



Camden County

NEW ENERGY. NEW VISION.

See What's Happening On The Dismal Swamp Canal

Boating on the Dismal Swamp Canal

The Dismal Swamp Welcome Center is wrapping up another year of service to our waterway as well as highway travelers. We have had approximately 1,500 boats travel through the historic Dismal Swamp Canal this year, down slightly, but the Canal was closed during January and February due to the replacement of the "River Gate" at the South Mills lock. Hurricane Sandy and two nor'easters forced many boaters to delay moving south due to bad weather.



Boater's genuinely appreciate the hospitality and beautiful well-kept grounds of the NCDOT facility and are also being reminded of the Lamb's Marina's upgrades last winter to accommodate deeper drafts for use of their facilities here in Camden. They often borrow our loaner bikes to pay a visit to the South Mills village for supplies while staying in the area.



one of the highlights on their travels.

We are in constant contact with many of the online boating newsletters, keeping them abreast of the latest information regarding this historic waterway, which many boaters tell us

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School Projects

We have been a source of information for many student projects over the years, to help them learn more about the state in which they live. Many county brochures or historical items concerning the area can be obtained here at the center. If we do not have the information, we may be able to point you to the proper source.

Dismal Swamp Trail Marker Dedication



On Nov. 1, 2012, an interpretive sign was unveiled to share the history of the mysterious granite Mile Markers which are found along the banks of the historic Dismal Swamp Canal. Located approximately one mile from the south end of the paved portion of the trail, this reclaimed marker, #19, is prominently displayed on the high bank of the Canal. This sign provides a brief history of these stones and was dedicated to the former Director of the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center, Ms. Penny Leary-Smith.

Dismal Day A Huge Success



This first annual event, was organized to draw attention to the swamp's history. It attracted approximately 1000 people and was a big hit with tourists and area locals. Food vendors sold out and additional boat rides were added due to popularity. The events included a 5K Family Fun Run, bounce houses, live music, arts and crafts vendors and an up-close view of an old moonshine still and lighter boat.

The 2nd Annual Dismal Day event date has already been set for October 19, 2013 from 10 am - 2pm in anticipation of another successful event. Save the date!

Dismal Swamp State Park / Welcome Center Calendar of Events

| What | When | Where (Meet At) |
|--|--|--|
|  <p>Registration for the 10th Annual Paddle for the Border</p> <p>Paddle the historic Dismal Swamp Canal between South Mills NC and Chesapeake VA.</p> <p>Cost is \$40.00 per kayak/canoe</p> | <p>Registration begins January 2, 2013</p> <p>Event Fills Quickly, Register Soon...</p> <p>Event is Saturday, 5-4-13</p> | <p>To Be Announced Later.</p> <p>For more information: 252-771-6593</p> |
|  <p>Just the Bear Essentials</p> <p>Join a ranger and learn about bears in their habitat in and around the Dismal Swamp</p> | <p>Saturday, January 5, 2013 2:00 PM</p> | <p>Dismal Swamp State Park Auditorium</p> <p>For more information: 252-771-6593</p> |
|  <p>Woodpecker Study</p> <p>Learn all about woodpeckers then head outdoors to attempt to find and view them in their habitat.</p> <p>Bring binoculars or borrow ours.</p> | <p>Saturday, January 12, 2013 10:00 AM</p> | <p>Dismal Swamp State Park Auditorium</p> <p>For more information: 252-771-6593</p> |
|  <p>Birding Basics</p> <p>Birding Basics for Beginners. Learn how to identify birds by their characteristics and behaviors.</p> <p>Bring binoculars or borrow ours.</p> | <p>Sunday, January 13, 2013 9:00 AM</p> | <p>Dismal Swamp State Park Auditorium</p> <p>For more information: 252-771-6593</p> |
|  <p>In the Winter Woods</p> <p>Take a walk with a ranger to see what's special in the winter woods. Wear sturdy shoes.</p> | <p>Saturday, January 19, 2013 10:00 AM</p> | <p>Dismal Swamp State Park Meet at Visitor Center</p> <p>For more information: 252-771-6593</p> |
|  <p>Winter Treats for the Birds</p> <p>Help us feed our fine feathered friends. Make some winter treats for the birds. Open to all ages.</p> | <p>Saturday, January 26, 2013 2:00 - 4:00 PM</p> | <p>Dismal Swamp State Park Classroom</p> <p>For more information: 252-771-6593</p> |
|  <p>Denizens of the Dismal</p> <p>Learn about the creatures that call the Dismal Swamp home.</p> | <p>Sunday, January 27, 2013 2:00 PM</p> | <p>Dismal Swamp State Park Auditorium</p> <p>For more information: 252-771-6593</p> |

For more events, see our website at www.camdencountync.gov

What is Happening in Your County??

