Door Available for after-hours payments of Tax Bills and Water Bills

**Staff - Phone Number: 252-338-1919 (extensions below):**

Tax Administrator-Lisa S. Anderson-Ext.225

Tax Specialist-Dellie Spaulding-Ext.258

Tax Specialist-Teri Smith Ext. 226

Tax Specialist-Kim Minton Ext. 224

Tax Specialist-Jessica Gallop Ext. 257

Customer Service Rep.-Betty Griffin Ext. 250

## Camden County Senior Center

At the senior center we want the seniors to be active parts of their community so we will be attending the Library ribbon cutting and signing seniors up for the Library and some of their activities. The seniors will be going over to Berri-Licious Yogurt Bar for a healthy alternative to that "sweet tooth." Seniors are learning new games that can bring them closer with friends, family, and grandkids such as UNO and Woo Ball and a host of other fun games. Seniors will be traveling to Chesapeake Square Mall for a shopping outing and lunch.

September is Senior Center Month and we want to always encourage attending the senior center. We plan to have our first Open House. We plan to have games, food, informational sessions, prizes, and giveaways.

### Services Offered Are:

- **Nutrition Program:** Seniors 60 and older can get a hot meal Mon-Fri at noon. Must be signed up to eat.
- **Exercise Program:** Seniors 55 and older. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8-5pm. Tuesday & Thursday 8-6pm. Must be signed up to exercise.
- **Medicare/Medicaid Counseling**
- **NO RIDE NO Problem:** Inter-County Public Transportation (ICPTA) free service for seniors.
- **Take Trips:** We love to travel here we usually take day trips.
- **Health and Financial Seminars:** Health Professionals discuss health issues
- **Blood Pressure checks:** EMS checks once a month

- + **Do you want to get more exercise?**
- + **Do you want to pursue a healthier lifestyle?**
- + **Are you 55 years old or older?**

**If your answer is YES,  
visit the CAMDEN SENIOR CENTER**

**Located at 117 Hwy 343  
(Behind Courthouse)**

**EXERCISE ROOM HOURS**  
**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY FRIDAY: 8am-5pm**  
**TUESDAY AND THURSDAY: Open until 6:30pm**

**Contact Shana Trafton, Supervisor**  
**252-335-2569 or 252-338-1919x248**

**We are also on the internet!!**  
**[www.camdencountync.gov](http://www.camdencountync.gov)**





Camden County Parks & Recreation Department sponsors a variety of programs each year... Information for current and upcoming programs is listed below:

### Canoeing and Kayaking Club



This club is free and all equipment is provided. Come out to Treasure Point on Monday nights at 6:00pm for some fun on the water. This program is for adults 18 and older. Contact instructor Roger Morgan at 337-5099 for more information.

### Volleyball Open Gymnasium Nights



The gym at Camden Intermediate School is open for adults 18 and older to play volleyball on Monday nights from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. There is a \$1 participation fee for Camden County residents.

### Basketball Open Gymnasium Nights



The gym at the Camden Middle School is open for all ages to play basketball on Saturday nights from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. There is a \$1 participation fee for Camden County residents.

### Laser Tag Trips



Prices only include the cost of the Laser Tag Games. Participants will need money for food and video games if they would like to play those. The trips will depart and return from the Camden Courthouse parking lot. For more information call 338-1919 ext. 265

August 6th Ages 7-12 Cost \$15 10:00am-4:00pm

August 7th Ages 13-17 Cost \$30 9:30am-5:00pm

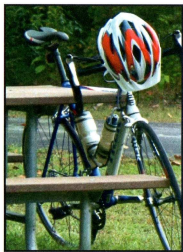
August 6th Ages 18 & Up Cost \$30 4:30pm-11:00pm

### Girls Youth Volleyball Registration



Registration nights will be on Wednesday August 28 and Thursday August 29 from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the Camden County Recreation Department office. We have volleyball leagues in three different age divisions, 7-9 year olds, 10-12 year olds, and 13-17 year olds. Games will begin on Monday September 30 and run through the second week of November. The leagues play most Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights at the Grady Primary School/Camden Intermediate School gymnasium.



**Parks & Recreation Department (continued)****North Carolina Heroes Fund-Cycle Camden County**

We are excited about an upcoming Cycling event in Camden County, North Carolina.

