

CAMDEN COUNTY CITIZEN NEWS



Fall-Winter 2020
Brenda Bowman, Editor

Message from the County Manager

IMPORTANT FACTS REGARDING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

School Board Referendum

On November 3, 2020, the citizens of Camden County will be asked to answer “YES” or “NO” to the following question to be included on the ballot, along with voting for their choice of candidates.

BOND REFERENDUM
COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NORTH CAROLINA
November 3, 2020

Form of Ballot Question

Shall the order adopted on August 3, 2020, authorizing not exceeding \$33,000,000 SCHOOL BONDS of the County of Camden, North Carolina, plus interest, for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, for acquiring, constructing, expanding and renovating school buildings and other school facilities in said County, and the acquisition of related land, rights of way and equipment, and providing that additional taxes may be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds, be approved?

YES

NO

The School Bond Referendum is finally on the Ballot for your vote on November 3, 2020. It has taken a long time to get to this point and I’m sure everyone is interested in how this will move forward. With the summary on the next few pages, I hope to answer some of the questions you may have in order to make an informed decision.

A little background on how we arrived at this point. On May 28, 2020, I made a presentation to the School Board about the impact the cost of a new school will have on the citizens of Camden County based on a tax increase to pay the debt service for the referendum if passed.

Since November 2019, both Boards have been busy hammering out the details for a new high school ranging from the financing to the design of the building.

To say the least this has been very challenging especially working with outside agencies like the Local Government Commission (LGC), Bond Counsel, and the financial advisors for the County.

The County Budget for 2020-21 increased over last year by \$200K to a total \$13.5M dollars. The current property tax rate is \$.75 cents per \$100 dollars. The approximate value of one penny on the County's property tax rate is equal to \$100,000. As of June 30, 2019 the County had approximately \$8.7 million of "general fund" debt that was issued for schools. The final maturity date for the current school debt is FY 2047.

My recommendation this year, to the Board of Commissioners was to fund the budget as presented without a tax increase. The Board of Commissioners approved this budget which went into effect July 1, 2020.

The recommendation from the school board to build a new high school is estimated to cost approximately \$45.5M dollars. The school division has a \$12.3M dollar grant which will be applied toward the construction of the school thereby reducing the amount to borrow to \$33M dollars. The tax increase for the citizens to finance this project will be roughly \$.10 cents bringing the total tax bill to \$.85 cents. This, however, does not include any operational costs associated with the new building which could amount to an additional \$200,000 per year. The tax increase then totals \$.87 cents.

On July 6, 2020, the Board introduced a bond order authorizing the issuance by the County of \$33,000,000 School Bonds (the "Bonds").

If the Bonds are duly authorized and issued, it is estimated that the total amount of interest to be paid by the County over the expected term of the Bonds to be approximately \$18.3M dollars. Such estimate is based on a number of assumptions regarding certain future events and circumstances, including the following:

(a) The Bonds will be issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$33,000,000.

(b) During an initial period of interim financing, the County would pay interest only for approximately one (1) year at an assumed interest rate of 2.50% per annum. Following the initial one-year period, the Bonds will be payable in 30 equal installments of principal and interest payable annually and bear interest at an assumed interest rate of 3.00% per annum. Such interest rates are reasonably conservative estimates provided by the County's financial advisor to be used for planning purposes. Prevailing interest rates at the time the Bonds are sold will vary based upon economic conditions at the time.

(c) The Bonds will not be redeemed prior to maturity.

Based on a County the size of Camden and the ability to service this debt we were advised by the LGC this is excessive. This leaves very little room for any added tax increases over the next 20-30 years for improvements to infrastructure, utilities, buildings, upgrades, vehicles, etc. due to the amount of debt service the County will incur. Future budgets will not have the flexibility to respond to emergency situations and will only be able to carry out basic services. This is not a realistic approach to think the County can be managed with these limited resources for the future.

COVID-19 UPDATE

It has been over 6 months since we started hearing about the spread of COVID-19 as a global public health emergency. We have been placed in a position most of us have never experienced before in order to slow and stop the spread of the virus. This virus has disrupted our ways of doing business, lifestyles, and daily routines which in many cases will have a dramatic impact on how we function as a community as we move forward.

Your Board of Commissioners and I have been totally involved from the beginning to continue providing the best services possible to our citizens. These are truly uncertain times.

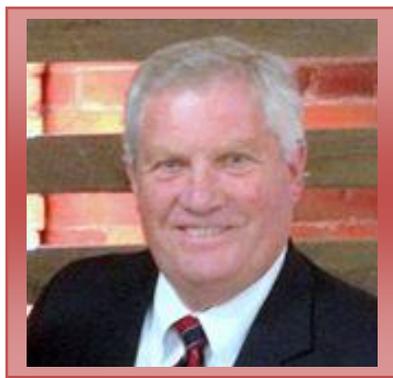
Our goal has always been to keep our citizens and staff as safe as possible while providing the necessary services on which you depend. In the beginning we did not understand how much of an impact this pandemic would have on our health systems. It has taken an extreme toll on many families throughout our community and region. We are also starting to see how this is impacting the economy, the County finances, and the way in which we conduct public meetings, shopping, and even visiting families with the recommendations of social distancing and wearing masks.

We are all going through this together and every day has been different. However, we should all stay positive and continue to hope for the best possible outcome and recovery.

We are continually updating the county website and Facebook pages with the latest information. We have been listening to what it's going to take to get through this. Camden County has been very fortunate so far in comparison to other localities. Keep practicing social distancing and wearing masks when in public and follow the guidelines that have been published by the local healthcare providers.

I want to extend a personal ***Thank You*** to every staff member of the County and our local businesses and non-profits for all the sacrifices that have been made in order to collectively move our community forward. We will get through this!

Be safe, Ken



Ken Bowman
County Manager
P. O. Box 190
Camden, NC 27921
252-338-6363
kbowman@camdencountync.gov

Camden County

Board of Commissioners



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

Welcome to the fourth edition of “*The Camden County 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.