Camden County Management Office Continues to Enjoy it's New Home... Our County Management Office is celebrating the beginning of their 2nd year in their new home... 330 US Hwy 158 East, Camden, NC 27921 (white building right before the turn in to Camden Business Park). The mailing address is still the same (PO Box 190, Camden, NC 27921). There is a new phone number to the Management office: Phone: 252-338-6363, Fax: 252-331-7831. If you need to contact the County Manager, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Human Resources, or Finance Department, the aforementioned address/phone numbers will get you there.

Departments located at the courthouse complex area include Planning (Permits, Inspections, GIS/Mapping, & Zoning), Tax, and Water. They are still located in the beige building behind and to the left of the courthouse, and look forward to serving your needs. Of course, Register of Deeds, Clerk of Court, Social Services, Board of Elections, and Senior Center are also still where they have always been...

Current Programs & Services being offered:

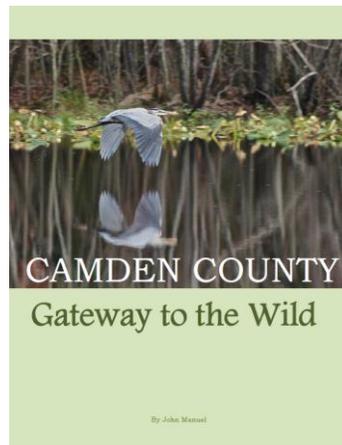
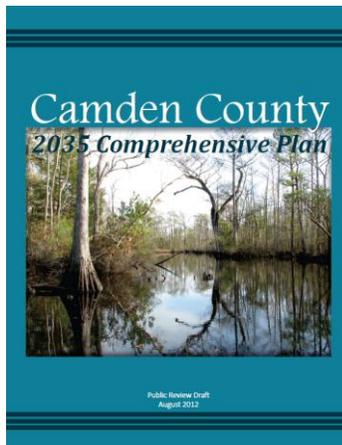
In addition to the routine services offered by the Camden County Offices, Camden County also offers these valuable programs & services:

- Board of Commissioners meetings are broadcast on Camden County's Cable Access Channel (Media-Com Channel 18) for 7 days following each board meeting, and can also be viewed via the internet by going to the Board of Commissioners page on the county website: www.camdencountync.gov/government/board-of-commissioners. Click on the link named "Videos".
- Camden County's Cable Access Channel continues to provide valuable community information both on the television (Media-Com Channel 18) and on the internet at the following web address: www.camdencountync.gov/services/cable-access-channel
- The 2035 Camden County Comprehensive Plan has been finalized and is available for viewing at the following web site: <http://www.camdencountync.gov/government/comprehensive-plan>
- South Camden Water & Sewer District offers a more convenient way for customers to pay their water bill using the ACH program. (See article on page 10)
- Camden County Parks and Recreation Department continues to administer recreational activities for the area's youth
- Camden County Cooperative Extension Service offers many services to include agricultural services, 4-H, Teen Court, and much more (see article on page 11-13)
- Demographical information about Camden County from the 2010 US Census is now available on the web at the following web address: <http://www.camdencountync.gov/about/demographics>
- Historical Information about Camden County is available on the Camden County web site: <http://www.camdencountync.gov/about/history>
- Camden County Senior Center offers programs and nutritious meals Monday - Friday for Camden County's Senior Citizens (see article on page 14)
- The Dismal Swamp Welcome Center offers travelers a welcome rest bit, along with serving their informational needs as they travel (by boat or car) along the Dismal Swamp Canal and US Hwy 17. (See articles on pages 1-3).

Camden County Planning Department

Camden County 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Both the 2035 Comprehensive Plan and the Gateway to the Wild have been finalized and approved, and are available for public viewing at www.camdencountync.gov.



Community Vision

Camden County stands at a pivotal point in the county's history. Opportunities lie ahead and the county is preparing to become a successful rural community of the 21st century -- a county with new energy and a new vision.



This new vision is encapsulated in the county's community vision statement. It describes the kind of community that residents, business owners, and leaders want Camden County to be in the future. It describes the hopes and aspirations for the community and provides a concise description of what Camden County will strive to be by the year 2035. The vision statement was developed from community input generated at the Envision Camden County Public Workshop.