The North Carolina Heroes Fund ~ Cycle Camden County Century and Half Century bike rides will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the North Carolina Heroes Fund. This is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to help support men, women and their families, currently serving or recently having served in the United States Armed Forces, which are enduring financial hardships. To learn more about this organization you can visit [www.ncheroes.org](http://www.ncheroes.org)

Our cycling event will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013 and will feature a 33 mile ride as well as a 62 mile ride. Participants will be treated to coffee, muffins and donuts during our morning registration period, water, sports drinks and snacks at rest stops positioned approximately every 10-15 miles along the courses, a catered lunch with raffle at the conclusion of the ride and a event t-shirt that will include all of our sponsors names and logos that have made contributions.

We are also seeking donations of merchandise and/or gift certificates for this fundraising event. If you or your business would like to take part please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (252) 338-1919 ext. 239. Items collected will be used in registration packets given out to participants as well as in our raffle.

To register and participate in this event you can visit [www.camdencountync.gov](http://www.camdencountync.gov) call (252) 338-1919 ext 239, or stop by the Parks and Recreation Offices.

**Grandy Primary School-Fall Festival**

The Fall Festival is just around the corner so get ready for a day of family fun. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 12 from 11 am to 3 pm. The festival will have games for the kids to play and win prizes. There will also be a cake walk featuring baked goods for the winners, hay rides, inflatable's, silent auction baskets to bid on and vendor booths. Concessions will consist of BBQ sandwiches, wraps from Pineapple Café, hot dogs, pizza, nachos and cheese, drinks, popcorn, cotton candy, chips and other goodies. There will also be a Pumpkin Carving Contest sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan for a day of family fun and eats. Bring the whole family and support Grandy Primary School.

## **Mandatory Standards for Land Disturbance Activities**

### ***New Requirement: Fill Permits***

On March 18, 2013 the Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance 2012-12-01, an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance which created Article 151.404 (Mandatory Standards for Land Disturbance Activities).

This amendment created requirements on the amount of fill a person can place on their lot without affecting adjacent properties as far as stormwater runoff. The standards shall apply to any application for a building permit where land disturbing activity is proposed and the placement of fill is being utilized on the lot.

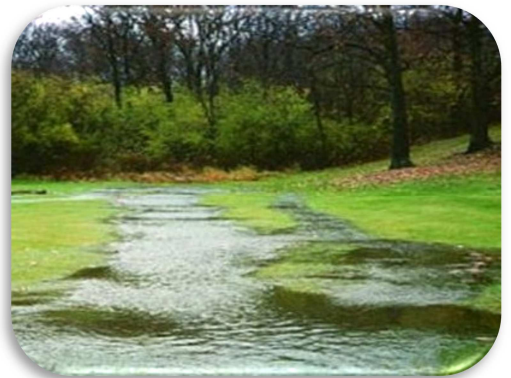
In cases of natural grade differences greater than nine (9) inches between adjoining lots, the County may require (based on the size and shape of lot) a stormwater management plan prepared by a North Carolina licensed engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect reflecting that the proposed development will not create flooding or nuisance conditions on the lower lots.

This newly enacted ordinance created the requirement for a "fill permit" which must be obtained in advance of any building permit wherein fill may be utilized.

To review the entire approved ordinance, please go to [www.camdencontync.gov](http://www.camdencontync.gov), under government click on ordinances, click on approved ordinances, then click "Ordinance No. 2012-12-01 Amending the Camden County Code of Ordinances".

This new requirement is intended to protect those properties adjoining any project wherein fill is proposed from the possibility of excess stormwater runoff and flooding. After receipt of an application for fill permit, the flood administrator reviews the property to determine if the proposed fill will or will not adversely affect any adjoining properties and then either approves or denies the fill permit accordingly.

For more information, please call (252) 338-1919 ext 232 or stop by the Planning Office.