Tom White, Chairman

Commissioner-At- Large
150 Billets Bridge Rd.
Camden, NC 27921
252-336-4744

tomwhite@camdencountync.gov

Clayton D. Riggs, Vice Chairman

Shiloh District
876 S Sandy Hook Road
Shiloh, NC 27974
252-336-4303

criggs@camdencountync.gov

Garry Meiggs, Commissioner

South Mills District
1081 North NC 343
Camden, NC 27921
252-455-7662

gmeiggs@camdencountync.gov

Randy Krainiak, Commissioner

Courthouse District
173 South NC 343
Camden, NC 27921
252-338-3326

rkrainiak@camdencountync.gov

Ross B. Munro, Commissioner

Commissioner-at- Large
111 Ivy Neck Rd.
Camden, NC 27921
252-619-3134

rmunro@camdencountync.gov

Contacting Your Commissioners

Correspondence may be sent to the County Commissioners at 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": No calls or visits before 9:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.

Election News from Elaine Best

Director of Elections

Citizens of Camden County North Carolina: The Camden County Board of Elections would like to assure you we will provide a safe and efficient way for you to vote in the 2020 General Election. The State and County Boards are committed to protecting our voters' and election workers' health and safety in regards to COVID-19. We have three secure ways to vote in the 2020 General Election:

CHOOSE WHICH OPTION WORKS BEST FOR YOU!

- **Absentee by mail:**

Complete the Absentee Request Form ([https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/Outreach/Absentee/Infosheet_howtoabsentee_FINAL%20\(2\).pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/Outreach/Absentee/Infosheet_howtoabsentee_FINAL%20(2).pdf)). Return Request Form, must be received by the Camden County Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Mark the Ballot, Return in the completed container-return envelope in-person or by mail by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day. If returning by mail, must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received by Camden County Board of Elections by Friday, November 6, 2020.

- **One-Stop Early Voting:**

One-Stop Early Voting allows any registered voter to cast an in person Absentee Ballot. For the November 3, 2020 General Election One-Stop will be from Thursday, October 15 until Saturday, October 31 at the Camden County Board of Elections office 117 NC Hwy 343 N, Camden, NC 27921.

Election Date	Location	In Service Days	In Service Hours
11/03/2020	Camden Board of Elections 117 NC Hwy 343 N Camden NC 27921	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31	8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. 7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. 7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

- **In Person at your Precinct on Election Day:**

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020, Camden County polling places will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Polling places are:

Courthouse Precinct - Camden County Public Library, 104 Investor's Way, Camden, NC, 27921
Shiloh Precinct - South Camden Fire Department #11, 1061 NC Hwy 343 South, Shiloh, NC, 27974
South Mills Precinct - South Mills Ruritan Building, 400 Main Street, South Mills, NC, 27976

Reminders at a Glance:

October 9, 2020: Last day to register to vote
October 15 – October 31: One-stop Early Voting, Camden Board of Elections Office
October 27: Last day to request Absentee by Mail ballot
November 3: Election Day

The Camden County Board of Elections 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.
Office Hours - Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Elaine Best, Director of Elections

252-338-5530

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

SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample Ballot Camden County, North Carolina November 3, 2020		B0001
BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS: A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown. B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line. C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.		
FEDERAL OFFICES	STATE OFFICES	NC Commissioner of Labor (You may vote for ONE)
President and Vice President of the United States (You may vote for ONE)	NC Governor (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Josh Dobson Republican <input type="radio"/> Jessica Holmes Democrat
<input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump Michael R. Pence Republican <input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden Kamala D. Harris Democrat <input type="radio"/> Don Blankenship William Mohr Constitution <input type="radio"/> Howie Hawkins Angela Walker Green <input type="radio"/> Jo Jorgensen Jeremy (Spike) Cohen Libertarian <input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Al Pisano Constitution <input type="radio"/> Roy Cooper Democrat <input type="radio"/> Steven J. DiFiore Libertarian <input type="radio"/> Dan Forest Republican NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE)	NC Secretary of State (You may vote for ONE)
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Mark Robinson Republican <input type="radio"/> Yvonne Lewis Holley Democrat NC Attorney General (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> E.C. Sykes Republican <input type="radio"/> Elaine Marshall Democrat NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE)
<input type="radio"/> Thom Tillis Republican <input type="radio"/> Shannon W. Bray Libertarian <input type="radio"/> Cal Cunningham Democrat <input type="radio"/> Kevin E. Hayes Constitution US House of Representatives District 3 (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Jim O'Neill Republican <input type="radio"/> Josh Stein Democrat NC Auditor (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Catherine Truitt Republican <input type="radio"/> Jen Mangrum Democrat NC Treasurer (You may vote for ONE)
<input type="radio"/> Daryl Farrow Democrat <input type="radio"/> Greg Murphy Republican	<input type="radio"/> Anthony Wayne (Tony) Street Republican <input type="radio"/> Beth A. Wood Democrat NC Commissioner of Agriculture (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Ronnie Chatterji Democrat <input type="radio"/> Dale R. Folwell Republican NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Seat 1 (You may vote for ONE)
	<input type="radio"/> Steve Troxler Republican <input type="radio"/> Jenna Wadsworth Democrat NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Cheri Beasley Democrat <input type="radio"/> Paul Newby Republican NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 2 (You may vote for ONE)
	<input type="radio"/> Mike Causey Republican <input type="radio"/> Wayne Goodwin Democrat	<input type="radio"/> Phil Berger, Jr. Republican <input type="radio"/> Lucy Inman Democrat NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 4 (You may vote for ONE)
		<input type="radio"/> Tamara Barringer Republican <input type="radio"/> Mark Davis Democrat <div style="text-align: right;"> Continue voting next side → </div>
North Carolina		Ballot Style: B0001

