



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....



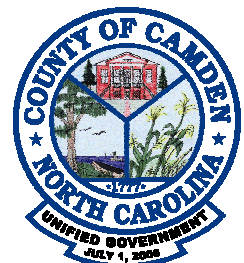
I was hired as Camden County Manager back in December 2011. Prior to coming to Camden, I was the city manager for the City of Grantville, Georgia which is about an hour and a half drive south of Atlanta. I also worked for the City of Atlanta as their director of code enforcement and compliance. I am 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's Planning Department is accepting applications for Housing Rehabilitation Assistance & Water Hook-Up programs (Application Deadline: 3-15-12) (see article on page 3)
- 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 4)
- 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 13-14)
- 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 5-9).

Camden County Planning Department

Camden Planning Projects Move Ahead

The Camden County Comprehensive Planning Process is nearing the half way mark, with anticipated completion by the end of June. The Steering Committee, consultants, and staff have been developing a "Land Suitability Map" and updating the "Existing Land Use Map". The next step is to develop two (2) growth scenarios – "Status Quo" which assumes development will occur in similar patterns (although not as fast) as past development; and "Targeted Development" which explores the impacts of growth in limited areas of the county. By the time this newsletter is distributed the Steering Committee will have met to review the assumptions for each scenario, and resulting maps, and some of the transportation and other infrastructure impacts. Keep a look out for upcoming public workshops that we will be holding in the April/May timeframe.

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan is also on track. The NC DOT staff has projected traffic volumes for future years, and is exploring very long range (30 year) alternatives for developing a US 158 Strategic Highway Corridor as required for the State's Long Range Transportation Plan.

For more information on these two exciting and important planning efforts, visit the County's home page at www.camdencountync.gov and click on the link to "Comprehensive Plan". Respective documents can also be found on the Planning Department page. Remember to visit this site regularly as it is continually updated with the most recent reports, maps, and public input opportunities.

Another planning project was recently completed. A group of senior and graduate students from the East Carolina University planning program completed a "Small Area Plan for South Mills Core Village". The report is based on planning research, two (2) field visits to South Mills, and community input from the residents of the village.

While the plan is very conceptual as to use of specific parcels, many of the ideas are excellent and will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. This report is also available on the county's web page under a link "South Mills Small Area Plan", as well as on the Planning Department page, and the Economic Development page.

Stormwater Advisory Committee

The first Camden County Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting was held on January 26, 2012. The meeting was held in the historic courthouse with all 8 members present as well as 3 of the Soil and Water Board Members, 3 County Commissioners, the County Manager, 3 Planning Department staff and 4 Camden citizens. There were a broad range of concerns that were established during the introductory and opening exercise. Problems such as beavers, lack of easements on drainage ditches and even some praise for good drainage maintenance in the Hale's Lake region of Camden. A second meeting was held on February 9, 2012 at Sawyers Creek Fire Station, where more problem areas were established and the committee recommended that we have an engineer come speak about rainfall calculations and the on-site storage of stormwater, as related to subdivision and commercial development. The third stormwater meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on February 23, 2012 at the Camden County Senior Center. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to volunteer for the committee please call Camden Soil and Water at 252-338-1919 ext 262.

Housing Rehabilitation Assistance

Camden County anticipates receiving CDBG Scattered Site (CDBG SS-11) funding from the State Division of Community Assistance and Investment; and Single Family Rehabilitation (NCHFA SFR 12) funding from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to assist low income homeowners make repairs to their houses.

A third program offered through the CDBG program can provide assistance to hook-up households to public water systems.

The CDBG SS-11 assistance can be used to rehabilitate or replace seriously deteriorated structures, and is available for owner occupied households where total household income is 50% or less of the County's median household income (MHI), \$74,200. The deadline for receiving applications is March 15, 2012.

