



Camden County

NEW ENERGY. NEW VISION.

A Word from the New County Manager

Hello! My name is Mike Renshaw, your new County Manager, and I am excited to be able to introduce myself to the residents and businesses of Camden County in our new edition of the County newsletter. I believe that in addition to our great schools and outstanding quality of life, our County provides many exciting programs for the benefit of our residents. These programs range from youth and adult recreation programming to housing rehabilitation assistance programs. In an effort to “get the information out there” we have created this newsletter. We hope you enjoy! Now a short introduction from me....



I was hired as Camden County Manager back in December 2011. Prior to coming to Camden, I was the city manager for the City of Grantville, Georgia which is about an hour and a half drive south of Atlanta. I also worked for the City of Atlanta as their director of code enforcement and compliance. I am a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was stationed right up the road in Norfolk, VA from 1986-1992. My familiarity with the area and seeing the fantastic opportunity for smart, controlled growth and development were two factors that led to me applying for the position of county manager. Although we’re now “empty nesters” my beautiful wife Judy and I have five awesome children ranging in age from 18 to 25.

I completed my undergraduate and graduate studies at Arizona State University, having finished my Bachelor of Science in 1997 and my Master of Public Administration degree in 2001. Prior to getting it right and moving to the South in 2008, I worked as a police officer and detective in the Phoenix, Arizona area as well as other senior management-level local government positions in the Phoenix area.

I am excited to be working for you and your Board of Commissioners. These are exciting times for Camden County, and your input is very valuable. I would encourage each of you to become more engaged with your government. Attend a Board of Commissioners meeting or ask a staff member about becoming involved in one of our many boards and committees. Should you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at 338-6363 extension 102 or stop by my office at 330 East Highway 158, next to the Camden Business Park. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas! Until then, take care and God Bless.

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What is Happening in Your County??

Camden County Management Office HAS MOVED !! Camden County's Management Offices are now located at 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 that have NOT moved 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.

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 county website (<http://www.camdencountync.gov>) and clicking Agendas & Videos under the County Commissioners menu link on the main sidebar menu.
- 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: <http://www.camdencountync.besavvy2.egovlink.com/planning/cac/>
- Camden County Planning Department continues to make progress with the 2035 Camden County Comprehensive Plan (see articles on page 4)
- South Camden Water & Sewer District now offers a more convenient way for customers to pay their water bill using the ACH program. (See article on page 5)
- Camden County Parks and Recreation Department continues to administer recreational activities for the area's youth (see article on page 11)
- Camden County Cooperative Extension Service offers many services to include agricultural services, 4-H, Teen Court, and much more (see article on page 12)
- Demographical information about Camden County from the 2010 US Census is now available on the web at the following web address: <http://www.camdencountync.besavvy2.egovlink.com/demographics/>
- Historical Information about Camden County is available on the Camden County web site: Click the Camden History link under the County Services menu link on the main sidebar menu (still a work in progress, but much information is available).
- Camden County Senior Center offers programs and nutritious meals Monday - Friday for Camden County's Senior Citizens (see article on page 10)
- 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 7-9).

Camden County Mosquito Spraying Program

If you have a mosquito problem in your area and would like to have the county spray for mosquitoes, please call 252-338-6363 ext. 111 or email dcredle@camdencountync.gov or btterrano@camdencountync.gov and leave your name, address and contact information for our records.

During the month of May, Camden County Public Works was busy setting monitor and trap sites throughout the County in order to collect required information as to the number and type of mosquitoes. Armed with this information, the County will begin spraying operations beginning in June.

Please note the following with regard to mosquito spraying:

- Camden only has 1 truck with a mounted spraying device;
- Spraying cannot be performed within 100 feet of any waterway;
- Spraying cannot be performed if the wind speed for the day is forecast to exceed 10 miles per hour;
- Spraying cannot be performed in wet or rainy conditions;
- Spraying can ONLY be performed when temperatures are between 50-95° F;
- Chemical used is Aqua-Reslin, with the active ingredient Permethrin.

Be Proactive. Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Reducing the number of mosquitoes can be as simple as emptying water from containers around your house. For example, you can eliminate mosquito breeding grounds by removing unused plastic pools, old tires, buckets, and clearing clogged gutters. By eliminating any item that can hold water, including low areas in your yard, and keeping the water changed in bird baths, you can reduce the mosquito population in your area without using insecticides.