-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 4 (You may vote for ONE)	COUNTY OFFICES	REFERENDUM
<input type="radio"/> Tricia Shields Democrat <input type="radio"/> April C. Wood Republican	Board of Commissioners At-Large (You may vote for ONE)	County of Camden School Bonds
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 5 (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Ross Munro Republican Board of Commissioners Courthouse District (You may vote for ONE)	Shall the order adopted on August 3, 2020, authorizing not exceeding \$33,000,000 SCHOOL BONDS of the County of Camden, North Carolina, plus interest, for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, for acquiring, constructing, expanding and renovating school buildings and other school facilities in said County, and the acquisition of related land, rights of way and equipment, and providing that additional taxes may be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds, be approved?
<input type="radio"/> Lora Christine Cabbage Democrat <input type="radio"/> Fred Gore Republican	<input type="radio"/> Randy Krainiak Republican Board of Commissioners South Mills District (You may vote for ONE)	
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 6 (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Barbara Riggs Democrat <input type="radio"/> Tiffany White Republican	
<input type="radio"/> Gray Styers Republican <input type="radio"/> Chris Dillon Republican	Register of Deeds (You may vote for ONE)	
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 7 (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Tammie Krauss Republican <input type="radio"/> Jeff Carpenter Republican	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 13 (You may vote for ONE)	NONPARTISAN OFFICES	End of Ballot
<input type="radio"/> Chris Brook Democrat <input type="radio"/> Jefferson G. Griffin Republican	Board of Education (You may vote for TWO)	
NC State Senate District 1 (You may vote for ONE)	<input type="radio"/> Christian Overton <input type="radio"/> Kevin P. Heath	
<input type="radio"/> Bob Steinburg Republican <input type="radio"/> Tess Judge Democrat	<input type="radio"/> Write-in <input type="radio"/> Write-in	
NC House of Representatives District 1 (You may vote for ONE)	Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (You may vote for ONE)	
<input type="radio"/> Edward C. Goodwin Republican <input type="radio"/> Emily Bunch Nicholson Democrat	<input type="radio"/> Don Lee Keaton <input type="radio"/> Write-in	
DISTRICT OFFICES		
NC District Court Judge District 1 Seat 4 (You may vote for ONE)		
<input type="radio"/> Edgar L. Barnes Republican		
NC District Court Judge District 1 Seat 5 (You may vote for ONE)		
<input type="radio"/> Amber Davis Malarney Democrat		
North Carolina		Ballot Style: B0001

-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --

SAMPLE BALLOT

Camden Heritage Festival

Saturday, May 22nd, 2021
Camden Community Park

(Behind Camden Intermediate School, Hwy 343 N., Camden)

Est. 1777

10am-5pm

Rain Date: May 23rd from 10am-5pm

Celebrating
244 years



Antique Farm Equipment • Demonstrations • Classic Cars •
Craft & Food Sales • Children Games & Activities • Local Crops Exhibit •
Sheep Shearing • Weaving • Swamp Monster Costume Contest •
Beekeeping • Live Local Entertainment All Day



Thanks to our Festival Sponsors

Premium Sponsors:

JAMMEDIASOLUTIONS

TOWNE BANK
The Best Bankers. Hometown Banking.



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:



Bronze Sponsors:

MMT Printers
Ambrose Signs
First Citizens Bank
Museum of the Albemarle
Egads Screen Printing & Embroidery
Local Government Federal Credit Union
Camden Tourism Development Authority

RO Givens Signs
Nutrien Ag Solutions
AgCarolina Farm Credit

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

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE



I would like to first thank you for your patience, understanding, and support of Camden County Schools during the COVID-19 crisis. I know that the school closure has not been easy on families and we are so grateful for what you have been able to do for students while we have been learning remotely. I also want to share with you that we are moving forward with the new high school project. The project will appear on voters' November 2020 ballots in the form of a question for approval of the project. It's the best financial scenario we think we will ever see for building a new school. The project has received state grant funds of over \$12.3 million, and low interest rates are projected to reduce the taxpayer burden to the smallest amount possible. The County Commissioners purchased land previously to replace the current Camden County High School, a building which is now 70 years old and does not have the space and technology to handle the number of students currently enrolled at Camden County High School and Camden Early College High School. The new school would easily house both schools. According to statistics provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the current Camden County High School is more than 40,000 square feet short of meeting basic standards for the number of students entering each day. A study conducted jointly by the School District and County found that all of our schools are currently at or over capacity with little to no room for additional students, that the cost to renovate the existing school would not be a wise investment, and that in order to add onto the building, more land would be needed which is impossible due to the highways and grain silos nearby. A new school will bring additional space, safety standards, and more course opportunities for students who attend both Camden County High School and Camden Early College High School, including increased Career and Technical Education opportunities. The School District will be providing factual information to the community in the next few weeks to educate voters on the proposed plans, costs, and reasoning for a new high school so that you are able to make a well informed choice on November 3rd. While we are certainly living in challenging times currently, this new school would set our county up for growth for the future given the continued building of homes and pending influx of students. Please feel free to reach out to me any time with questions about this project.

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

2020 Camden County Education Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Camden County Education Foundation is proud to announce its 2020 scholarship recipients. The Foundation presented a total of \$3,000 to six recent graduates of Camden High School (CHS) and Camden Early College High School (CEC). Awards are based on academic achievement, leadership potential, financial need and additional criteria for individual scholarships.

Camden Education Foundation Academic Scholarship recipients are: Logan Jennings, graduate of CHS, daughter of Kirk and Leslie Jennings, will attend College of the Albemarle; Bradley Harrell, graduate of CHS, son of William and Jennifer Harrell, will attend NC State University; and Mackensi Rollings, graduate of CEC, daughter of Curtis and Jamie Rollings. Mackensi will attend the US Coast Guard Academy.

The recipient of the William L. and Caroline Roper Scholarship is Carley Blizzard, graduate of CHS, daughter of Julie Sawyer, and will attend College of the Albemarle. The Dennis Basnight Scholarship was awarded to Robert T. Pippen, son of Lauren Riggs, graduate of CHS. Tanner will attend UNC-Wilmington. The Brenda Waite Scholarship is given annually to a Camden County graduate pursuing a degree in education with the intention of becoming a teacher. The 2020 recipient is Abby Fields, graduate of CHS, daughter of Cristie Fields, and will attend Wake Tech Community College.