## **Another Piece to the Puzzle...**

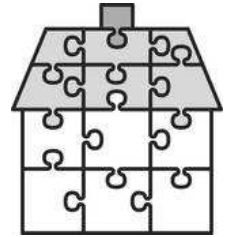
### ***Building a House? Improving a Rental Property? This New State Law Affects You...***

Effective as of April 1, 2013, state legislators have enacted a new law requiring the appointment of a "Lien Agent" when building a new home or renovating a rental home, be it a stick built house, modular, or mobile home. Any property improvement project that is over \$30,000 in retail cost requires a Lien Agent to be appointed with the following 3 exceptions: (1) If the improvement project is to take place on or in an existing home and if the homeowner is the current resident of the home then no lien agent is required; (2) If the project being undertaken is less than \$30,000 in retail cost no lien agent is required; (3) If the project being undertaken is under contract and that contract is dated prior to April 1, 2013, then no lien agent is required. The table below summarizes when and if a lien agent is required:

Type of Project?	Existing Home?	Homeowner Lives There?	Lien Agent Req.?
New Stick Built House	No	N/A-Not built yet	YES
New Modular Home	No	N/A-Not built yet	YES
New Mobile Home	No	N/A-Not built yet	YES
Renovation	Yes	Yes	No
Addition	Yes	Yes	No
Accessory Structure	Yes	Yes	No
Renovation	Yes	No, Occupied by Others	YES
Addition	Yes	No, Occupied by Others	YES
Accessory Structure	Yes	No, Occupied by Others	YES

If you are a builder and you have a contract to build a house, and that contract is dated prior to April 1, 2013 you are exempt from the requirement only for that project for which you have a contract as described above. An exemption form and copy of the contract are required. Contact the Planning Department for the appropriate form.

Please contact the Camden County Planning Department for the appropriate information, forms, & worksheets relating to the Appointment of a Lien Agent. Call (252) 338-1919 x 235 for more details.





**One Mill Park*****Project Update***

As reported in the April newsletter, the County applied for two grants to assist in acquiring a 2 acre parcel & constructing a small park with an improved boat ramp and parking area at the end of One Mill Road. The total project cost is \$580,479 and includes the following:

- acquiring the property
- demolishing all existing structures (house and workshop buildings)
- replacing an old boat ramp
- replacing approximately 315 feet of dilapidated bulkhead and riprap
- constructing a boardwalk along the river
- constructing a new pier
- installing a playground
- constructing a parking area designed to accommodate cars with boat trailers
- developing a pavilion and picnic shelters
- constructing a bathhouse/restrooms with outside showers
- connecting the elements with a sidewalk.

We received notice in July that the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust fund has approved a grant for this project and will provide \$290,240 (50%) of the funding. Although we are still waiting to hear if our application for an additional \$139,000 from the Coastal Area Management Agency will be approved, staff is proceeding with property acquisition and other initial steps to get this project underway. The county has three years to complete the project.

A pdf of the project's site layout is available on Camden County's website at:

<http://www.camdencountync.gov/forms/planning/projects/onemillparksitelayout.pdf>

## **Stormwater Management & Utility Fee**

### ***Update***

In July 2013, the Camden County Board of Commissioners held public hearings regarding stormwater management. They subsequently voted to approve an ordinance establishing a stormwater program, and fee, to conduct clearing & snagging maintenance activities on major streams and ditches located within the county, and perhaps some dredging where permitted by the Army Corp of Engineers. The objective of the stormwater program is to keep the downstream and forested areas clear of debris which impedes the free flow of stormwater drainage. Property owners and NCDOT will still be responsible for maintaining roadside ditches, farm ditches & canals, and other ditches on their property.

The program will be guided by Stormwater Advisory Committees appointed by the Board of Commissioners in each of the County's four (4) watersheds. They will identify key areas for maintenance activities each year, recommend the annual budget, and oversee the program. Soil and Water Conservation staff will actually conduct the daily operations, and Planning staff will assist with administrative activities.

In order to pay for the program property owners will pay a Stormwater Utility Fee, which is based on the size of their property & the amount of impervious surface(s) on their property (rooftops, driveways, parking areas, storage buildings, barns, etc.). Since the payment is that of a fee rather than a tax, no properties are exempt; however the method of billing and collections will be through a new entry on each tax notice.

The fee rates will differ in each of the 4 watersheds, and the revenues generated will only be used for stormwater management related activities taking place within each respective watershed. At the time of this writing, the actual fees have not been finalized. However, once finalized, they will be in the range of \$35 (for single family homes situated on less than 2.5 acres), and up depending on total acreage and impervious surfaces, to \$110 for a farm of 100 acres or more. The Board of Commissioners are currently considering minor changes which will address concerns raised at public hearings. They hope to finalize the rates in early August in time for inclusion on this year's tax notices.

For more information contact the Planning Department, Soil and Water Conservationist, or visit the county website at [www.camdencountync.gov](http://www.camdencountync.gov).

Below are some before and after pictures of stormwater drainage areas which have been cleared recently.



