

Spring-Summer 2020

# CITIZEN NEWS

A Special Newsletter by the Camden County Board of Commissioners

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Rescheduled

*Camden Heritage Festival*  
Saturday, September 12th, 2020  
Camden Community Park  
(Behind Camden Intermediate School, Hwy 343 N, Camden)

1777-2020

10am-5pm

Run Date: September 12th from 10am-5pm

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Sheep Shearing • Weaving • Swamp Monster Costume Contest •  
Beekeeping • Live Local Entertainment All Day



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For more information contact the Camden Heritage Festival Hotline ~ 252-621-3940

### Message from County Manager

Over the years, Camden residents have demonstrated an extraordinary capacity to care for and help meet the needs of their neighbors and friends. These same qualities are shared by County employees who strive to serve residents, each and every day. This is why County leadership and its regional partners remain informed, engaged and prepared to help meet the evolving challenges resulting from the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Camden County is currently in contact with State and local agencies and taking steps to follow recent guidelines issued by the Governor's Office, Albemarle Regional Health Services, and the Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management. We will remain committed to adjust quickly as circumstances change. I would encourage all citizens to continue checking the Camden County website for the latest updates. All County offices are currently being staffed with regular hours; however, we are requesting that you call ahead if a face-to-face meeting needs to take place. Remember our community is strong and we will get through this together.

### Ken Bowman

County Manager

PO Box 190

330 East Highway 158

Camden, NC 27921

252-338-6363

Fax: 252-331-7831



# CITIZEN NEWS

## Message from the Camden County Board of Commissioners



Pictured: L-R Standing – Randy Krainiak, Garry Meiggs, Ross Munro  
L-R Front – Clayton Riggs, Vice Chairman, Tom White, Chairman

**W**e hope you enjoy the third edition of *"The Camden Citizen News."* Our goal is to keep you informed and make sure you can find answers to questions you may have about the county. The Camden County Commissioners are the governing body for Camden County. Each commissioner serves a four-year term. Terms are staggered so that three Commissioners are elected in one even-numbered year and the remaining two Commissioners are elected in the following even-numbered year. Three of the County Commissioners are nominated by township and two are nominated at-large. All five commissioner seats are subject to a countywide vote.

The chairman of the County Commissioners is selected each December. By tradition, a Chairman serves two consecutive one-year terms. This gives the Commissioners and the county government an added measure of stability.

The County Commissioners employ a County Manager and staff who carry out the day-to-day functions of the County.

If you have not already signed on to be a part of our *"Camden Heritage Festival,"* now scheduled for Saturday, September 12th, 2020, we invite you to become engaged by volunteering to be a part of this exciting time in the history of our county.

## Contacting Your Commissioners

Correspondence may be sent to the County Commissioners at [info@camdencountync.gov](mailto:info@camdencountync.gov) or by mailing items to:

**County Commissioners**  
P.O. Box 190  
330 East Hwy 158  
Camden, NC 27921

Email and regular mail will be forwarded to the Commissioners at their next meeting. Citizens may also contact county commissioners at their homes as indicated below: **Citizens are asked to follow the "9-to-9 Rule" though:**  
**No calls or visits before 9:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.**

## Camden County Board of Commissioners

### Tom White, Chairman

Commissioner At Large  
150 Billets Bridge Rd.  
Camden, NC 27921  
252-336-4744  
[tomwhite@camdencountync.gov](mailto:tomwhite@camdencountync.gov)

### Clayton D. Riggs, Vice Chairman

Shiloh District  
876 S Sandy Hook Road  
Shiloh, NC 27974  
252-336-4303  
[criggs@camdencountync.gov](mailto:criggs@camdencountync.gov)

### Garry Meiggs, Commissioner

South Mills District  
1081 North NC 343  
Camden, NC 27921  
252-455-7662  
[gmeiggs@camdencountync.gov](mailto:gmeiggs@camdencountync.gov)

### Randy Krainiak, Commissioner

Courthouse District  
173 South NC 343  
Camden, NC 27921  
252-338-3326  
[rkrainiak@camdencountync.gov](mailto:rkrainiak@camdencountync.gov)

### Ross B. Munro, Commissioner

Commissioner at Large  
111 Ivy Neck Rd.  
Camden, NC 27921  
252-619-3134  
[rmunro@camdencountync.gov](mailto:rmunro@camdencountync.gov)



# Message from County Manager

**T**he proposed administration building was discussed, voted on, and approved in November, 2016, by the Board of Commissioners. Since that time some significant events have developed that have prompted looking into adding a library and a multi-purpose building on the site.