Vision Statement

Camden County will realize its goal to be a community with "new energy and a new vision" by embracing and capitalizing on its assets - abundant natural resources, a unique rural setting, and a high quality workforce and educational system. Emphasis will be placed on providing a good quality of life for residents in a manner that is fiscally efficient and that preserves rural community assets.

New development will be focused within targeted core areas to breathe new life into established county villages and to efficiently use existing and planned infrastructure and public resources. New housing choices will be made available to serve families, young professionals, and retirees. Rural areas will maintain prominence in the county, and will continue to serve agricultural and forestry production and low density residential development.

New employment development will broaden the county's tax base and will be developed within strategic locations to maximize use of public infrastructure. Commercial and employment development will provide new goods and services and valuable employment opportunities to established residents. New industries will be low impact and will be designed to protect critical natural resources. The county will offer opportunities for residents and visitors to explore the natural wonder of Camden County by providing new hospitality and recreational amenities

Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan

The Albemarle Rural Planning Organization (RPO) wants to hear from you about bicycling in the Albemarle region! The RPO, together with a steering committee of representatives from around the region and the Department of Transportation, is developing a comprehensive bicycle plan aiming to establish the region as a Bicycling Destination for the World where roadways comfortably accommodate all modes of transportation. The planning team is seeking input from each of you. To share your vision for bicycling, please visit the project website at www.albemarlebikeplan.com and fill out the project comment form. This website provides more information on the project, as well as additional tools to provide feedback including an interactive input map and facebook page. The success of this citizen-driven planning process will depend on the support and contribution of residents from around the region. Comments from visitors are also welcome and encouraged. The planning process will continue through the summer of 2013 and the comment form will remain open through February, 2013. Please send questions or comments about the plan to Steven Lambert of the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization at slambert@albemarlecommission.org or (252) 426-5753, and spread the word! Together, we can make bicycling a safe, common activity throughout this region.

Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan (continued)

The Bicycle Plan Committee held its second meeting on December 6, 2012 at the Pasquotank County Public Safety Building, 2nd Floor (200 East Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC).

The following is a summary of that meeting:

Presentation

- Matt Hayes and Anne Eshleman of Alta/Greenways presented on existing conditions findings.

General Comments

- Traffic Safety Report was effective in getting engineering improvements on US-158. Add to Albemarle website for easy access
- CTG – Steve and Liz are studying planning /policies that address health and coming up with policy statements for comprehensive plans, CAMA plans, etc. Bike Plan should coordinate with planning/policy recs in this plan.
- Watch for Me NC is expanding out of the Triangle region and covering bike safety soon. Food Lion in OBX is interested in helping/partnering on this. Hyde County Intercounty transportation may be able to put signs on their vehicles (contact Liz Mumm)
- Target managers/mayors for education/encouragement/enforcement efforts – they are already involved and concerned
- OBX population increases 10x in summer; 250,000-300,000 per week in the summer (mid-June through Mid-August); Follow up needed on previous exchange with Dare County Tourism
- Cost estimates for facilities and maintenance will be useful in the implementation chapter (coming in the full draft plan)
- Alta to send out doodle poll for one of the last two weeks in January
 - o 10 am or later
 - o Currituck can host and provide lunch if everyone is willing to pay 5 to 10 dollars

Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan (continued)

Proposed Public Input Strategies

- Use hard copy comment forms when reaching out to low-income communities
- Consider distributing comment forms to the following organizations (hardy copy or link to the online version):
 - o Employers in region
 - o Dept. of Social Services
 - o Currituck Co/Dare Co email listserve (other town/county listserves)
 - o Community Health Departments (may be able to distribute through health assessments or during free clinics in waiting room)
 - o Bike shops
 - o Shelters (transitional)
 - o Faith-based organizations
 - o Food pantries
 - o County/local recreational departments – sporting events, community centers
 - o Bill Brobst – Wheels of Dare bicycle club
 - o River City Club 100 mile ride upcoming
 - o County/Town websites and email distribution lists
 - o Collington Road facebook page
 - o NC Council of Churches, Ministerial Alliance
 - o Media-public distribution
 - o State Park friends groups – friends of State Parks
 - o Cooperative Extension
 - o COA – Lisa Johnson, Elizabeth City State Univ.
 - o Currituck County and other county schools (to principals)
 - o Perquimans – School Administration and Ministers
- View results of health assessments to supplement comment form findings
- Alta to provide text ready-to-go for websites (including how long to keep up), listserves, and newsletters

Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan (continued)