The Camden County Education Foundation was established to create revenue and act as a conduit to facilitate, enhance and support educational needs of Camden County students. Scholarships are open to all college-bound students, including those from a home school or other educational entity with proof of county residency. Additionally, the Foundation provides grant funds for school and classroom projects and other educational needs.

Camping in Camden County

Nestled in our own backyard, **North River Campground** is a favorite destination for locals and visitors. Beverly Bengies, owner and operator, has seen an increase with first time and repeat visitors during the pandemic. To ensure staff and campers safety, North River is currently accepting reservations for RV camping (must contain bathrooms) and onsite cabins. Beverly states, “Many of our amenities and activities, including the laundry facility, paddle boats, and hydro-bikes, are still available for guests to enjoy, and sanitized daily. We’ve had to close public bath houses and postpone events with large gatherings due to COVID-19 restrictions.” Despite a few changes, campers continue to compliment the facility on its cleanliness.

Karen Brickhouse, of Norfolk, VA, is a repeat visitor who first heard of North River from friends. A frequent camper, travelling all over the southern US, she continues returning here because it “feels like home.” Occupying her favorite RV spot, #6, she appreciates many of the campground’s amenities including sewer hookup, water, electricity, cable and a stocked lake for fishing. Karen caught a big bass last year and was even featured in the campground’s annual calendar!

Lynn and Tom, of Elizabeth City, brought along their 6 year old granddaughter, Leonna, for her first camping trip. Camping often in VA and the western part of NC, they appreciate the peaceful location, and privacy provided by this local campground. North River’s spacious RV lots help this couple feel safe, especially during COVID times. They are looking forward to playing miniature golf and paddle boating around the lake with their granddaughter.

Camping is a great way to enjoy traveling while maintaining social distancing. Being outdoors and breathing fresh air may be the biggest benefit to your health this summer. With numerous amenities, well-kept facilities and grounds, excellent rates and friendly staff, it’s easy to see why campers enjoy **North River Campground RV Park and Lodging Facilities**.

Visit <https://www.northrivercampground.com/> or call 252-336-4414 to book your reservation!

For more listings of local fun, visit <https://www.visitcamdencountync.com/>



Message from Sheriff Jones

Greetings everyone, I hope all is well. As of Thursday September 3rd, the date of this article, we are still amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has drastically altered our way of life here in Camden County, affecting work, school and play. We hope each and every one is staying healthy and coping with this situation as best as you can.

We have applied for and been awarded two grants to aid our deputies in the performance of their duties. The first grant awarded was the “SRO equipment grant” in the amount of \$34,000.00. It was used to purchase portable and vehicle radios, body cameras and mobile data terminals (computers). The second grant “Deputy Safety Initiative” was for the amount of \$12,000.00. It is used for the purchase of personal protective equipment for each deputy to guard them against hazardous materials and infectious items or diseases. We also have a pending grant for \$23,000.00 to be used to purchase equipment for the deputies (uniforms, leather gear, etc.) These grants help our office tremendously, as we depend on them due to our limited budget in these areas. I would like to give Brandon Blount our resource specialist, a BIG Thank You for his hard work in applying for and acquiring these much needed grants!

As of today’s date, we are conducting interviews for a vacant deputy position. We have had some really great interviews with potential candidates and hope to have this position filled very soon.

When I became Sheriff, we started bi-yearly community forums to keep the citizens of Camden County informed of what was going on in and around your county. This concept has not gone by the wayside, so to speak. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were concerned about attempting to continue with the in person forums that we had previously began with. We are looking into making a video or livestreaming an interview on our Facebook page in the near future to continue on with this tradition until the pandemic passes, which I hope will be soon. Stay tuned for information about this.

Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 1st, I was on my way back to the office from Elizabeth City when the telephone rang. When I answered a gentleman asked if I was Sheriff Jones and I replied yes sir. He went on to say that he was with the White House staff and wanted to confirm my presence at the dedication ceremony to be held in Wilmington on Wednesday the 2nd. I must say, that was a very interesting conversation and a first for me!! I had the distinct privilege and honor to attend the World War II Heritage City Dedication where President Donald Trump gave remarks dedicating the City of Wilmington. This dedication was held under the backdrop of the USS Battleship North Carolina. I was honored to hear our President speak such awe inspiring words about our Country, our Great State, and the men and women of our armed forces who fought and sacrificed so much in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam wars. Folks, we owe our very way of life and freedoms we enjoy today to these brave, unselfish men and women of this generation, I became overwhelmed with emotion as I looked upon the 93 year old WW II Marine combat veteran that stormed an enemy machine gun nest by himself to save numerous US military lives, did I mention he also was wearing the Medal of Honor Ribbon around his neck, He IS the definition of what the word Hero means.

As always, my door is open to you! Please stay safe and healthy!

Respectfully, J. Kevin Jones





Harvey Forbes Gregory, III (a.k.a Greg & Chick)



Chick Gregory is shown with his wife, Denise, and with an article written by The Daily Advance during his racing days at Dixieland Speedway

As a newcomer to Camden, I am enjoying getting to know the fine folks of this county by interviewing citizens and highlighting those who volunteer and who have interesting stories to tell about the history of Camden. If you would like to recommend someone to be spotlighted in an upcoming edition of the Camden Citizen News, leave me a message on the County's hotline at 252-621-3940.

Brenda Bowman

While asking around for recommendations for someone I could spotlight in this edition of the *Camden Citizen News*, who demonstrated love for our community, and who had given back to the community, it didn't take me long to find out about Greg Gregory. Greg, son of Hazel Gregory and the late Harvey Forbes Gregory, Jr., was born and raised in Camden, graduated from Camden High School in 1976, where he played football and ran track, and in 1978 married his high school sweetheart, Denise.