For reference the project site is located in the 100 block of North Carolina Highway 343 N. Camden, NC 27921 and is situated on approximately 7.69 acres.

First, let me start with the Administration Building. This building will house the Planning Department, Water Department, Tax Department, Human Resources, Finance, Economic Development, The Clerk to the Board, and the County Manager. This building will also have much-needed conference rooms and a board room for the Board of Commissioners. The current building occupied by these departments was the former bus garage for the school division. I'll let you draw your own conclusions as to the condition of this building. Also, I would welcome anyone to visit the current departments and get a first-hand look at what the county staff and citizens must tolerate on a daily basis. Additionally, each of these departments has grown over the years not just in the number of personnel, but the added work load and responsibilities. There is a much-needed requirement for additional space and a more efficient working environment. The proposed building will allow for increased efficiency among all departments, a cleaner working environment and provides a one stop shop for doing business with county government.

Second is the Library. The County does not own the building currently being used for the library. This building space (approx. 7K SF) has been leased from the owner for a number of years. In 2019 the contract expired and the lease was renewed for 2 years ending September 2021. The owner has already stated they will not renew the lease when it expires. Also, the increase is significant. In 2017 the cost was \$48,583 per year. The current lease is \$65,563 per year. This was negotiated down to \$8 per square foot from a proposed \$13 per square foot by the owner. When the new library is complete, the money used for leasing the current building will be applied to the loan payment for the complex. As you are aware, the library is a tremendous asset for the citizens and children of Camden County.

Third is the Multi-Purpose building. This building will house the Parks and Recreation Department and the Senior Center. The building will have a space large enough to accommodate basketball, volleyball, bleachers, civic meeting rooms, staff offices, and a raised stage for conferences and special events. The Senior Center will have a large meeting room for activities, exercise room, staff offices, and a shared kitchen for daily meal preparations and catering events. It is anticipated this building could receive the most use of the 3 buildings and will become a hub of activity for many events.

Once the former Senior Center space is vacated it will be available for the Sheriff's Office to occupy. The Sheriff's Office is operating at maximum capacity and is in dire need of a space that can be converted to areas where evidence and special equipment can be secured as well as a holding area. When all departments have re-located to the admin building, the Sheriff's Office will occupy the existing building and have access to the existing parking area compound. Once complete this will become a secure area.

Soil Borings and a Topo Survey have already been accomplished on the site. In addition, the new waste water treatment facility located on Hwy 158 East is now operational and is in place to service the site identified for the current high school, the new school and the admin complex.



**Ken Bowman**  
County Manager

## County Manager

**Ken Bowman**  
PO Box 190  
330 East Highway 158  
Camden, NC 27921  
252-338-6363  
Fax: 252-331-7831

Finally, the total cost and design of this project has not been determined. A "Request for Qualifications" was advertised and the County received 8 applications. Of the 8 submitted, staff interviewed 4 Architectural Firms to determine who will take the lead for the design.

This project can move forward without being on the November ballot for a vote. The bonds to secure financing can be borrowed using local institutions and approved by the Board of Commissioners and the North Carolina Local Government Commission.

Conversely, the bonds for the new school will be on the ballot in November for the citizens to vote on. If approved by the citizens, this will be the largest investment Camden citizens have ever made. The Board of Commissioners, Staff, the School Board and the Consultant will work together to provide updated information about the school and possible financing in the near future so citizens will have time to ask questions in order to make an informed decision.

This is a snapshot of the plans and events for the Admin Complex. Staff plans to keep you and the citizens updated on a regular basis on the progress. The county website will be updated so the public can follow the progress and ask any questions they may have.

## Economic Development Update

### Chesapeake Regional Update

Chesapeake Regional Primary Healthcare held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on February 13, 2020 to a packed house. Although it took a while to bring this project to completion this is a great business for Camden residents. Please stop by and meet Dr. Brad Isbister and the wonderful staff at the clinic. The location is 100 Plank Bridge Road Unit B, Camden NC 27921.

### Broadband Update

Eastern Shore Communications finally received their permit in early February from NCDOT to move forward with the first encroachment along RT 343N. The construction is planned to start at the intersection of Shipyard and Bell Farm Estates. Please be careful while traveling along this stretch of highway due to the equipment along the shoulder of the road. A special Connecting Camden section has been added to our main website [www.esc-nc.com](http://www.esc-nc.com) for progress report and updates.