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



## Your Gateway to the Wild



Boats that headed south for the winter are returning to the northern states.

The Dismal Swamp Welcome Center has had numerous recreational boaters come through the canal this spring. In May 283 boats locked through, demonstrating a slight increase from last year's count.

The Dismal Swamp Canal is 22 miles long with locks at each end, in South Mills, NC & in Deep Creek, VA. The canal is a no wake zone. The Army Corps of Engineers maintains the canal with a controlling depth of 6 foot and the locks operate four times daily.

If you are looking for recreational activities, we encourage you come visit the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center & surrounding area. Our three mile paved trail is a boundless place to hike, bike, bird watch, or take photos. Butterflies and Dragonflies are abundant. Watching them, pooling by the dozens, can be a thrilling experience for young and old.

Let us help you make your summer plans in N.C. With over 500 brochures to choose from, we can help you plan a trip to the beach or the mountains. There are so many great things to do in our own region close to home.





A group of Palamedes swallowtails gather around a damp spot on the ground in the Dismal Swamp.

Dismal Swamp State Park has a great half-mile long boardwalk to explore nature. This time of year also brings out the bugs, so use precaution when hiking through grassy areas. The State Park offers canoes and kayaks to explore the beautiful reflective waters of the Canal. Ranger led programs each weekend provide education fun for the whole family. Come see what you are missing... call 252-771-8333 or go to <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/disw/events.php> for details on upcoming programs, times, and locations.

### **IN THE NEWS:**

#### ***Annual Woman of Excellence Award***

On Wednesday, June 5 the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce presented five women with the annual honor of Woman of Excellence. Earlier this spring the Chamber asked the community to nominate women based on several categories including extraordinary in business, education, the arts, community service and or/family. Joy Greenwood, Dismal State Park Superintendent, was recognized as a nominee.



## IN THE NEWS

### *Camden Students Create Award Tourism Videos for Our State Travel Phone App.*

Camden County Tech and High School students recently participated in a video contest for the Camden County, Tourism Development Authority to promote tourism. The creators of the winning video were Morgan White, Nick West, Mikey Shope and Aimee Chedister. We would like to thank all of the students for assisting us with the Our State Travel Phone App project/contest. The winners fulfilled guidelines which included content conveying our Camden County tourism message. We, along with their teacher, Mr. Chris Whitehurst, and local historian, Alex Leary, invite you to enjoy their experiences in the production of these videos. Helpful links are listed below or you can go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for Camden County NC history 1, 2, 3, 4.



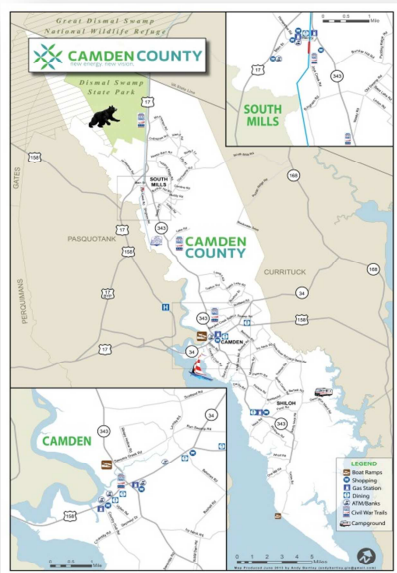
<http://youtu.be/Wcjy32ukOTk>

<http://youtu.be/MgNyVuh5iR4>

[http://youtu.be/EMej\\_pAdQ1Q](http://youtu.be/EMej_pAdQ1Q)

<http://youtu.be/HY6D1fwJ6uY>

### *New Camden Map Coming Soon*



A new county map is now under development to help direct tourists and travelers to the different assets in our county by the Camden County Tourism Development Authority. Please feel free to contact us for any additions or suggestions at 252-771-8333.



**SAVE THESE DATES**

*Sat, October 12, 2013*

*Grandy Primary School Fall Festival*



*Sat, October 19, 2013*

*2nd Annual Dismal Day*



Dismal Swamp State Park, Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, and Camden County Parks and Recreation are hosting this second annual family fun event. Programs include: Bounce houses, Chalk Art Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Creepy Crawley Critter Crafts, Wagon Rides, Great Dismal Swamp Adventure Pontoon rides on the canal, manned historical exhibits, pumpkin decorating, music and so much more all free to the public!

***5K Fun Run, Local craft and food vendors.***