The NCHFA SFR-12 assistance can be used to rehabilitate moderately deteriorated structures (does not include manufactured homes), and is available for owner occupied households where 1) the total household income is 80% or less of the MHI (\$74, 200); and 2) includes either an elderly member (62 or older); a disabled member; or a child under age 6 living in the presence of lead based paint.

The Water Hook-up Program will pay for the water connection fee and the outside plumbing to the house, and is available for owner occupied households where total household income is 80% or less of the MHI (\$74, 200). Tenant households can qualify for assistance if the landlord also meets the low income criteria. The deadline for reviewing applications is March 30, 2012

Since each of these programs is competitive based on household and structural needs, the County cannot guarantee that every applicant will be eligible or receive assistance until all applications have been reviewed and ranked.

Persons interested in applying for any of these programs should contact the Planning Department as soon as possible to obtain more information about the programs and to submit applications. Phone (252) 338-1919 ext. 263; Email dporter@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 now offers a more convenient way for customers to pay their water bill using the ACH program. In recent months, bill pay services through our customers bank, presented issues getting their payments in on time, due to use of a third party service. We now offer Automatic Withdrawal services, at no cost to our customers. Authorization forms are in the tax/water office, or if you'd like the form through email, please send your request to:

dlowry@camdencountync.gov.

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.

Finance

The Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Camden County audit is on the County Website, and can be found under the Finance Department.

The Camden County Department Heads, County Manager and Finance Officer are currently preparing the FY2012-2013 Budget for the Commissioners consideration in June.

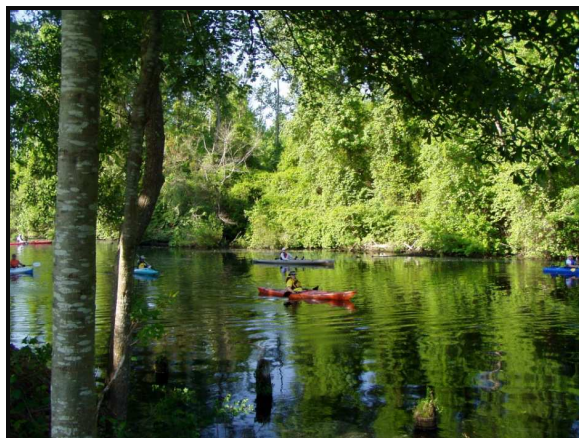
Dismal Swamp Welcome Center

Warmer weather and changes of the landscape, from drab to cheery, encourage each of us to venture out and increase our outdoor activities. The Dismal Swamp Welcome Center can assist you with any plans to visit areas in our state. With over 500 different 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>

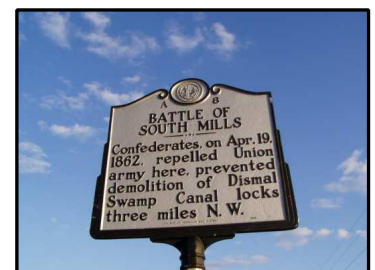
Many of Camden's residents are not aware of the trails to be enjoyed during the spring season here at the Dismal Swamp Area. To the immediate right, upon entering the Welcome and Rest Area, the Dismal Swamp Nature Trail provides an intimate brush with nature for a quarter mile trek through a wooded area adjacent to the historic Dismal Swamp Canal.

The Dismal Swamp Trail, a paved three mile trail between US Hwy 17 and the Dismal Swamp Canal, provides a great place to bike, hike or jog. With parking at both ends, near the Recycle Center on Hwy 343 or at the Dismal Swamp State Park, there is easy accessibility. The State Park (771-6593) also has 17 miles of old logging trails to explore and a half-mile boardwalk. The staff at the Welcome Center (771-8333) will be glad to loan adult bikes (4) for a ride on the paved trail and the State Park offers canoe, kayak and mountain bike rentals.