### Commerce Park

The County continues to market the sites at the Commerce Park. Underground power has been installed to service WAO Garage and approximately 10 additional lots along the west side of the property. The Economic Development Commission is currently working with two companies that are very interested in locating in the park. This would be a significant investment from each company with approximately 18-20 fulltime positions. More to follow as this moves forward.

### Waste Water Treatment Plant

The new Waste Water Treatment Plant in Camden is operational and functioning as planned. This \$4.2M facility is designed to process up to 50K gallons of waste per day and will allow the plant in South Mills to undergo much needed upgrades in preparation of the new school and future development.

# Camden County Heritage Festival Rescheduled For September 12th, 2020



**How can you get involved?** It takes many volunteers to assist in various areas throughout the day. If you can give a few hours or all day, please call the Camden Count Hotline at 252-621-3940. Students can earn Community Service Hours. Volunteers receive free t-shirt.



**D**ue to the COVID-19 pandemic, per the NC Governor and President's executive orders, the Camden Heritage Festival has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 12th, 2020. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Camden Community Park (behind Camden Intermediate School). This all-day festival, which is open to the public, will feature local arts and crafts, other exhibitions pertaining to the heritage of Camden County, as well as local live entertainment, culinary enjoyment, children and adult activities.

Come in your best Swamp Monster costume and join in the Swamp Monster Parade! (This event is hosted by the Camden Festival Committee, Inc. and for further information please contact the Camden Festival Hotline at 252-621-3940.) #local #community #festival #heritage #food #music #games #vendors #farmequipment #tractors #cars #displays #wagonrides #history #VisitCamdenNC #VisitNC

(<https://camdencountync.gov/news/681-2020-camden-heritage-festival>)

 **Camden Heritage Festival**  
 **What's Up In Camden County**

Camden County's talent will be showcased on the stage throughout the day. Acts scheduled to date include: Brenda Bowman, Chris Whitehurst, Michael Yu, Duf Franco, Nick Simmons, Chuck Hodges and Phil Watson, River City Shaggers, Rodney Meads, United Methodist Church Strummers.



**EAST CAROLINA MONOGRAMS**

133 US Hwy 158 West  
 Camden, NC 27921  
 (252) 333-1630  
[ecmonograms@gmail.com](mailto:ecmonograms@gmail.com)



# SWAMP MONSTER COSTUME CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE

*Camden Heritage Festival*  
Saturday, September 12th, 2020  
Camden Community Park  
(Behind Camden Intermediate School, Hwy 343 N., Camden)



Come in your best Swamp Monster costume and join in the Swamp Monster Parade to be held on the track at 10:00 a.m. Prizes to be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. Open to all ages.

**To register, contact the Camden Heritage Festival Hotline at 252-621-3940.**

## Camden County Welcomes New Businesses

**O**n February 13, 2020, a ribbon cutting and grand opening was held at the new Chesapeake Regional Primary Care, located at 100 Plank Bridge Rd., Unit B, Camden, NC 27921. The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the event, and after hearing from several staff members of Chesapeake Regional Primary Care, and Camden County officials, a reception followed. Camden welcomes Bradley Isbister, MD, Elisa Carter, Physician Assistant, Christy Caison, LPN, Dawn Kirkner in the front office, and Kathy Bunch in the lab. Christy and Dawn are residents of Camden. Walk-ins and new patients are welcome. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. 252-331-1829.



Pictured L-R: Officer Manager, Michelle Template, Director of Operations, Christine Hustebt, Chief Medical Officer, Ray McCue

# La Puerto Mexican Restaurant It's a Family Affair



**C**amden County welcomes El Puerto, Mexico Restaurant and Grocery Store that opened in August of 2019 at Lamb's Marina, 152 US Hwy. 158 West. The restaurant is owned by (L-R above) Lazaro Garcia, Julio Alonso, Jezabel Alonso, and Victoria Alonso. They serve breakfast 6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., lunch & dinner 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., seven days a week. Prior to opening the restaurant, the family had been in the construction business. When asked about the meals included on the menu, Victoria said her mother taught her the recipes. The restaurant also has a full ABC beverage bar and prepares "orders to go" and invites customers to call 252-679-4184 to place their order.

