Message from the Camden County Board of Commissioners

We recognize the importance of keeping our citizens informed and engaged in our community. We hope this will prove to be a valuable resource for you and we welcome your comments on ways we can improve sharing information throughout the community. We invite you to attend our Board of Commissioners meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., on the second floor of the Historic Camden Courthouse. Citizens may speak on any subject during the “Public Comments” portion of the agenda. Handicap accessibility and elevators are available around the back of the Courthouse to the left of the Register of Deeds. Thank you to our Camden County businesses who helped make this edition of the “Citizen News” possible. We also thank our citizens for their support of those businesses. Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

Message from County Manager

This has been a very busy year since the last “Citizen News” was published. A number of items have been completed that had been in the queue for some time. The liner has been replaced in the South Mills lagoon at a cost of just over $1M. This was a significant investment; however, it should keep the waste water treatment facility operational for another 20 years.

The Unified Development Ordinance was completed and approved in February. This document is very comprehensive and covers the land use and building codes for Camden County.

The fire at Station 12 damaged the building and destroyed some of the equipment including an ambulance. In mid-July the fire department was able to move back into the station and is now able to respond to local calls again from the Sawyers Creek location.

The budget for this fiscal year was approved by the Board of Commissioners in June without a tax increase. Although there was no tax increase this year, there will be a solid waste fee included in the tax bill. The collections will help offset the rising cost of trash disposal and recycling. The County still pays over half of the cost from the general fund.

And finally we received 2 significant grants totally over $3M to make improvements to the Commerce Park, Waste Water Treatment Facility in South Mills and Broadband service within the County. These investments will go a long way in making Camden County the most desirable place to live in Northeast North Carolina.

It is a pleasure serving as your county manager. If you have any questions of me or the staff please contact us. We are committed to quality public service with a goal of improving the quality of life for every Camden County resident.
Camden County Economic Development Summary Updates

Primary Care Clinic & Healthcare Practice Opportunities:
Staff has been working with Chesapeake Regional Healthcare to open the first primary care clinic in Camden Towne Center with a target of September 2019 to be in operation.

County Broadband Initiative:
Eastern Shore Communications received a USDA grant in the amount of $1.8M earlier this year regarding the planned installation of their network in Camden County.
ESC is in the early stages of implementing its service plan and construction work which is expected to commence in late fall. The County and ESC are now finalizing a co-location agreement permitting the company to construct certain network facilities on the grounds of two County owned water towers.

N.C. Rural Ready Sites Program:
Whitehurst Sand Co. won the award to extend the roadway in the Commerce Park from Opportunity Drive to the rear of the park. Construction is underway with a completion date around mid-August.

Emery Advertising/County Economic & Tourism Collateral Material:
Staff continues to work with Emery Advertising creating a new logo and branding effort in addition to brochures for economic development and tourism.

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/

The Daily Advance – August 2019 3
A group of Camden County citizens has formally organized The Camden Festival Committee, Inc. The non-profit 501(c)4 organization was formed with a mission to cultivate, promote, encourage and develop public appreciation and support of the rich heritage of Camden County, NC, for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the citizens of Camden County, NC and surrounding communities.

In fulfillment of the mission statement, the Camden Festival Committee seeks to produce the first Annual Camden Heritage Festival, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2020. May 9th was selected because on that date in 1777, the General Assembly approved dividing Pasquotank and formed two counties, one on each side of the Pasquotank River. The new county was named Camden in honor of Charles Pratt, Earl of Camden, England.

The festival is the brainchild of Camden County Board of Commissioner, Randy Krainiak. Krainiak, a resident of Camden for 35 years, has envisioned for some time a festival displaying Camden’s heritage, especially farming equipment. Krainiak recruited Brenda Bowman, and that partnership has produced a committee consisting of Camden citizens, civic groups, business sponsors, churches and county staff support. The festival will be held at the Camden County Community Park behind Camden Intermediate School.

The festival, open to the public at no charge, will feature local exhibitions in arts, crafts and other exhibitions pertaining to the heritage of Camden County, as well as tractor games, classic cars, live entertainment, culinary enjoyment, children and adult activities, food trucks, photography contest, a 5K Run, a Swamp Monster costume contest, and “Miss Camden County” Pageant. The 5K Run will begin at 8:00 a.m., with the festival beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending with a live concert between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Krainiak and Bowman both emphasize that this is a huge undertaking and many volunteers and sponsors are needed to assist in the various activities.