Vision and Goals Brainstorming/Comments

- Vision and goals need to sell to resident population
- Need more emphasis on transportation; switch recreation and transportation in the vision statement
- Education process is key; incorporate into the goals; we need to make the case for cycling and convince the public of the benefits of cycling
 - o Social aspect of bicycling/walking in neighborhoods
 - o Economic development
- Be specific in objectives – e.g. connect neighborhoods and businesses
- Emphasize interconnectivity
- Need citizen champions – so that community is asking for things as opposed to planning staff
 - o Healthy Carolinians groups can help with this
- Change last sentence to add passion
 - o “Common, fun, effective, and preferred means of transportation, recreation, and healthy living.”
 - o ...that improve our communities and create more opportunities...”
- Bring in law enforcement
- Change to “...roadways comfortably accommodate”

Next Steps

- Alta to complete draft recommended bicycle network. The next Steering Committee meeting will largely include review and mark-up of draft recommendations.

What's Your Vision for Bicycling?

The Albemarle Rural Planning Organization, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, is developing a comprehensive bicycle plan for the ten-county Albemarle region. This plan aims to establish the Albemarle region as a Bicycling Destination for the World where roadways comfortably accommodate all modes of transportation. The planning team is seeking input from every resident of the region. Three booths were held in October at the Elizabeth City Farmer's Market, the Scuppernon River Festival, and the Outer Banks Seafood Festival to raise awareness of the plan and gather feedback. To share your vision for bicycling in the Albemarle region, please visit the project website at www.albemarlebikeplan.com and fill out the project comment form.

Once complete, this plan will provide cities, towns, villages, and counties of the region with a clear framework for moving forward with tangible bicycle improvements. The plan will offer guidance for enhancing bicycle opportunities through policies, programs, and physical improvements that encourage people to bike more often and to grow as a region with the needs of all modes of transportation in mind.

For more details about the project, or to provide input via the comment form, interactive input map, or facebook page, visit www.albemarlebikeplan.com. The success of this citizen-driven planning process will depend on the support and contribution of residents from around the region. The process will continue through the summer of 2013 and the comment form will remain open through February, 2013. Please send questions or comments about the plan to Steven Lambert of the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization at slambert@albemarlecommission.org or (252) 426-5753.

Camden County Public Works Department

The South Camden Water & Sewer District's ACH program is a more convenient way for customers to pay their bills. The ACH program is an Automatic Withdrawal service, provided at no cost to our customers. This program has been a great success thus far and we would like to encourage our customers to sign up for this FREE service. Authorization forms are available during office hours (8am - 5pm, M-F) at the Customer Service window of the Camden County Water Department located at 117 NC Hwy 343 North.

Authorization forms need to be in our office no later than the 20th of the month, with a voided check attached, to begin on the following billing cycle. If you would like us to email you an authorization form, you may call us at 252-338-1919 ext 236 or 250 to request one, or send your request by email to dlowry@camdencountync.gov.

And Remember:
RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE !!!

Tax Department

The 2012 county taxes are due by January 5, 2013, due to the 5th falling on the weekend you have until January 7, 2013 to pay before interest accrues. The listing period for personal property is during the month of January, 2013. It has to be listed by January 31, 2013, after that date there is a late listing penalty. Customers that have previously listed personal property will receive a listing form in the mail to review and sign. If you have never listed before and need to this year, please come by our office or call and we can mail a form to you.

Starting next year there will be a change in the vehicle billing. You will receive your tax bill through DMV along with your registration renewal. This is starting with March renewals due July 1. Tax office will still upload the bill information and process values and situs then we forward to DMV. There is a brochure in the newsletter as well for you to read that explains how the process will work.

Our phone number is 338-1919 and our extensions are listed below. Our office hours are from 8:00 to 5:00. We are open at lunch as well. Tax Administrator-Lisa S. Anderson-Ext.225

Tax Specialist-Dellie Spaulding-Ext.258

Tax Specialist-Teri Smith-Ext. 226

Tax Specialist-Kim Minton-Ext. 224

Tax Specialist-Jessica Gallop-Ext. 257

Customer Service Rep.-Betty Griffin-Ext. 250

Just a reminder that we have a third party company, Official Payments, where you can pay by phone or website. That number is 1-800-272-9829 or www.officialpayments.com. The jurisdiction code is 4375 and of course we take checks, money order or cash. We also have a drop slot in the door to the tax office where you can drop off payments for tax and water after hours.