## 2020 SPRING LITTER SWEEP COUNTY-WIDE CLEANUP

### Citizens are asked to help prepare for Camden Heritage Festival

**T**housands of visitors are expected to attend the Camden Heritage Festival on September 12, 2020. They will be driving in from other localities and traveling throughout Camden. Camden citizens and businesses are encouraged to clean-up our roads, ditches, and yards to show pride in our community, not only for ourselves but to the visitors who will be attending the festival and driving through our county.

The Camden County Board of Commissioners will be adopting a Proclamation on Monday, April 6, 2020 declaring the month of April 2020 as "2020 SPRING LITTER SWEEP COUNTY-WIDE CLEANUP" in Camden County, North Carolina, and encourages all communities, civic and professional groups, businesses, churches, schools, families and individual citizens to take an active role in making the communities in Camden County a more beautiful place to live, work and play.

Individuals and groups who participate may pick up vests from the County's Maintenance Shop behind the Administrative Offices on Rt. 158.



### Bembridge Insurance Agencies, Inc.

Nationwide Insurance  
PO Box 26  
197 US Hwy 158 E.  
Camden, NC 27921

### Lynn L. Merritt, LUTCF

Associate Agent

lyneth.merritt@nationwide.com

Cell: 252-333-2073

### Dana D O'Neal

Licensed Customer Service Representative

oneald4@nationwide.com

Cell: 252-312-9000

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# Message from School Superintendent

Dear Camden County Citizens,

First, I want to thank you for your support of Camden County Schools during the school closure due to COVID-19. We are working to provide as much educational support to our students as possible during this difficult time. Please go to our school system website to find the most up to date information about how we are managing this school closure. We will update it as soon as additional information becomes available. Please know that we want to remain connected to you and that our school offices and Central Office remain open with limited staff on site. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me at 252.335.0831.

Recently, County Manager Ken Bowman, and I shared updates about two important projects currently in the works for Camden County. My part focused on the new high school project. I would like to share that same information with you. In the Fall of 2019, the School Board and Commissioner Board partnered to have a facility study completed by M.B. Kahn Construction Company. The results of that study showed that all Camden County schools are at or over capacity and the recommendation was made to construct a new high school. We also received word in the Fall of 2019 that we were the recipient of a total of \$12.3 million in grant funding through the North Carolina Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund. Since that time, we have been working to determine the programming needs of our school system and what educational spaces should be included in the new high school.

The building will house both Camden County High School and Camden Early College



**Joe Ferrell, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

High School. The Board of Education is in the process of selecting a design/build firm to work with us for the duration of this project. You will soon begin hearing important information about a November 2020 Bond Referendum as well as information about what the new school will look like, timeline information, and other important details about this project.

Please take the time to educate yourself on this important investment in the future of Camden County Schools and don't hesitate to contact me should you have questions.

Thank you for your support of Camden County Schools.

## Superintendent

**Joe Ferrell, Ed.D.**  
Camden County Schools  
174 North Highway 343  
Camden, North Carolina 27921

# Message from Sheriff

**H**appy New Year to everyone! It is already March as of the date I wrote this article, time is really flying by! I hope that we have seen the worst of our "winter" as we look forward to sunny and warmer spring days. Our third School Resource Officer (SRO), Heather Matthews, began her duties at the Camden Middle School on February 4th. Heather brings several years of experience as a SRO and sat on the State Board for SRO's for approximately 7 years. We are very pleased she selected the Camden County Sheriff's Office to continue her service, so if you are visiting the Camden Middle School, stop in and say Hi to Heather. Now that our third resource officer is in place, all three Camden School Campuses are covered with an SRO.

Deputy Darryl Smith has finished his K-9 transition training with Falco. Deputy Smith endured a 6 week training regimen provided by the Currituck County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Smith and Falco are now patrolling Camden County and serving our citizens. We would like to thank the Currituck Sheriff's Office for their help in getting our Deputy and Falco ready for patrol duty!

Speaking of patrol, we have received several calls from citizens concerning speeding violations on US158 from Country Club Rd. to NC343. We received so many calls that we felt we needed to take action on this matter. The posted speed limit for this section of US158 is 35 mph. Generally speaking, the NC Highway Patrol usually handles most of the traffic concerns in counties across the state.