Interested volunteers, groups, sponsorships, craft vendors, and food truck vendors, are asked to call the Camden County Hotline at 252-621-3940 for further information.
Employee Recognitions

The County Board of Commissioners have recognized the following employees for their recent awards and/or accomplishments:

**Brian Lannon**
Recipient of the Bobby Brock Soil Health Award from the state Soil & Water Conservation Society.

**Charles Sawyer & Thomas Sawyer**
Received Grade 1 Biological Operator Certifications on March 14, 2019. Charles has been the Distribution/Collection System Operator since April 2015 and has been with the County since October 2011. Thomas is the Water Treatment Operator in Charge since July 2006 and has been with the County since August 2003.

**Amber Davis**
The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual "Women of Excellence" Luncheon at the Carolina Center on June 19, 2019. Twenty area women were nominated and the Chamber honored five women with "Women of Excellence" awards. Congratulations to Camden winner, Amber Davis, Principal of Camden County Early College and Camden County High School.

**Karen Davis**

Received designation as a North Carolina Certified County Clerk at the 2019 North Carolina Association of County Clerks Annual Conference.

**Camden honors 6 for lifesaving, drug seizure**
Five officers from the Camden County Sheriff’s Office and a trooper with the N.C. Highway Patrol were honored for their roles in saving lives and getting illegal drugs out of Camden’s communities. During a recent meeting of the Camden Board of Commissioners, the Lifesaving Award was presented to Deputy Margaret Durham, Deputy Austin Browder and Deputy Scott Wentz; letters of commendation were presented to Trooper Aaron Miller and Deputy Garrett Winslow; and the Law Enforcement Commendation Award was presented to Sgt. Scott Powers.

**Delores Stone**
Delores has been with Camden County for 18 years when she retired as a Travel Consultant (part-time) at the Visitor Center. She retired in March 2019.

**Sarah Lane**
Sarah has been with Camden County for 20 years as of December 2018; the last 14 years as a Social Worker I/A&T. She previously worked for Pasquotank County for 15 years. She retired on March 31, 2019 from Social Services.

Story provided by Reggie Ponder, The Daily Advance
County citizens participate in the County-Wide Spring Litter Cleanup

The 2019 Spring Litter Cleanup held in April started off with weather problems and the first couple days of cleanup were cancelled. Some groups were unable to reschedule but through the two week period, approximately 240 Camden citizens showed up and proudly participated through 18 Volunteer Groups and filled over 155 large trash bags and cleaned 44 miles.

Roads cleaned included Sawyers Creek, Scotland Rd., Old Swamp Rd., Country Meadows, Muddy Rd., Seymour Dr., Keeter Barn, Belcross Rd., Whitehall Shores,

The following individuals and representatives from the various groups received Certificates of Appreciation from the Board of Commissioners on June 3, 2019.

Albemarle Sentara Medical Center – Annya Soucy
Boy Scout Troop 158 – Jon & Christy Cooper
Camden County Library Staff – Kim Perry
Camden County Staff – Tamrie Krauss
Camden Intermediate School Jr. Beta Club – Kellie Berry
Camden Middle School Jr. Beta Club – Starr Binner
Camden Middle School Softball Team – Allison Heckler
Camden Middle School FFA - Future Farmers of American – Amanda Forbes
Craig McCrodden - United States Coast Guard
Camden County Girl Scouts Troop 057 – Kimberly Westbrooke
Camden County Cub Scout Pack 771 – Kimberly Westbrooke
Camden County Boy Scout Troop 162 – Kimberly Westbrooke
Grandy Primary School – Michelle Peede, Glenna Markham
Holster Team – Melinda Holster, Sadie Herzfeldt, Mitchell Hunsberger
McBride United Methodist Church – Pastor Bill Blake/ Dan Young
South Mills Fire Dept. – Tommy Banks
Camden County Woman's Club – Cathie Williams
Camden County District Jail – Captain Chris Poyner

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The Daily Advance – August 2019
Camden County-Wide Spring Litter Cleanup
Hello, Camden County community. It is hard to believe that the 2018 - 2019 school year has ended and we are already gearing up for the start of the 2019 - 2020 school year. Thank you for your support this past school year. We believe that it was a successful one for our students. While we don’t have official assessment results yet, we believe that our students grew academically and are prepared for the next step in their educational journey.

We are pleased to share with you that we graduated 31 students from Camden Early College High School in May and 113 students from Camden County High School in June. Many of those students are headed to college or the military and some have already entered the workforce. We feel confident that each student left us prepared for their next step and we are very proud of them.

As we approach the new school year, I encourage you to be involved in your child’s education. Take the time to get to know their teachers and school administrators. Take the time to know what they are learning at school and never hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of assistance where your child’s education is concerned.