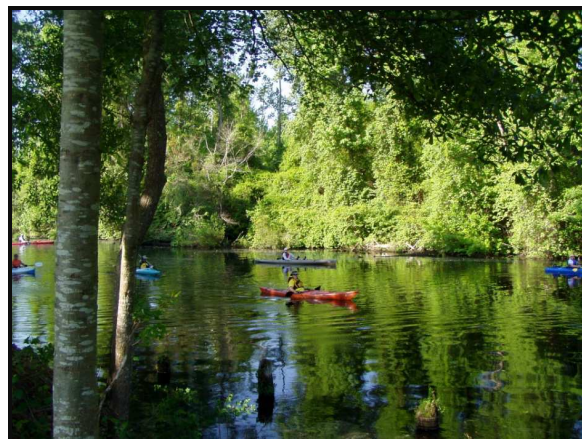
Canoe and Kayak Rentals available at the DS State Park

A special presentation to recognize the ***Battle of South Mills*** is planned for Sunday, April 15. The Dismal Swamp Canal opened to waterway traffic in 1805 and was considered a valuable asset during the Civil War. The Union forces attempted to capture control of the Canal and blow up the locks. The Confederate forces fought hard and sustained many injuries before retreating to fortifications 2 miles north at Joys Creek; the Union forces did not pursue and withdrew leaving the canal intact. Both sides claimed victory: the north because they captured the field, and the south because they prevented the destruction of the Dismal Swamp Canal locks 3 miles northwest. Local historian Alex Leary will help to share the historical significance in a planned shared event with Museum of the Albemarle.



Dismal Swamp Welcome Center (continued)

The Dismal Swamp State Park has many events and programs planned in the upcoming months. (See next page.) Highlighted are a special bike event back to one of the burned areas in the Park "Bike to the Bull North Burn" event on Sat., April 14; and an Earth Day celebration is planned from 2 - 4:30pm on Sun., April 22nd, including crafts, scavenger hunt, photography tips and more.



Come join us for the 9th Annual Paddle for the Border on Saturday, May 5, 2012.

Paddle the 7.5 mile trip from South Mills, NC to Chesapeake, VA. The event is restricted to the first 325 boats and all boats must be pre-registered. Registration is \$40 per person. This fee entitles each paddler to enjoy breakfast, lunch, a Paddle for the Border T-shirt, shuttle service and assistance with launching and exiting the waterway. It also entitles them to a fun-filled adventure on the historical Dismal Swamp Canal! Hats will be available for purchase by pre-ordering. (Info on registration form).

Registration is required and the EVENT FILLS QUICKLY!

Registration will close when 325 boats are registered.

(Last year this was in about one month's time ~ so do not delay!)

NEW THIS YEAR: Registration \$40 Hats \$15

Information and registration options: To register online, <http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/paddle>. A convenience-fee is charged for using the credit card online. This is not a Chesapeake Parks & Recreation fee.

If you have any questions or need additional information call the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center at 252-771-8333

Dismal Swamp Welcome Center (continued)