**Kevin Jones**  
Sheriff

However, the Highway Patrol has several vacant Trooper positions open State wide in which one Trooper is responsible for multiple counties, cutting down on patrol time in rural counties. In the absence of the Highway patrol, traffic concerns and violations are the responsibility of the County Sheriff. Our goal is not to write as many tickets as we can, if that were so;

we would not have given warning on our face book page, utilized a "speed trailer", or set a "Dummy" patrol car on the side of the highway. Our goal is to get the speeds lower on that section of roadway and in compliance with the speed limit but speeding tickets are a necessary evil from time to time to get this accomplished. Contrary to popular belief, speed, in most

## Sheriff

**Kevin Jones**  
Camden County Courthouse Complex  
117 North NC 343, Camden, NC 27921  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 57, Camden, NC 27921  
Phone: 252-338-5046  
Fax: 252-335-4300  
Email: [kjones@camdencountync.gov](mailto:kjones@camdencountync.gov)  
Web Site: [www.camdensheriff.com](http://www.camdensheriff.com)  
Facebook: Camden County NC Sheriff's Office







cases, is not a contributing factor in motor vehicle crashes. Speed does, however; determine the seriousness of the crash such as damage and or injuries. The greater the speed at point of impact, the greater the chance of serious injury or fatality. As a result of our effort to reduce speed in this area, citizens have made us aware of other roadways in Camden County where the speed limit is not being observed. So, we will be looking into other speed reducing efforts in other parts of the county. This is one of the many reasons we wanted to apply for TWO traffic enforcement positions through the Governor's Highway Safety Program. If we could obtain these positions, those officers would be dedicated to handling our traffic concerns county wide. With the size of our current Sheriff's Office, it puts tremendous strain on our resources when we have to answer traffic calls for service along with the hundreds of other calls for service we are responsible for, but our office will give you the very best we can with what we have! So everyone, please be safe while driving.

In light of the COVID-19 virus situation that has made a significant impact on the way we conduct our daily activities, we would ask each and every citizen to use your good common sense and practice healthy personal hygiene to help slow the progression of this virus. We here at the Sheriff's Office understand what a tremendous strain that this situation has caused our community and we will do our part to help everyone get through this trying time. We must have faith as "This to will pass".

Our next Sheriff's forum will be scheduled sometime for late April or early May, we will advertise on Facebook when we finalize a date. The Camden Heritage Festival has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2020. This is going to be a great event for Camden County, so please show your support any way you can!!

My door is always open, so if you have something to discuss with me or just want to stop by and say hello, you are always welcome! Everyone stay safe and may God bless you all!!



# Election News

## Camden County Board of Elections

**F**or all 2020 Primary Results, please visit the NC State Board of Elections website at <https://www.ncsbe.gov> Filing for 2 Board of Education seats begins at noon July 1, 2020 and ends at noon July 31, 2020. Filing for one seat on the Albemarle District Soil Supervisor begins at noon June 8, 2020 and ends at noon July 3, 2020.

Both races are non- partisan and will be on the November General Election ballot.

The Camden County Board of Elections conducts elections in Camden County. There is a 5-member Board that meets once a month and a Director that provides for the day-to-day administration of the office and conducts elections.

**Elaine Best,**  
Director of Elections

### BOARD MEMBERS

William M. Sawyer, Chairman  
Sue Hicks, Secretary  
Brenda F. Sawyer  
Rickey Wilson  
Brenda Bowman

### Camden County Board of Election Office

117 NC HWY 343 N,  
Camden NC 27921  
Phone: (252) 338-5530

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
& 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Pictured L-R: Chris Jones, Tommy McDaniel, Steve Dail

# Public Works Department

**R**ecent changes have been made in Public Works in preparation for a smooth transition when Tommy McDaniel, retires at the end of the year. McDaniel plans to retire December 31, 2020, after nine years working with the department as Maintenance Supervisor.

Christopher Jones has been hired to replace McDaniel upon his retirement. Jones served as Golf Course Superintendent at the Pines of Elizabeth City and as Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at the Greenbrier Country Club in Chesapeake, VA.

The department also welcomes Steve Dail as Building & Grounds Maintenance Worker. Dail previously worked at the Camden Wastewater Plant.

## Parks & Recreation/Center for Active Adults Staff

Parks & Recreation Center  
PO Box 190  
117 North NC 343  
Camden, NC 27921  
(252) 338-1919 ext. 239  
www.camdencountync.gov

Director  
**Timothy C. White**  
twhite@camdencountync.gov

Superintendent  
**Ben Carter**  
bcarter@camdencountync.gov

Center Coordinator  
**Laura Jolley**  
ljolley@camdencountync.gov

Nutrition Site Coordinator/Center Assistant  
**Tiffanie Spruill**  
tspruill@camdencountync.gov



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# 2020 Upcoming Camden County Events