Camden County Planning Department

Comprehensive Plan Project Update

The Camden County Comprehensive Planning Process is nearing completion. The consultants and staff developed a **“Development Capacity and Alternative Development Scenarios Report”** and presented it to the Steering Committee in February. Following a review of the report the Committee selected a Targeted Development approach to prepare a **“Planning Framework Report”** with a Vision Statement, Goals, Objectives, Action Strategies and a Draft Future Land Use Map. The committee reviewed the report and provided feedback regarding which goals and objectives were most important. Two public workshops were advertised through in a mailer to every address in the county, and were held on May 8 at the high school. Approximately 65 citizens viewed displays of the key themes and the draft Future Land Use Map, and provided feedback through one on one discussions around the displays, comment cards, and a polling exercise. All of the project reports, maps, and notes can be found by visiting the Camden County website (camdencountync.gov) and clicking on the link to “Comprehensive Plan”.

A complete draft of the Comprehensive Plan should be available in mid June for review by the Steering Committee, other county committees, and all interested citizens of the county. This schedule will allow for ample opportunity for community comments prior to presentation to the Board of Commissioners in August 2012. Comments and questions about the Comprehensive Plan are welcome and can be sent to dporter@camdencountync.gov.

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is also on track. Information has been gathered about existing traffic counts, deficient roads, crashes, and community goals and objectives. Traffic counts have been projected through 2040 based on estimated population growth of the county and surrounding areas. This and other information was presented at the May 8 public meetings and can be found at <http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/tpb/planning/CamdenCo.html>. The resulting recommendations will address all modes of transportation in the county.

The CTP will provide a broad long range overview or transportation needs, with little to no funding constraints. It serves as the foundation from which transportation officials develop a 10 year plan with general priorities, and then more detailed 5 year work program with specific projects and funding recommendations.

Stormwater

The Planning Department and the Camden Soil & Water Conservationist are making progress toward identifying key stormwater issues and preparing a work plan to improve drainage in the county through an ongoing maintenance program. The four (4) stormwater advisory committees in South Mills, Sawyers Creek, North River, and Shiloh have met as a group and individually to share their knowledge of critical problems and locations, and the variety of efforts to solve them. The result is a GIS map of all the streams, creeks, ditches, and major problem areas, showing which conveyances are maintained privately and which ones are being proposed for the maintenance program. Our GIS Technician is searching our existing data base and other outside sources to map topography and drainage flows. We are currently preparing a stormwater maintenance budget and researching funding options. Our immediate goal is to report short and long term recommendations to the Board of Commissioners in July or August.

Additionally, staff has met with several subdivision Home Owners Associations to educate residents about their maintenance responsibilities related to compliance with the subdivision’s state issued stormwater permit. Also we described efforts that individual homeowners can take that will help the overall stormwater system. A few of the key actions that homeowners can take include: 1) keep your ditches mowed and free of shrubs, debris, and grass clippings; 2) but do not kill all the vegetation that reduces erosion; 3) make a rain barrel connected to downspouts and reuse water running off roofs;

4) build a depressed rain garden to catch and absorb runoff before it enters your ditch; and 5) do not replace your ditch with a drain pipe (it simply pushes the problem to your neighbors).

For more information about stormwater issues, call the Planning Department or Conservationist; or email to:

dporter@camdencountync.gov

or

eparker@camdencountync.gov.



Now Showing!!!

Camden Historic Jail Video

UNC-TV has produced a Feature Spotlight on the Historic Camden County Jailhouse. Go to the following webpage to view this video:

[http://camdencountync.besavvy2.egovlink.com/
HistoricJailhouseVideo.cfm](http://camdencountync.besavvy2.egovlink.com/HistoricJailhouseVideo.cfm)

Camden County Demographics

The US Census Bureau has released population demographics from the 2010 Decennial Census. The Camden County Planning Department is in the process of compiling this data into informative reports comparing current demographics with the surrounding counties.

For an informative look at Camden County's demographics, go to this webpage:

[http://camdencountync.besavvy2.egovlink.com/
demographics/index.cfm](http://camdencountync.besavvy2.egovlink.com/demographics/index.cfm)

Public Works

The South Camden Water & Sewer District implemented an ACH program in October 2011, as 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 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.

Finance

The Finance Department is working with the County Manager on the FY12-13 Budget for the county. The Public Hearing on the budget was held on June 11. Approval of the Budget is scheduled for the June 18 Commissioner meeting.

With June 30 the close of the Fiscal Year 2011-2012, we are gathering information which the auditor has requested. October 30 is the date that our audit is due to the Local Government Commission.

Tax Department

Real and personal property bills will be sent out in August 2012. They are due September 1, 2012. You have until January 6, 2013 to pay before they become delinquent. You can also make prepayments and once the real estate bills are mailed you can also pay on your bill until the interest begins.