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

MARCH

<i>What Description</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>
<u><i>The Rainstick</i></u> Come hear the story behind the rainstick and build your own! The rainstick is a traditional instrument associated with the onset of rain. All supplies will be provided.	<i>3-3-12 (Sat), 2:00 PM</i>	<i>Park Classroom</i>
<u><i>Wetland Animals</i></u> Join us to learn a bit about the animals that live in wetlands. Suitable for all ages so bring the family!	<i>3-4-12 (Sun), 2:00 PM</i>	<i>Visitor Center Auditorium</i>
<u><i>Animal Tracks & Signs</i></u> Learn how to identify animals by the tracks and signs they leave behind. We will be indoors and outside so be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. Suitable for all ages.	<i>3-10-12 (Sat), 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Park Classroom</i>
<u><i>Getting Ready for Hummers</i></u> It's time to get those hummingbird feeders out! Learn a little bit more about ruby-throated hummingbirds and what you can do to encourage them to visit your yard.	<i>3-11-12 (Sun), 2:00 PM</i>	<i>Visitor Center Auditorium</i>
<u><i>Bird Hike</i></u> Spring migration is just beginning in our area, so let's get a good last look at our winter birds. If we're lucky, we may even spot some early summer birds, too! Walk will last approximately 1.5 hours. Registration is required. Call the park office to register.	<i>3-17-12 (Sat), 7:30 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Horseshoe Road Gate Access</i>
<u><i>South Martha Washington Ditch Hike</i></u> Pack your lunch and join us for a combination wagon ride and hike. We will load up the wagon and take a 2 mile ride down Canal Rd. From there we will hike out to the Keyhole Ditch, eat our lunch and then hike back to the wagon - about 2 miles round-trip. Then it's back in the wagon for the return trip to the visitor center. We should be back by 1:30 p.m. Call the park office to reserve your spot.	<i>3-17-12, 10:30 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Visitor Center</i>
<u><i>On the Boardwalk</i></u> March is a great month to get outdoors! Join a ranger on the boardwalk for a short walk and learn a little something about the natural history of the Dismal Swamp.	<i>3-18-12 (Sun), 10:00 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Boardwalk</i>
<u><i>On the Boardwalk</i></u> March is a great month to get outdoors! Join a ranger on the boardwalk for a short walk and learn a little something about the natural history of the Dismal Swamp.	<i>3-18-12 (Sun), 1:30 PM</i>	<i>Meet at Boardwalk</i>
<u><i>Kayaking the Canal</i></u> Join a ranger for a leisurely paddle along the historic Dismal Swamp Canal. The paddle begins at 10:00 a.m. and will last approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Kayaks, PFDs 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. Please call the park office to reserve your spot.	<i>3-31-12 (Sat), 10:00 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Bridge</i>

Dismal Swamp Welcome Center (continued)

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

APRIL

<i>What Description</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>
<u><i>Wagon Ride</i></u> Take a ride down Canal Rd. in the Dismal Swamp Express. The ride is free, but please call the park office to reserve your spot. Limited to 15 participants. Don't forget to bring along some water!	<i>4-1-12 (Sun), 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Visitor Center</i>
<u><i>Wagon Ride</i></u> Take a ride down Canal Rd. in the Dismal Swamp Express. The ride is free, but please call the park office to reserve your spot. Limited to 15 participants. Don't forget to bring along some water!	<i>4-1-12 (Sun), 2:00 PM</i>	<i>Meet at Visitor Center</i>
<u><i>Bird Hike</i></u> Spring migration is underway and our summer birds are moving in. We'll be on the lookout for various warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Hike will last approximately 2 hours. Please call park office to register for this hike.	<i>4-7-12 (Sat), 7:00 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Bridge</i>
<u><i>Bird Hike</i></u> Spring migration is underway and our summer birds are moving in. We'll be on the lookout for various warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. Hike will last approximately 2 hours. Please call park office to register for this hike.	<i>4-8-12 (Sun), 7:00 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Bridge</i>
<u><i>Bike to the Bull North Burn</i></u> This program will be an 8 mile round trip bike ride to the location of where the Bull North Fire took place in 2011. At the site there will be a 20 minute program on the fire and a box lunch to follow. A maximum of 10 participates is allowed. Registration is required. Participants should be in good physical shape, bring water and snacks, bug spray and wear appropriate clothing. Mountain bikes are available for rent or you may bring your own. Helmets must be worn during the program. Please reserve ahead of time to make sure a rental is available. The program will last approximately 4 hours.	<i>4-14-12 (Sat), 9:00 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Horseshoe Rd Entrance</i>
<u><i>Lend a Hand</i></u> Calling all eager volunteers! We are having workday at the park in observance of Earth Day. If you are willing to put in a couple of hours of work clearing up old metal debris or working on a trail, please give our park office a call. Pre-registration is required.	<i>4-21-12 (Sat), 9:00 AM</i>	<i>Meet at Visitor Center</i>
<u><i>Earth Day Celebration</i></u> Come celebrate Earth Day with us from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will have a variety of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Perhaps you would like to try your hand at making paper or creating treasures from trash at one of our craft booths. You can visit the Dismal Swamp Fishin' Hole, go on a scavenger hunt, get tips on nature photography and more!	<i>4-22-12 (Sun), 2:00 PM</i>	<i>Meet at Visitor Center</i>