## May

May 1-22: **Adult Kickball League Registration**  
Ages 18+ – Camden County Recreation Offices

May 1 (Continues): **Camden Bears Youth Football League Registration**  
Ages 7-12 – camdenbearsyouthfootball.com

## July

July 21 (Begins): **Camden Youth League Fall Soccer Registration**  
Ages 3-15 – camdenyouthleague.com

## August

August 24-September 18: **Girls Volleyball Registration**  
Ages 7-15 - Camden County Recreation Offices

## September

September 11: **9/11 Flag Ceremony** -  
8:40 a.m. – Camden County Historic Courthouse Lawn

September 12: **Camden Heritage Festival**  
10am-5pm – Camden Community Park  
(Rain Date: September 13, 10-5)

## October

October 12 (Begins): **Youth Basketball Registration**  
Ages 4-16 – Camden County Recreation Offices

October 15-December 7: **Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period**

Ages 65+ - Camden Center for Active Adults

October 17: **Grandy Primary Fall Festival**  
(Camden Parks & Recreation Pumpkin Carving & Decorating Contest)  
10am-3pm – Grandy Primary School

October 24: **8th Annual Dismal Day**  
10am-2pm – Great Dismal Swamp State Park

October 31: **Trunk or Treat**  
5:30pm-6:30pm – Center for Active Adults Parking Lot

## November

November 7: Saturday: **Holly Days presented by the Camden Women's Club**  
10am-5pm – Grandy Primary School/Camden Intermediate School Gymnasium

November 8: Sunday: **Holly Days presented by the Camden Women's Club**  
11am-4pm – Grandy Primary School/Camden Intermediate School Gymnasium

November 10: Tuesday, **Veterans Day Program**  
11am-12pm – Camden County Courthouse

## December

December 3: **Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
5:30pm – Camden County Historic Courthouse Lawn

**A Veteran's Day Ceremony was held at the Camden Courthouse on November 8, 2019.**



Posting of Colors was presented by the Camden County High School USCG JLP. The Speaker was Daniel M. Serik, Staff Sergeant, US Army National Guard, Retired. TAPS was presented by VFW Post 6060 Honor Guard and the Invocation was by Marc O'Neal Pastor, CUMC





2nd Place



3rd Place



Honorable Mention



1st Place

### Wildlife:

1st Place: Donna Rose  
2nd Place: Melissa Miller  
3rd Place: Donna Rose  
Honorable Mention: Cheryl Mansfield

# Camden County Tourism Development Authority holds its first Camden County Photo Contest

The Camden County Tourism Development Authority is proud to announce the winners of the first Camden County TDA photo contest. Ninety eight images were submitted from twenty Camden County residents spanning across four categories: Water views, Wildlife, Architecture & Citizens at Work. Commissioner Ross Munro was instrumental in bringing the concept to life, as a means to showcase Camden's beauty for public and promotional purposes and served as a judge. Local photographers, Amanda Madeira, Amy Gibbons and Ken Ferguson rounded out the judges' panel, providing professional, unbiased scoring.

Each category features 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and Honorable Mention winners. Many images will be framed and hung in the Camden County Administrative Buildings and utilized for promotional purposes. The Camden County Commissioners chose their favorite from the blue ribbon winners. Winners were recognized on social media, county websites and acknowledged by county officials at the December 2nd Board of Commissioners meeting. A Staff Choice Award, decided by Camden County staff, was determined at the county's annual staff Christmas luncheon on Dec. 18th.



1st Place



2nd Place



Honorable Mention

### Water Views:

1st Place: Rebecca Farmer  
2nd Place: Ryan Roasa  
3rd Place: Ryan Roasa  
Honorable Mention: Sylvia McFadden



3rd Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



Honorable Mention

### Architecture:

1st Place: Ryan Roasa  
2nd Place: Kimi Mills  
3rd Place: Kimi Mills  
Honorable Mention: Laurie Andrews



1st Place



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



**County Manager's Award**  
(& Water views 2nd Place)  
Ryan Roasa



**County Commissioners' Award**  
(& Architecture 1st Place)  
Ryan Roasa



**Staff Choice Award**  
(& Water views Honorable Mention)  
Sylvia McFadden



Honorable Mention

### Citizens at Work:

1st Place: Cheryl Mansfield  
2nd Place: Ashley Jennings  
3rd Place: Cheryl Mansfield  
Honorable Mention: Brooke Sherman



# SPOTLIGHT

## Ethel Gwendolyn Stanley Wescott

**A**s a newcomer who moved to Camden two years ago, I was looking forward to meeting new people and learning about the community. When I took on the task of publishing the Camden Citizen News, I started looking for citizens to feature in the newsletter who contribute to making Camden a great place to live and who have made a lasting impact on the community.