Vehicle bills are sent out each month according to when you renew your tags. You have 30 days to pay before interest starts. After 4 months the tag will become blocked. When a tag is blocked it has to be paid by cash or money order. No Checks.

All bills can be paid by cash, check, money order, cashier's check. Again the only time you have to pay cash is when a vehicle tag is blocked. You can also pay on-line with official payments. The web site is www.officialpayments.com or by telephone. The number is 1-800-272-9829. The jurisdiction code is 4375. There is a 3% charge of the total bill or min. of a \$1.00.

Our phone number is 252-338-1919. The extensions are as listed:

Lisa-226/Asst. Tax Administrator
Dellie-258/Tax Specialist
Teri-224/Tax Specialist
Candy-257/Tax Specialist

Our street address is 117 North 343 and our PO Box is 125, Camden, NC 27921. We are open 8:00-5:00 and we are open through lunch.

Board of Elections

Second Primary Election July 17, 2012

On Tuesday, July 17 there will be a 2nd Primary Election for both Democrats and Republicans in Camden County. Democrats will vote for the NC Commissioner of Labor and Republicans will voter for NC Lieutenant Governor, NC Commissioner of Insurance, NC Secretary of State and NC Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Voters affiliated with the Democratic Party may vote in the Democratic 2nd Primary. Voters affiliated with the Republican Party may vote in the Republican 2nd Primary. Voters who are registered as Unaffiliated and participated in the Democratic Party's Primary Election on May 8, 2012 may vote in the Democratic 2nd Primary. Voters who are registered as Unaffiliated and participated in the Republican Party's May 8, 2012 Primary Election may vote in the Republican 2nd Primary. Voters who are registered as Unaffiliated and voted in the Non-partisan elections on May 8, 2012 may NOT participate in the 2nd Primary.

One-stop Absentee voting will be June 28 through July 14, 2012 with no voting on July 4, 2012.

Camden in the Media

On Tuesday, June 5, 2012, Ken Mann- My Heart Will Always Be In Carolina and Bob Boyer filmed Alex Leary, local historian for an upcoming show to air later in the year. Alex began collecting to enhance his student's attention in the classroom during his many years of teaching history. His interest expanded and today he can teach us all a thing or two.



Dismal Swamp Welcome Center



Prothonotary Warbler

Did you know that despite its foreboding name, the Great Dismal Swamp is one of few remaining American wildernesses and is home to black bear, bobcats, river otters, reptiles and many rare plants? It is the largest intact remnant of a vast habitat that once covered more than one million acres of northeastern North Carolina. Especially attractive to birders and nature lovers, the Great Dismal Swamp boasts 200 species of birds, yellow-bellied and spotted turtles, lizards, salamanders, frogs and toads.

Despite its impressive size and age, the Great Dismal Swamp's thick forests still protect its wildlife and wards off most would be intruders. But for those who boldly venture in, the Dismal Swamp shelters a wealth of history and lore, flora and fauna. Visitors to the Welcome Center may participate in hiking, biking, nature photography, wildlife observation, on the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail. The 22-mile historic canal offers hours of fishing, boating, kayaking and canoeing fun.



While your kids are out of school, consider visiting the Dismal Swamp State Parks visitor's center. Learn why George Washington called the Dismal Swamp "a glorious paradise", or how the swamp was important in the Underground Railroad. Observe the ecological importance of Camden County wetlands in the state parks visitor center and exhibit hall. All of this and more can be found just 3 miles south of the NC border on US Hwy 17.

The Dismal Swamp Welcome Center can assist you with any plans to visit areas in our state. With over 500 brochures, maps and travel guides, you can find a great destination to enjoy history, recreation or just relax. Visit our webpage at <http://camdencountync.besavvy2.egovlink.com/welcomecenter.cfm>



As always, the staff at the Welcome Center (771-8333) are glad to loan (4) adult bikes for FREE. Guests may ride our bike on the three mile paved trail adjacent to the canal and then venture further into downtown South Mills.

Canoe and Kayak are available at the Dismal Swamp State Park for a small fee. (771-6593) Sunscreen, insect repellent, comfortable clothes and shoes are recommended.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Byrd



All eyes on team Dismal Swamp Spuds

Potato Peeling was fun again at the North Carolina Potato Festival held May 19, 2012 in Elizabeth City, NC. The Dismal Swamp Spuds represented for the third year by placing 5th place out of 26 teams in the National Potato Peeling contest. Gregg Stewart won 1st place for all peelers. Gregg won \$100, free French fries for a YEAR at McDonald's, a nice trophy and best of all....bragging rights!