Dismal Swamp Welcome Center (continued)

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

APRIL

<i>What Description</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>
<u>Butterflies</u> Join us in the park auditorium at 1:00 to learn a little bit about the butterflies that live in our area. A short hike will follow the program, so be sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring bug spray.	4-28-12 (Sat), 1:00 PM	Meet at Auditorium
<u>On the Boardwalk</u> Take a walk with a ranger along the park's swamp boardwalk.	4-29-12 (Sun), 10:00 AM	Meet at Boardwalk
<u>On the Boardwalk</u> Take a walk with a ranger along the park's swamp boardwalk.	4-29-12 (Sun), 1:30 PM	Meet at Boardwalk

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

Celebrating Life

Celebrating Life is what the seniors at the Camden Senior center do every day. The Camden Senior center provides a friendly atmosphere that promotes healthy relationships and combats isolation. Five days of the week the center serves nutritious state approved meals, provides health seminars, health screenings, spiritual enrichment, arts and crafts, celebrates activities, travel to various places, and have access to an exercise room with an array of equipment. The senior center also serves meals to the home bound senior through the "Meals on Wheels" program. The senior center is now offering Zumba GOLD that is caters to seniors and beginners to Zumba.

The senior center is a resource medium for citizens. The center helps to connect seniors and their families with other agencies that can appeal to their specific needs. Seniors can find help with Medicare and prescription plans (Part D) here at the senior center as well.

If any anyone is interested in joining us please contact Shana Trafton, director by phone:

(252) 335-2569 or (252) 338-1919 ext. 248;

or by email at:

trafton@camdencountync.gov.





Parks & Recreation

Youth Programs

Youth Wrestling

Registration for our youth wrestling program will continue through March 13. This program is designed for students in 1st through 6th grades. Participants will learn the fundamentals of the sport including take downs, reversals, pinning combinations, and counters. This program runs on *Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Grandy Primary/Camden Intermediate School gymnasium.*

Camden Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball Registration

The Camden Babe Ruth Association is currently holding registration for Baseball and Softball for children ages 4-16. To register your child or for more information contact Keith Ward at 338-5360, Camden Parks and Recreation at 338-1919 or visit www.camdenbaberuth.com.

Girls Volleyball Camp

The Camden Volleyball Club and Camden Parks and Recreation will begin a Volleyball Camp on *Monday (girls ages 12-15) and Wednesday (girls ages 9-11) nights from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Grandy Primary/Camden Intermediate School gymnasium* beginning Monday March 12 and running through Wednesday May 24. To register or for more information call 338-1919 ext. 239 or visit www.camdencountync.gov.

Events

2012 Camden Walk Now for Autism Speaks

A walk for Autism will be held on *Saturday, May 12 at the Camden Community Park*. Registration begins at *9:00am and the walk starts at 10:00am*. Walkers, volunteers and donations are needed. For more information call 335-0831 ext. 233 or visit www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/carolinas.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Camden County Recreation Department will hold an Easter Egg Hunt at the *Camden Community Park on Saturday April 7 from 10:00am to 1:00pm*. The hunt is for Camden County kids ages 10 and under. The event will be divided into three age groups with a grand prize being given away for the child that finds the Golden Ticket inside an egg in each age division. The Easter Bunny will be at the park for pictures with the kids there will also be bounce houses, a DJ and free hot dogs.