One such person who has caught my attention is Gwen Wescott. I have heard her speak as an appointee to the Agency on Aging before the Board. As a former English teacher and tutor of 40+ years in public schools, and 10+ years in higher education, she is very entertaining and keeps you holding on to every word she speaks.

I interviewed Mrs. Wescott while she was reading Dr. Seuss to students at Grandy Primary School during "Read Across America Week." The program has been in existence for seven years and Mrs. Wescott, a favorite of the students and faculty, has been reading to the students since its beginning.

Mrs. Wescott, daughter of a World War II Veteran, was born in Goldsboro, NC. As a teenager, she worked in tobacco, picked cotton, babysat and house cleaned. She married William Wescott while they were both at Atlantic Christian College. She made me laugh by telling me that a family member gave her \$500 not to marry while in school, and when she and Bill in fact did marry, she returned the \$500. She had a religious education scholarship and has given back in various ministries, including organizing and writing skits for Baptist Retirement Homes and Sunday School, singing in choirs & helping with children's choirs, and working with Vacation Bible School. They moved to Elizabeth City in 1963 and then to Camden in 1964. Mrs. Wescott has her Masters in Renaissance Period from NC State University.

The Wescotts have raised two children, Celeste Wescott Mous and William Wescott, and they have three grandchildren, Charles, Kathryn, and William. Mrs. Wescott taught English at schools in Wilson County, Bladen County, Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County, and Camden County, until her retirement in 1998. She continued teaching homebound students for eight years, tutored students and adults, and taught at the College of Albemarle.

Mrs. Wescott's motto is "Everyone has a purpose," which she repeated to her students over and over while also encouraging them to read, write, write poems and keep journals. She is proud that four of her students became published writers and many won essay awards throughout the country and abroad, to include two state poetry winners.

The list of her accomplishments and involvement in the community is lengthy and although I cannot list them all, I will list some to show just how much she loves and contributes to the Camden community and surrounding area: Member of original Albemarle Chorale, Bicentennial Committee for Camden County, South Mills Red Hat Society, Belcross Homemakers Club, EC Business & Professional Women's Club, Sons of the Confederacy, Daily Advance Readers Board, Pasquotank-Camden Library Board, East Albemarle Regional Library, Camden Committee to renovate the Courthouse, Camden Band Boosters, Camden Historical Society, Camden Heritage Festival, member of Sawyers Creek Baptist Church for 40+ years, taught Sunday School and WMU President, choir member; other volunteer activities include Craftsman Fair, Currituck and Camden libraries, Dismal Swamp Welcome Center, Read Across America, Camden County Center for Active Adults.



She has been appointed by the Camden County Board of Commissioners to the Library Board, Museum Board, Agency on Aging and Senior Tar Heel Legislation. The Wescotts are members of Corinth Baptist Church in Elizabeth City, where she plans activities for the "Keenagers" seniors.



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# Camden County Dedicates Road Marker

In the 1910s, Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., became aware of the sad state of education among African Americans in the rural South. His response was establishment of a fund that provided architectural plans and matching grants that helped build more than 5,300 schools from Maryland to Texas between the late 1910s and 1932. North Carolina had more than 800 projects, more than any other state.

Julius Rosenwald brought a school for black children to South Mills. The school was named "McBride Colored School - 1926". The school building was built by Rosenwald over a half century ago. It was located near the intersection of NC Highway 343 North and Bunker Hill Road. Segregation prevented them from attending the county's public school.

The building was torn down in 1996 and the Rosenwald Community Center was built. The marker that was on the school building was saved to commemorate the Rosenwald School and put on the new structure.

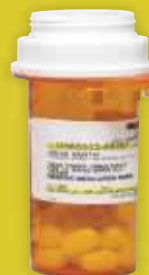
The Rosenwald Community Center serves the youth in Northeastern North Carolina and is available to the entire community. Funds raised to maintain the building have come through public and private donations.

In June of 2019, Camden County Officials held a ceremony dedicating a Marker on N. Route 343 in front of the community center. The ceremony included speeches from former students of Rosenwald and from Mrs. Virginia Jones, who taught at Rosenwald.