NC Cooperative Extension Service

Camden County Teen Court Competition Team, will be competing in Greenville at the Mock Trial Competition on February 9, 2013. This year's team is made up of Camden students in grades 9th – 12th from both CamTech and Camden High School. Students participating the following roles for the competition; Attornies: Jeremiah McCoy, Shea Hartley, and Katie Gibbs. Witnesses: Windy Rose, Amanda Reese (alternate), Malik Lighty, Jonathan Gay, Erica Aydlett, Becca Rose (alternate). Bailiff: Tre Chamblee. Training Advisors Christy Edwards (JCPC Coordinator) and Monique Chamblee (Camden County Clerks Office Deputy Clerk). This year's team was awarded a Grant from Albemarle Electric for \$600 to cover training cost for the competition and regular Teen Court training.



Children Reaching Our World Now (C.R.O.W.N. Kids) continue to work on both personal and group goals. This year we are focusing on things to do to help others in our community. Victoria Harvin freshman at Camden High School put together several gifts for Breast Cancer Awareness to give to the patients at the Virginia Oncology Office in Elizabeth City.



NC Cooperative Extension Service (Continued)

C.R.O.W.N. Kids and B.E.A.R.s were able to enjoy an incentive activity together in Virginia. The students were able to go to Glazenfyre to paint ceramics along with going out to eat to practice their table etiquette.



For Christmas the children adopted the residence of Needham Nursing home and made different gifts for them. The children also celebrated Christmas along with attending the Christmas Parade in Elizabeth City on December 1st.



Treasure Point Camp will be held this summer for 6 weeks starting in July. Running from July 1st – August 9th. Job announcements will be posted in April/May with registration starting in June for the campers. Currently we are planning activities for this year.



Camden County 4-H is currently accepting campers for our 2013 Summer 4-H State Camping Experience at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, NC. Space is limited. Camp is July 21-26, 2013, is open to youth ages 8 to 14 and costs \$415 if you register by January 21, 2013. \$100 non-refundable/non-transferable deposit is required to reserve your child's spot and lock in early bird rate. Registration after Jan. 21st is \$430. For more information contact Danelle Barco at 331-7630.



Are you interested in public speaking??? Well here's your chance to get some good practice. March 23, 2013 will be the date of our Northeast District Activity Day, that will take place the College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City. Youth will gain valuable public speaking skills along with gaining knowledge of a specific subject matter. Please call our office at 331-7630 to register or for more information.

Camden County

P.O Box 190
117 NC Hwy 343 North
Camden, NC 27921
Phone: (252) 338-1919
Fax: (252) 333-1603

New Energy, New Vision

Find us on the Web:
www.camdencountync.gov

Camden County Senior Center

The Camden County Senior Center offers many different programs and services for our seniors:

Services Offered Are:

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



Located at 117 Hwy 343
(Behind Courthouse)
Contact Shana Trafton, Supervisor
252-335-2569 or 252-338-1919x248

We are also on the internet!!

www.camdencountync.gov

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

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

NEW EXERCISE ROOM HOURS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY FRIDAY:
8am-5pm

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
Open until 6:30pm

For more information, please contact

Camden Senior Center
Shana Trafton, Supervisor
252-335-2569



Camden County Department of Social Services

Energy Assistance Program

Applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will be taken now through January 31, 2013 for specified households. These households should consist of persons 60 years old and over or those who are disabled (could be under 60) and receiving Adult/Aging services. Applications for all other households will begin on February 1, 2013 through March 28, 2013 until funds are exhausted. The LIEAP provides a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their heating expense. All applicants have to be within income and resource limits and must be responsible for paying their own heating costs. Payments vary and are based on income, household size and heat source. For more information contact Camden County Department of Social Services at 252-331-4787.

Special Assistance In-Home Program (SA/IH)

Camden County Department of Social Services is offering this program now. It is a program designed to provide an alternative to placement in an Adult Care Home for those who can live safely at home with appropriate services. It allows recipients choice of a less restrictive setting and more control over managing their daily lives. All persons must need "adult care home" level of care as verified by a valid FL-2 from a health care provider and meet income and resource requirements. The target population is for persons who are 18 and older desiring to remain at home, who can do so safely based on a social worker's assessment. The Special Assistance In-Home Program started as a demonstration project in September 2000 with 400 slots and 22 participating DSSs. It has continuously grown through the years with voluntary participation by DSSs. Legislation in 2007 established the SA/IH as a permanent program under General Statutes and allowed for program expansion. Legislation in 2012 requires all 100 DSSs to participate. Slots have already been assigned for Camden DSS and we hope to fill them soon. If you or someone you know can benefit from this kind of program, please give us a call at 252-331-4787.