In addition, we are taking steps to continue to improve our safety measures and preparedness for potential emergency situations. It is unfortunate that we have to do this, but it is a reality for us at this time in our nation. Please know that we will do everything possible to keep our students safe when they are in our care.

I hope that you are having a great summer and I look forward to continuing to serve the students and families of Camden County as we kick off what is sure to be another successful school year.

Joe Ferrell, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Greetings to our fellow Camden County families and friends! It has been a short but very busy eight months since I entered the office as Camden’s Sheriff. The office of Sheriff is very demanding, challenging, but most of all, very rewarding as I have the honor to continue to serve our community in the capacity as their Sheriff. We are constantly striving to enhance the efficiency, professionalism, and transparency of this office. I hope everyone has noticed the new graphics of the patrol vehicles we utilize. It is a more modern and sleek look that still regains the reflective appearance at night for safety, and the best thing is, the new design is $400.00 cheaper than the old! We are also in the process of changing the uniform and how it is worn on a daily basis by the deputies. All deputies that are assigned to road patrol, when change is made, will wear a class A uniform. Our own staff have designed a new shoulder patch for the uniform that will complete our new look. The Sheriff’s office investigative unit did a great job back in January by not only solving, but arresting three individuals that committed several break ins, not only in our county, but in neighboring counties as well.

I would like to thank the County Commissioners for our 2019-2020 budget, we did not get everything we asked for, but what we did will help our office tremendously. Included in this year’s budget are monies for a canine addition. The canine or K9 program will be a tremendous asset in our toolbox to deter illicit drug crimes in our county. The K9 can also be utilized in searching for missing people. I would like to thank Deputy Austin Browder for his hard work in putting the K9 presentation together for the county commissioners as well as helping develop our K9 program.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Sheriff Doug Doughtie of Dare County for the donation of the K9 insert for our patrol vehicle. While I am on the subject of illicit drug use, we have a growing problem in our county with the abuse of opiates, including prescribed medication and the illegal drug heroin. The deputies, along with the help of the K9, can help deter these drugs from entering Camden County, but we can’t arrest our way out of this epidemic. Unfortunately, we are averaging about three calls for overdoses per week in Camden County. Our deputies have saved several people from an untimely death by administering Narcan to these individuals. As I stated in my campaign for this office, I have an “open door” for individuals that have an addiction problem with no fear of arrest or ridicule. Our goal here at the Camden Sheriff’s office is to provide individuals with addiction issues the best resources available to put them on the road to recovery, which is what I truly believe an addict wants. Please, if you have an addiction problem and are reading this article, stop in and let’s talk, I believe we can help you.

Your deputies in Camden not only respond to vehicle related incidents or property and domestic crimes, they often arrive on scene first at medical emergencies. In doing so, our deputies have, on several occasions, deployed the automated external defibrillator or AED, which has aided in the saving of lives! Also a big thank you to Firehouse Subs of Elizabeth City for donating the AED’s to this office!

In early May we had our first of many public forums in each voting precinct. These forums give us the platform to inform you, the taxpayer, on what we are doing for you as a law enforcement agency in terms of how we are spending your money, and investigating crimes or incidents in your neighborhood. It also gives you the opportunity to ask questions regarding law and to give your advice on how to serve you better. The next forums are scheduled for November, times and dates will be forth coming.

I always have my door open to the public, so please stop by anytime even if just to say hi, however, if you need to discuss something of importance with me, please call ahead to make sure I am actually in the office, I don’t want you to waste a trip up here. I still go out and patrol and answer calls!! May God bless everyone...Kevin

Kevin Jones
Sheriff
Camden County Courthouse Complex
117 North NC 343, Camden, NC 27921
Mailing address: P.O. Box 57, Camden, NC 27921
Phone: 252-338-5046
Fax: 252-335-4300
Email: kjonesscamdencountync.gov
Web Site: www.camdensheriff.com
Facebook: Camden County NC Sheriff’s Office

EAST CAROLINA MONOGRAMS
133 US Hwy 158 West
Camden, NC 27921
(252) 333-1630
ecmonograms@gmail.com
The former Senior Citizens Center is now the Center for Active Adults and has been reorganized under the Parks & Recreation Department. Our mission is to serve the senior citizens of Camden County. To strive to educate, inform and draw awareness to issues that challenge our senior citizens on a daily basis. Our goal is to create a friendly atmosphere to ensure a comfortable environment, in which our seniors can thrive. We aim to enhance socialization, condemn isolation, and promote activities and enjoyment. We strive to help our senior’s lead productive lifestyles and introduce them to new aspects of life. We promote a “Celebration of Life” ensuring that seniors recognize that age does not define them. Our mission is ultimately to ensure that our senior citizens are protected, maintain a healthy diet and lead productive lives.