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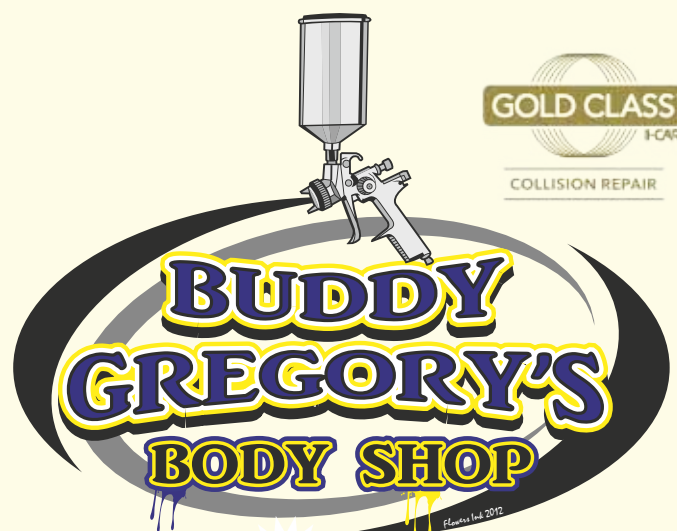
***Restaurant: 252-338-0255***

# Exploring Nature In Camden County

**N**ature has always been a balm for a troubled mind and Camden County offers an abundance of the cure. Walking, birding, photography, cycling and mindfulness are encouraged on the Dismal Swamp Trail in South Mills. This trail, managed by Camden County Parks and Rec, offers a 10' wide, 3 mile long paved surface, beginning at the junction of Hwy 343 and US Hwy 17. Pets are allowed on a leash, and much of the trail offers a shady retreat, offering seating to savour the bird songs or watch the squirrels scamper to their nest. The Trail ends at the southern end of the parking at the Dismal Swamp State Park. The Dismal Swamp Canal is visible in a variety of locations, and interpretive signage assist with education of the historical significance of the waterway.

Not far from the Camden Courthouse, another beautiful location offers a waterfront view to launch your kayak, fish or relax by the waterfront. Treasure Point Park (123 Treasure Point, Camden) has a pier, kayak launch and picnic tables to take the family out for some nature therapy.

For more information on things to do in Camden County:  
[VisitCamdenCountyNC.com](http://VisitCamdenCountyNC.com)



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# Camden County Government Directory

## Office Directory

**Animal Control:**.....252-338-5046  
**Board of Elections:**.....252-338-5530  
**Camden County Heritage  
Museum/Historic Jail:**.....252-771-8333  
**Clerk to the Board of  
Commissioners:** .....252-338-6363 ext. 311  
**Clerk of Court:** .....252-336-4000  
**Convenience Site  
(Camden Township):**.....252-338-3865  
**Convenience Site  
(Shiloh Township):**.....252-336-4507  
**Convenience Site  
(South Mills Township):**.....252-771-2918  
**Cooperative Extension:**.....252-331-7630  
**County Manager:**.....252-338-6363 ext. 310  
**Dismal Swamp  
Welcome Center:**.....252-771-8333  
**Economic Development:** .....252-338-6363 ext. 310  
**Emergency Management:** .....252-335-4444 ext. 261  
**Finance:** .....252-338-6363 ext. 315  
**GIS:** .....252-338-1919 ext. 261

**Health Department:** .....252-338-4460  
**Human Resources:**.....252-338-6363 ext. 314  
**Library:** .....252-331-2543  
**Parks & Recreation:** .....252-338-1919 ext. 239  
**Planning & Community  
Development:** .....252-338-1919 ext. 263  
**Public Works:** .....252-338-6363 ext. 313  
**Register of Deeds:** .....252-338-1919 ext. 244  
**Schools Central Office:** .....252-335-0831  
**Senior Center:** .....252-335-2569  
**Sheriff's Office:** .....252-338-5046  
**Social Services:** .....252-331-4787  
**Soil & Water Conservation:** .....252-338-1919 ext. 262  
**Tax:** .....252-338-1919 ext. 225  
**Tourism:** .....252-771-8333  
**Water & Sewer:** .....252-338-1919 ext. 236

## Fire Stations:

**South Mills VFD:**.....252-771-2772  
**South Camden VFD:** .....252-338-3722



**Board meeting video recordings are  
broadcast on Mediacom Channel 18, the  
county's cable access channel and are  
available on the county's web site.**

**Web Site:** [www.camdencountync.gov](http://www.camdencountync.gov)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CamdenCounty/](http://www.facebook.com/CamdenCounty/)

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