Greg and his parents were co-owners of Camden Sales & Service John Deere Dealer for 40 years, and sponsored the county's Babe Ruth baseball and softball teams, as well as race cars, and go carts at Dixieland Speedway. The entire family was active athletic booster club members at Camden High School, while Greg & Denise's children were in school. From 1995-2002, Greg & Denise helped run the Athletic Booster Club Sweepstakes Dinners and raised thousands of dollars each year. Greg and his father filmed all the CCHS football games for many years. Greg built the first batting cage for the CCHS baseball team. He also loves art and he drew the CCHS Bruin Bear logo for the Afghans that are still sold to raise money for the booster club. In addition, he drew the art work in the Camden Women's Club Cookbook published in 1984.

Greg, also known as "Chick" loved racing and it too was a love shared by the family. Both his father, Harvey, and his son, Brandon raced go carts. In 1989 Chick took home the NASCAR sanctioned championship in his #66 stock car at Dixieland Speedway. In an article written about Greg in *The Daily Advance*, he was called one of the cleanest drivers at the race track.

Greg was a volunteer fireman and scuba diver for the Camden Station #12 for 21 years. In 1994, he received the Outstanding Firemen's Award for outstanding and dedicated service, and the NC Governor's Award for outstanding volunteer service to the community.

Greg and Denise have two children, Brandon and wife Stacey, who live in Manteo, and Mollie White and husband Vic of Camden. They are the especially proud of their grandchildren Pearce and Parker Gregory, and Baylie White. They continue to enjoy sports while watching their grandkids play. Greg and Denise are members of Sawyers Creek Baptist Church. Greg has worked for the past five years in the Camden County Maintenance Department and retired in 2020. Denise also plans to retire at the end of 2020, after working over 34 years with the Department of Agriculture with farmers from Currituck to Chowan. We wish Greg and Denise many happy years of retirement. You deserve it! Thank you for your commitment to Camden County.



The Library Is Closed, But We're Still Here to Help!

The impact of COVID-19 on public services has been monumental, and Camden County Public Library has been closed to the public since March 17th of this year. And while we are n't able to allow the public back into the building yet, we have been working hard to provide the same quality service to our patrons of all ages.

Curbside Pick-Up has been a popular resource during the library's closure. As a patron, you can request books and DVDs, either online or over the phone, and set an appointment to pick up their materials. And we have lots of new things to share! New books have been arriving every month, and we are eager to help our patrons find something fresh to read. We also offer reader's advisory services for both children and adults. You can request a group of picture books, early readers, or chapter books based on your child's reading level and interests, or adult fiction and non-fiction based on your own preferences. We are happy to choose materials for you to enjoy!

However, if you have a library card, our collection is not the only one available to you. We also offer several online resources that are worth exploring: cloudLibrary, RBDigital and Libby each provide digital collections of e-books and e-audiobooks that can be streamed from your Smartphone, tablet, or computer. Libby is a collection just for children, while cloudLibrary and RBDigital offer content for adults and children alike. These apps are all available for download from your app store! Feel free to call the library if you have any questions on how to access any of our online resources. We have online applications available on our website for those who would like a library card.

Our programs have also evolved while the library has been closed to the public. Our children's specialist posted several virtual story times in the spring, then we transitioned to this year's Summer Reading Program. With the theme of "Imagine Your Story," participants enjoyed a weekly take-home activity as well as a variety of in-person events, including our very own library labyrinth! The programs took place outside of the building over a 4-hour period so that families could attend at their convenience and practice social distancing. The reading logs were successful this year, with our young patrons logging over 25,000 minutes read over a 6-week period! Those who completed their reading goals received a gift certificate for a free book from The Recycled Reader, sponsored by the Friends of the Library group.

We are excited to announce that beginning September 1st, Camden patrons will have access to TumbleBooks! This extensive collection of children's books are unique in that multiple patrons can access each title at once. The site also features read-along books, a math program, a teen collection, and an all-ages audio book collection. Visit our website for more information.

This fall, the library continues to provide innovative programming. In September, the Adult Book Club will be hosting their first virtual meeting, where they will be discussing *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. If you are interested in joining the library's Adult Book Club, please e-mail Freda at agordon@earlibrary.org. Virtual story times will continue, as well as the addition of Book Talks, where a staff member will review a favorite book of theirs in hopes of introducing patrons to titles they may not have previously known. These will be available to view on the library's Facebook page. On September 24th, we will be hosting "Activities To-Go," an outdoor program where patrons can bring home a variety of crafts and activities. Utilizing the ReadSquared software, we are also continuing the summer's reading success by implementing a fall reading program for school-aged children. Those who complete their goal will receive a free treat from Belcross Bake Shoppe!

The library is currently considering publishing a monthly newsletter, delivered directly to your e-mail inbox. If you're interested in receiving this update, please sign up at <http://eepurl.com/hbJr2r>, on the library's Facebook page or website.

Kim Perry, Camden County Librarian - Camden County Public Library - P.O. Box 190, Camden, NC 27921 - Ph: (252) 331-2543 Fax: (252) 331-2196

Camden County set to break ground for Library

Background

On July 1, 2013 Camden County opened the first public library in the county: Camden County Public Library. Before this historic moment, Camden County was the only county in North Carolina that did not have a public library or a joint use public and school library facility, though the County did have school libraries and also received bookmobile service from Pasquotank County.

In early October of 2012 Camden County expressed interest in a library facility of its own. For many years, Camden County had been paying Pasquotank County annually for joint operation of the Pasquotank-Camden Library in Elizabeth City. In 2012, the County began planning to provide its residents a library of their own.

The current library is a 6,800 square-foot building leased in a new business park, and cost the County approximately \$450,000. The County leased the building for five years. The current library is a wonderful asset for residents offering a diverse range of activities, research materials, a meeting room, and is easily accessible.