We invite all of Camden County residents age 55 years and older. The Center offers educational programs, nutritious meals Monday through Friday, and recreational activities. We can arrange transportation to and from the center through the Inter-County Public Transportation (ICPTA).

Newly Added Monthly Activities

“Coffee With” - A round table discussion featuring different people and different subjects monthly to help educate and inform Senior Citizens on topics that are happening in their community.

The Friday Cookout - A monthly backyard cookout style lunch.

Puzzle Table - We will have a designated table for an ongoing jigsaw puzzle set up in the center starting April 1st. Everyone is invited to help.

Upcoming activities include day trips to the Spirit of Norfolk and the Outer Banks. To review “The Golden Times” newsletter from the center, visit: https://www.camdencountync.gov/departments/senior-center/happenings-newsletter

New Exercise Room Hours - The exercise room is now open Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Harmony Cafe of the Albemarle - Did you know that Camden County was working towards becoming a “Dementia Friendly” county? Harmony Cafe is a memory cafe for care receivers and caregivers to gather for activities in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment.

When: Meets 2nd Saturday each month from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Where: McBride United Methodist Church, 228 Old Swamp Road, South Mills, NC 27976
For more information contact: Joanne Inman (President) at 757-650-3818 or email:beaglemommy1964@gmail.com

Come CELEBRATE Your Life at the Camden County Center for Active Adults!!
Schedule an appointment today with Albemarle Audiology at our Camden or Harbinger, NC location!
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NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS
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Wildlife Management Information

Three species of bears inhabit North America. From largest to smallest, they are the polar bear, brown bear (also known as grizzly) and black bear. Of the three, the black bear is by far the most wide-ranging. In fact, these resourceful bears inhabit forests of at least 40 of the 50 states, including all states in the Southeastern U.S.

Watching a bear can be a wonderful experience. As more people live close to their woodland homes, the chances of seeing black bears are rising. The key is to stay at a safe distance and never let bears get into birdseed, garbage or other human food that can lead them into trouble.

The bear essentials: Bears must find food to eat, water to drink, safe places to sleep including winter dens, and survive fierce storms or heat. The females are kept busy raising their cubs in addition to finding food for themselves. Our job is to give bears plenty of space to live and to find their own healthy, natural foods. Their safety and ours depend on how we behave in bear country.

North Carolina and Virginia have the largest reported number of bears between 17,000-20,000.

Source: BearWise - https://bearwise.org/

We should become knowledgeable about how to peacefully coexist with these amazing animals. Educate yourself by visiting these sites:

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission:
https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Black-Bear#2498425-have-a-problem-brbr

Bear Resistant Trash Cans:
https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Learning/documents/Profiles/Mammals/Bear-Resistant-Trash-Cans.pdf

BearWise: https://bearwise.org/
2019 Upcoming Camden County Events

August

August 26-September 26: Girls Volleyball Registration
Ages 7-15 – Camden County Center for Active Adults

September

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

October

October 14 (Begins): Youth Basketball Registration
Ages 4-16 - Camden County Center for Active Adults

October 19: Grandy Primary Fall Festival (Camden Parks & Recreation Pumpkin Carving & Decorating Contest)
10:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. - Grandy Primary School

October 26: 7th Annual Dismal Day
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Great Dismal Park State Park

October 31: Trunk or Treat
5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Camden County Center for Active Adults Parking Lot

November

November 2 (Saturday): Holly Days presented by the Camden Women's Club
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Grandy Primary School/Camden Intermediate School Gymnasium

November 8: Veteran’s Day Program
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Camden County Courthouse

December

December 2: Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
5:30 p.m.
Camden County Historic Courthouse Lawn

Election Schedule

There will be a General Election on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, to fill the vacancy of the US Congressional District 3 seat previously held by Walter B. Jones, Jr.

- Absentee by mail begins: Friday, July 26th
- One Stop Early Voting begins: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 – Board of Election Office
- Last Day to Request an Absentee by Mail ballot: Tuesday, September 3, 2019
- One Stop Early Voting ends: Friday, September 6, 2019
- General Election Day: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 – Vote at your regular election precinct

The following names will be on the September 10 ballot:

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<th>Party</th>
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<td>(D)</td>
<td>Allen Thomas</td>
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<td>(R)</td>
<td>Greg Murphy</td>
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<td>(LIB)</td>
<td>Tim Harris</td>
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<td>CONST</td>
<td>Greg Holt</td>
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Parks and Recreation Director

Timothy C. White
PO Box 190
117 North NC 343
Camden, NC 27921
(252) 338-1919 ext. 239
www.camdencounty.nc.gov