**Left to right: Gregg Stewart, Sarah Weeks
Scott Mathis and Donna Stewart**



9th Annual Paddle for the Border

Held on May 5th, 2012 PFB was another huge success. A beautiful day was on tap for the 362 registered participants, an increase from last year. We were honored to have Sen. Kay Hagan's State Director, Melissa Midgett as a special guest. Camden County Commissioners, Mike McLain, Randy Krainiak and Garry Meiggs joined in the festivities along with Camden County Manager, Mike Renshaw. Next year's Paddle date has been set for May 4th and registration information will be available in early 2013.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Byrd

Dismal Swamp Welcome Center (continued)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (For more information / registration call the park office at (252) 771-6593.)

JUNE

<i>What Description</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>
<u>Kayaking the Canal</u> Join a ranger for a leisurely paddle along the historic Dismal Swamp Canal. Event lasts approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Kayaks, Personal Flotation Devices, and Paddles will be supplied, but you will need to bring your sunscreen, bug spray, and water. Program is limited to 8 participants and pre-registration is required.	6-16-12 (Sat), 10:00 AM	Meet at Bridge
<u>Snakes</u> Get a close-up view of some of the Dismal Swamp's native snakes. Learn the facts of snakes as staff dispels the myths. Live specimens will be on hand to show just how incredible these creatures are.	6-16-12 (Sat), 2:00 PM	Meet at Auditorium
<u>On the Boardwalk</u> Walk with a ranger on the boardwalk.	6-17-12 (Sun), 10:00 AM	Meet at Boardwalk
<u>On the Boardwalk</u> Walk with a ranger on the boardwalk.	6-17-12 (Sun), 1:30 PM	Meet at Boardwalk
<u>Wetland Animals</u> Join us to learn a bit about the animals that live in wetlands. We will meet on the lawn of the visitor center at 2:00 p.m. Suitable for all ages so bring the family!	6-17-12 (Sun), 2:00 PM	Meet at State Park Visitor Center
<u>Bat Basics</u> It's the Year of the Bat in North Carolina State Parks. Whether you love them or maybe are a little afraid of them, this is your opportunity to learn the basics about bats.	6-23-12 (Sat), 2:00 PM	Meet at Auditorium
<u>All Wrapped Up</u> Vines, vines, and more vines! Ever wonder what's up with all the vines that grow in the park? Now's your chance to find out. We will begin with a short orientation indoors and then head outside to learn to ID some of the many species of climbing, clinging plants in the Dismal Swamp. Comfortable walking shoes and insect repellent are recommended.	6-24-12 (Sun), 2:00 PM	Meet at Classroom

SAVE THE DATES!

October

1st Annual Dismal Days - October 20, 2012. Planned activities include 5k Run, Music, Nature Based Vendors, & Local Foods. Prospective Vendors and civic groups serving local favorite foods needed. More information to follow. Tentative event time: 10am - 2pm. Event location: Dismal Swamp State Park.

November

Camden Women's Club - Holly Days Festival of Gifts: November 3-4, 2012. Hours: 10am-5pm Saturday, Noon-5pm Sunday. Contact hollydaysfestival@hotmail.com for more information. Event location: Camden County Intermediate School.

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

Senior Center

In April, the seniors have been active with the Annual Albemarle Senior Games. Seniors participated in the fun walk, softball /football throw, discus and shot put throw, corn hole, tennis, cycling, and many other games. This year is the first year that Camden facilities have been used in the senior games. Camden Recreation Park was used for cycling events. The seniors traveled to the Smithfield Outlets in Smithfield, NC for some shopping.



In May, the mothers of the senior center were treated to a limousine ride and lunch at Golden Corral. The senior center, the Cooperative Extension in Camden and Currituck collaborated in an event called Confused about Medicare Event. The event focused in on helping seniors understand Medicare Part A, B, and D (prescription plan). The seniors received lunch, Medicare bags with information, and won door prizes. The seniors did more traveling in May. They traveled to Williamsburg VA to do some shopping at the Williamsburg Outlets.

New programs have blossomed here at the senior center. ZUMBA is held here at the senior center on Wednesday nights and arts and crafts vary from month to month.

For more information about the activities and services the senior center provides, please contact Shana Trafton, Senior Center Director, at 252-335-2569. The monthly calendar and newsletter can be found on the county website www.camdencountync.gov.

CAMDEN COUNTY



Parks & Recreation

Don't Hibernate... Recreate!



Parks & Recreation

CAMDEN

PARKS AND RECREATION

2012 Summer Activities

American Red Cross Baby Sitting Certification Course

July 12 & 13 (Girls ages 12 & Up, Cost \$35) 9:00am-3:00pm daily

Participants will receive training and certification in Baby Sitting.