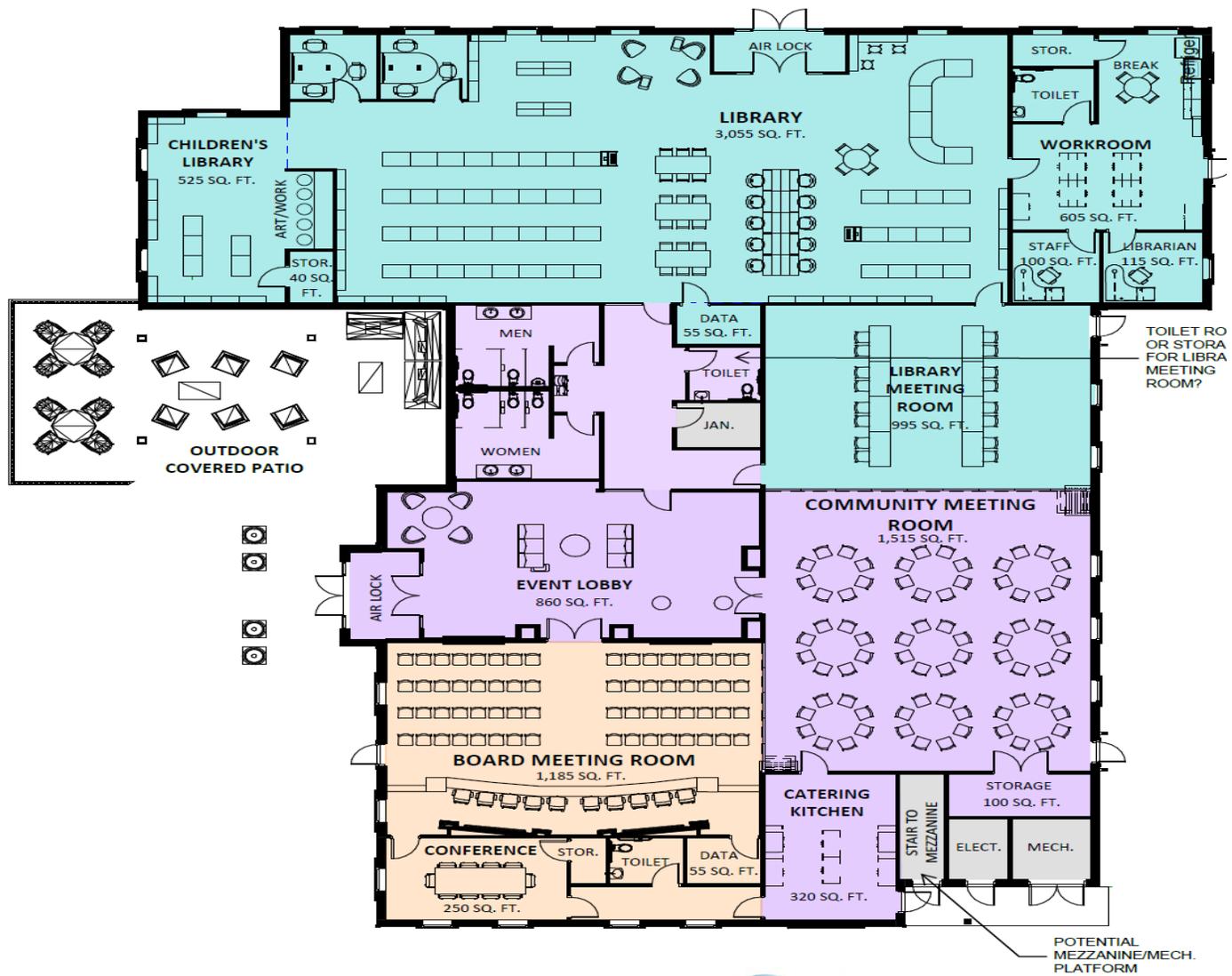
Ahead

The lease on the current library expired February 2018 and the County was on a month-to-month lease until one was finally renegotiated in October 2019. The owner of the building decided to increase the lease and only extend it for 2 years. The current lease amount increased substantially from \$36K per year to almost \$80K per year. This forced the County leadership to rethink leasing the current space versus building a new building. The cost to construct the building is set at \$3.6M and will **not** require a tax increase. Since the Library was originally part of the Master Plan for the Administration Complex it was decided to move forward with building the Library as Phase 1 of the overall Complex.

The new building will be located across the street from the historic Courthouse on the site designated for the Administration Complex. Boomerang Design, Raleigh, NC, is the design architect and has the responsibility to design and master plan the entire site to include the library building. The building will not only have an updated library, but will also include a much-needed community room that will seat up to 100 people that can be quickly configured to accommodate multiple venues. Also included, adjacent to the meeting room, will be a new boardroom that will be used by the many boards, committees, commissions, and advisory groups within the County. It will have state-of-the-art audio-visual systems with live-streaming capabilities and seating for up to 60 people. The timeline for completion is September 2021.

Below is a rendering of the Library, along with the floorplan of the entire building. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for October 5, 2020.





Parks & Recreation/Center for Active Adults

2020 Upcoming Camden County Events

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 7: Saturday: Holly Days presented by the Camden Women's Club

10am-5pm – Grandy Primary School/Camden Intermediate School Gym

November 8: Sunday: Holly Days presented by the Camden Women's Club

11am-4pm – Grandy Primary School/Camden Intermediate School Gymnasium

***November 10: Veterans Day Program**

11am-12pm – Camden County Courthouse

***December 4: Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony**

5:30pm – Camden County Historic Courthouse Lawn

Senior Center Lunch Program

The Camden County Senior Center offers drive-through, catered lunches for seniors 60 and older from 11:30 am—12:30 pm Monday & Thursday. These are well-balanced, dietician-approved meals. Seniors must sign up with the center and request a lunch 24 hours prior to the pickup date.

Donation Welcome

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

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

- **MEAL PICK UP**—MONDAY AND THURSDAY FROM 11:30AM TO 12:30PM
- **GARDENING**—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY FROM 8:00AM TO 9:00AM
- **BINGO**—WEDNESDAY FROM 8:30AM TO 9:30AM
- **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**—
MONDAY FROM 11:30AM TO 12:30PM
—
WEDNESDAY FROM 1:00PM TO 2:00PM
- **EXERCISE ROOM AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT**—CHECK WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR DETAILS
- **COMPUTER TIME AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT**—CHECK WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR DETAILS

Please call the Camden Center for Active Adults at

(252)335-2569

TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Camden County Government Directory

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.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CamdenCounty/

Office Directory

Animal Control: 338-5046

Board of Elections: 338-5530

Camden County Heritage Museum/Historic Jail: 771-8333

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners: 338-6363 ext. 311

Clerk of Court: 336-4000

Convenience Site (Camden Township): 338-3865

Convenience Site (Shiloh Township): 336-4507

Convenience Site (South Mills Township): 771-2918

Cooperative Extension: 331-7630

County Manager: 338-6363 ext. 310

Dismal Swamp Welcome Center: 771-8333

Economic Development: 338-6363 ext. 310

Emergency Management: 335-4444

Finance: 338-6363 ext. 314

GIS: 338-1919 ext. 261

Health Department: 338-4460

Human Resources: 338-6363 ext. 315

Library: 331-2543

Parks & Recreation: 338-1919 ext. 239

Planning & Community Development: 338-1919 ext. 263

Public Works: 338-6363 ext. 313

Register of Deeds: 338-1919 ext. 244

Schools Central Office: 335-0831

Senior Center: 335-2569

Sheriff's Office: 338-5046

Social Services: 331-4787

Soil & Water Conservation: 338-1919 ext. 262

Tax: 338-1919 ext. 225

Tourism: 771-8333

Water & Sewer: 338-1919 ext. 236

Fire Stations:

South Mills VFD: 771-2772

South Camden VFD: 338-3722



CAMDEN COUNTY WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

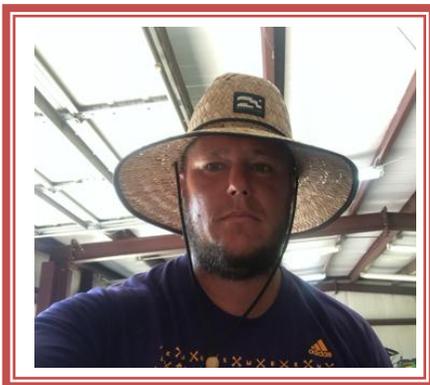
Camden County is pleased to introduce Beverly Fonville, who began the position of Human Resources Manager in the spring of 2020. Mrs. Fonville has worked as a Human Resource Specialist at Constellis in Moyock, NC, a Human Resources Assistant with the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools, and a Human Resources Specialist in Craven County, NC. She is currently pursuing a Management Degree with a focus on Human Resources.

Beverly and her husband, Adrian, reside in Elizabeth City. Adrian is the principal at River Road Middle School in EC. Beverly and Adrian have two grown sons, the oldest is an officer in the Army, stationed in Virginia, and the youngest graduated from UNC Greensboro and works at State Employees Credit Union as a Financial Services Representative.



BEVERLY FONVILLE
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Camden County also welcomes the following new employees. As you see them throughout the county, take time to thank them for their service and great job keeping our facilities and grounds looking good.



Derrick Page
Parks & Recreation
Maintenance Program Supervisor



Joe Caraway
Building & Grounds
Maintenance Worker



James Taylor
Building & Grounds
Maintenance Worker



Sandy Stevens
Part-time Custodian



CARES ACT GRANT PROGRAM PROVIDES RELIEF FUNDS TO CAMDEN COUNTY BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFITS AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Camden County creates new Staff position to assist Camden County businesses and non-profits with application process

Alexandra Lekki is the administrator for the CARES Act Grant Program. Each county in North Carolina was allocated a monetary amount in relief funds to disperse in a number of areas to assist the community. One of our objectives at Camden County was to try and reach as many eligible businesses as possible to assist in the negative effects of COVID-19. The Board of Commissioners asked for an increase from the original amount allocated and was able to approve \$150K .. Anyone who owns a small business or non-profit in Camden County was eligible to apply. There were certain guidelines and qualifications in place as directed by the State of NC and the U.S. Treasury. In addition, any money that was given must be used to help offset the effects of the pandemic. The money distributed will not have to be repaid by those awarded. The program has since ended.

Alexandra received over 100 applications through the 2 month period that the application was up through the Camden County website and Camden County Facebook page. Alexandra visited and spoke with many business owners and looks forward to continuing to get to know more people and businesses within the community.” Alexandra’s office is located in the County Administration Building on USHWY 158 and she is available Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm to answer any questions any applicants may have.

Alexandra recently moved from New York to Camden County to be near her parents, who live in Elizabeth City. They had moved here a year and half ago to follow their dream of moving south, once their children had finished school. The family spent many summers at NC beaches and Alexandra looks forward to continuing that tradition with those family members she leaves behind in NY. Alexandra’s family experienced the loss of her brother in February and due to COVID, and everyone trying to stay safe, the family had to grieve in isolation without family, unable to see each other. Alexandra relocated to North Carolina to help her parents and herself heal together. Alexandra, Camden prays for you and your family. Know that we welcome you with open arms and look forward to getting to know you and your parents.

Alexandra says she is happy to be here! “It has been great so far. The weather is beautiful, I’m blessed to have found this opportunity in Camden County, and hopefully it leads to something full time and permanent. Everyone here is so nice! It’s still a struggle, and I’m sure it will be for many years to come, if not for my whole life, but I’m thankful to be able to be here with my parents, and for the chance of a new chapter starting here in sunny North Carolina.”

Below are a few business owners who received the grants. The first is Ms. Michele Barkhurst of Copper Bit Boutique located at 872 N Carolina Hwy 343 S, Camden, NC 27921. It is an equestrian boutique that she recently started on her own with many different items for sale including cowboy boots, hats, saddles, feed, clothing, and even jewelry and candles. Michele was a pleasure to meet and speak with. She truly makes everyone feel welcome into her store. Michele showed true appreciativeness for the check she received for her business. Not only did she use this money towards her business, but she went on to donate and buy meals for the seniors at the senior center immediately upon receiving it. We love to see kindness being paid forward, and Michele made us all feel proud to call her a Camden County resident!