Registration Deadline: July 5th

Youth & Adult Sailing Camp

July 23-27 (Ages 12 & up, Cost \$75.00) 3:30pm-6:00pm daily

This is a week of fun on the water. The participants will learn to sail a Sunfish type boat, all basic sailing skills will be taught as well as basic seamanship skills.

All equipment will be provided.

Advanced Volleyball Camp

July 25-27 (Rising 8th - 12th Graders, Cost \$75.00) 8:00am-12:00pm daily

Be prepared for the upcoming school volleyball season!

Camp Director: Linda Bell, Former ECSU Volleyball Coach

Skateboarding Camp

July 30-Aug. 2 (Ages 10-15, Cost \$70) 9am-4pm daily

Skate parks include: Mt. Trashmore, Woodstock, PCM, Soundside,

Maple, Kitty Hawk, Fun Junktion and Gates Community Center

Skateboard, Helmet, Knee & Elbow Pads **REQUIRED!!!**

Registration Forms available at the Camden County Parks and Recreation office or online @ www.camdencountync.gov

Call 338-1919 ext.265 or 239 for more information

Camden County Schools Sports Camps

Camden Bruin Developmental Basketball League

Rising 7th&8th Graders

June 11,13,18,20,26,27 July 9&11 Afternoons/Evenings Exact Times TBA

Contact Mark Harnly 312-3020 - Cost \$40

17th Annual Bruin Basketball Camp

Rising 4th-9th Grade Boys & Girls, June 18th-21st, 9am-1pm Daily, Cost \$60

Registration June 18th 8am-9am@CCHS gym lobby

Bruin Football Camp

Rising 5th-8th Graders, June 25th-27th, 9am-1pm Daily, Cost \$50

Registration - June 25th 8am-9am @ CCHS

Lady Bruin Volleyball Camp

Rising 4th-9th Grade Girls, June 25th-27th, 9am-1pm Daily, Cost \$50

Registration - June 25th 8am-9am @ CCHS gym lobby

Contact Summer Buxton 338-0114 ext. 260

Camden County Cooperative Extension

About Us

Camden County Cooperative Extension is an extension of the Land Grant University system, which includes NC State University and NC A&T University. Extension has a presence in every county in North Carolina. Our mission is to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolinians. We do this in Camden County through our many programs in areas such as agriculture, youth services, health and nutrition, and 4-H just to name a few.

The programming we provide is based on the needs that have been identified locally. We partner with the county and community to build the best programs possible. We are also a vast resource for research-based information from the University system. Check out our website www.camden.ces.ncsu for more information on our programs and a schedule of upcoming events. You can also find our contact information there or call us at 331-7630.

Camden Youth Services



Camden Youth Services participants completed several community service projects this Spring. Two of which included delivering chew toys and pet food to the SPCA in Elizabeth City, and also hanging birdhouses at Treasure Point 4-H Camp and planting flowers.



Camden County 4-H Summer Programs

Hunter Education Certification Course



There will be a Hunter Education Certification Course held on June 18 & 19th at Grandy Primary School. For more information please call our office at 331-7630, or go to www.ncwildlife.org to register. This course is available at NO COST!

Culinary Academy

We will be holding a Culinary Academy July 30-August 3 at the Pasquotank Extension Office in Elizabeth City. The cost is \$40 per youth and is open to youth ages 10-14. We have a limited number of spaces available so please come and sign up now.

Northeast District Science Camp

Become a part of a Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) at our annual Northeast District Science Camp. This will take place August 8-10th at NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC. This is open to all rising 6th through 8th graders. The cost is \$90 per youth.

Great People in Camden

By: Randy Krainiak

One evening my son moved my wallet from my usual location to another that he thought it was better; he then forgot where it was. Now I went on my usual way, worked all day, and closed up the shop. Upon leaving to go home I realized that my wallet had fallen out of the window earlier that morning, and haven been at work all day hadn't noticed its absence.

The next morning around 6:30AM, a man calls to say that he had my wallet, and had found it in the road, and by the way, it still has your money in it. Amazed, I set up a location to meet and retrieve my wallet.

The man was a great guy. It is really nice to still meet honest people today. This man could have taken the money and thrown my wallet somewhere. But he didn't and it was tempting.

We spoke for a little while longer, but had to cut it short due to the both of us needing to go to work. However, in that short time, I found out he happened to be a man of Faith, which is also good to know! I'm sure we have great people everywhere, but this is definitely one of them. Thanks Kenneth W!