The second picture is of Ms. Kay Cooper of Kay’s Child care located in Camden. Miss Cooper was so friendly and had an infectious smile and also was a pleasure to meet and get to know more.

The third and final photo is of Mr. David Bundy of David W. Bundy Contracting. Mr. Bundy is a Coast Guard veteran and a single father to his adorable daughter, 6, who is posing with him for the photo and just finished her first day back to school starting 1st grade! She was in charge of receiving the check!

Alexandra Says “Thanks to all who applied and participated in the Grant Program. It was a pleasure meeting everyone and hearing their stories. Some of which brought tears to my eyes and I felt honored to be able to help in some small way.” Alexandra Lekki.



**Alexandra Lekki, Program
Administrator
County of Camden
PO Box 190
330 East Highway 158
Camden, NC 27921
252.338.6363 ext. 312**

Disclaimer

The following advertisements are from political parties and candidates. Neither the *Camden Citizen News*, the *Camden County Government entity*, nor the *Daily Advance* support or endorse any political party or any of the candidates. This Editor reached out to both local parties and all local candidates on the November 3, 2020 ballot, offering the opportunity to publish an advertisement. All political advertisements were paid for by the candidate or party.



Thank you for your votes during the Republican Primary earlier this year. I am honored to be on the November 3, 2020 ballot and ask for your continued support. I look forward to representing the citizens of Camden County for another term.

**Randy Krainiak, Commissioner
Courthouse District**

Paid for and Authorized by Randy Krainiak



Thank you for your support during the May Primary and I am humbled to be your Republican nominee for the South Mills District of the Camden Board of Commissioners. I am again asking for your vote on November 3, 2020, and look forward to serving the citizens of Camden County.

**Tiffney White
Republican Candidate for Board of Commissioners
South Mills District**

Paid for and Authorized by Tiffney White



I am asking for your vote on November 3, 2020, to serve as your representative on the Board of Commissioners for the South Mills District. I am a life-long resident of Camden, have raised a family and have worked for the Camden County Schools for many years. I teach Driver's Ed classes in Camden, Albemarle School, Currituck and drive students throughout Camden and the surrounding counties. I am open to learning more about the facts surrounding the need for a new school as well as the county library complex. Growth is inevitable but we have to make sure we manage our funds based on today's current situation. I applaud our Sheriff's Department for their great work and support increased funding for new deputies.

**Barbara Riggs
Democrat Candidate for Board of Commissioners
South Mills District**

Paid for and Authorized by Barbara Riggs



To the Citizens of Camden County,

As I seek my fourth term on the Board of Education, I first would like to thank you for the support you have given me in the past. I am counting on your support once again this election year.

We all have had common goals over the years, mostly to provide the best for our most important citizens of Camden County, Our Students! One of these goals is to provide a new high school facility for our county. We are close to accomplishing this goal. Important steps have been taken towards expanding our school facilities to alleviate the overcrowded buildings we have today. The next step is the School Bond referendum, which I am supporting.

Thank you for your support when you cast your vote.

Christian

Christian Overton
School Board Member
Camden County Board of Education

Paid for by Christian Overton



First, I would like to thank everyone for the support over the last four years of my first term serving on Camden County School Board. It has certainly been an eventful four years for the school system. To name a few things, we saw a superintendent retire which in turn led to having to hire a new superintendent, we secured grant monies totaling \$12.3 million to date to put towards a desperately needed new high school and as everyone is much aware we are currently dealing with COVID-19 and the restrictions the governor has currently placed upon us for opening schools.

Second, I would like to ask for your support in the upcoming election even though I and Mr. Overton are currently running unopposed for our two seats; your vote would still be greatly appreciated. Even more importantly, I would appreciate you giving thought and consideration into joining myself in supporting the new High School bond referendum which will also be on the ballot.

Lastly, I would like to thank the school administration, staff and parents for all the hard work they put in which keeps Camden County Schools as one of the top school districts in the state.

Kevin Heath
School Board Member
Camden County Board of Education

Paid for by Kevin Heath



Ross Munro
Republican Candidate for
Commissioner at Large

Camden County Citizens

I thank you for allowing me to serve as a County Commissioner. I consider it an honor and a privilege. I again ask for your vote on November 3rd.

Paid for and Authorized by Ross Munro

GOP NEWS

The Camden County Republican Party extends an invitation for voters to attend their monthly meetings, generally held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Camden County Center for active adults, at 6:00 p.m. Although our regular meetings have been suspended during the COVID pandemic, we have begun working hard for our Republican candidates on the November 3, 2020 ballot. In addition to supporting the state-wide conservative candidates shown on this page, the Camden County Republican Party is proud to endorse the following representatives to the NC House of Representatives and NC Senate, as well as candidates running for local offices.

For information on how you can become involved in the Camden County Republican Party, contact Frank Yandle, Chairman at centerpunch @embarqmail.com.



Bob Steinburg
NC Senate
District 1



Ed Goodwin
NC House of Representatives
District 1



Randy Krainiak
Commissioner
Courthouse District



Ross Munro
Commissioner
At-Large



Tiffany White,
Commissioner
South Mills District



Tammie Krauss
Register of Deeds

NC-CAN Conservative Candidates' Guide



2020 REPUBLICAN NC APPELLATE JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

NC SUPREME COURT

*3 CANDIDATES FOR 3 SEATS



JUDGE PHIL BERGER, JR.



JUSTICE PAUL NEWBY FOR CHIEF JUSTICE



TAMARA BARRINGER

NC COURT OF APPEALS

*5 CANDIDATES FOR 5 SEATS



Paid for and Authorized by the Camden County Republican Party

CAMDEN IMAGES





**Forbes & Brown
Real Estate**

**We sell social distancing.
info@ucforbesandbrown.com**

260 Hwy. 158, E
Camden, NC 27921

252.333.1515

Each office independently owned & operated

Lisa L. Brown, Managing Broker/Owner
United Country Forbes & Brown Real Estate
757-619-8064

info@ucforbesandbrown.com

www.ucforbesandbrown.com