2012: Election Year in Camden County

2012 is a big election year in Camden County; because Camden County is a Unified Government we do not have Municipal Elections which means we only have elections every two years. In 2012 there is a Primary Election on May 8, a Second Primary Election (if needed) on June 26 and the General Election on November 6. A Primary is held to nominate a candidate to represent a political party in the General Election. Primary Elections are held in even-numbered years prior to the General Election. In 2012 Camden County's Primary ballot will have local, state and federal offices as well as a statewide referendum for a proposed change to the NC Constitution. Local offices for the ballot are: Register of Deeds, County Commissioner At-Large seat, County Commissioner Courthouse seat and County Commissioner South Mills seat. At the end of the candidate filing period only the incumbents had filed for these offices which means these local races will not appear on the May Primary ballot. State level offices are: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Labor, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Treasurer, NC State Senate District 1, NC House of Representatives District 1, three Court of Appeals Judges and two District 1 District Court Judges. The Federal offices are: US President and US House of Representatives District 3.

When you register to vote you declare your party affiliation, party affiliation determines the Primary in which you are eligible to vote. You may also register as unaffiliated (not affiliated with any recognized party). An Unaffiliated voter is currently allowed to vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary. The individual party has the authority to permit Unaffiliated voters to vote in its primary. For the Primary Election the Unaffiliated voter must state the political party in whose primary he/she wishes to vote.

A General Election is a partisan election in which candidates are elected. All registered voters are eligible to vote in general elections. The General Election ballot will have the same local, state and federal offices as the Primary Election with the addition of two Board of Education Members and one District Soil and Water Supervisor. The candidates for these two offices run as non-partisan candidates.

The deadline for voter registration is twenty-five days before an election. You may register to vote in Camden County if you are: a citizen of the United States, 18 years old or older by the general election and a legal resident of Camden County for 30 days by the date of the next election. You must update your registration if you have moved to another address within Camden County since you registered to vote or have changed your name, or if you wish to change your party affiliation. Voter registration and updates can be made in person at the Camden County Board of Elections office located at 117 N NC 343 Camden, NC or by mail at Post Office Box 206 Camden, NC 27921.

A North Carolina resident who is qualified to vote but who misses the 25-day deadline for voter registration may register and vote during the One-Stop Absentee Voting period. One-Stop voting for the May Primary will be on from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM Monday through Friday from April 19 through May 4 and Saturday, May 5 from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. This process is sometime referred to as "Same-Day Registration," but it is important to recognize that it is not permitted on Election Day itself.

To use this process, a citizen must (1) go to a One-Stop Voting site in the county of residence during the One-Stop Absentee Voting period, (2) fill out a voter registration application, and (3) provide proof of residency by showing the elections official an appropriate form of identification with the citizen's current name and address. The new registrant may vote ONLY at a One-Stop Absentee Voting site in the county of registration during One-Stop Absentee Voting and not on Election Day.

For more information about voter registration and elections in Camden County contact the Camden Board of Elections by telephone at 252-338-5530, e-mail at camdencounty.boe@gmail.com, mail at Post Office Box 206 Camden, NC 27921, or in person Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at 117 N NC 343, Camden, NC.

Cooperative Extension / Camden 4-H



Back Row (Left to Right): Abigail Burgess, Shelby Manning, Bianca Berry, Wesley Riggs, Kaileen Krainiak, and Hilary Ambrose. Front Row (Left to Right): Gabby Berry, Sydney Smith, and Jamie Gillespie. Not pictured: Volunteer Coaches: Stacey Riggs, Shay Wise and Kennie Williams.

Northeast District 4-H Horse Bowl

On Saturday, February 18th, 9 youth from the Camden County Silver Spurs 4-H Club traveled to the Eastern Livestock Arena in Edgecombe County and participated in the annual Northeast District 4-H Horse Bowl along with 3 other counties making up 7 additional teams (9 teams total - junior, senior, mixed teams). The 9 youth from Camden County made two mixed division teams and competed for the opportunity to move to the state level contest to be held in Greensboro on March 3rd. Camden Team A made up of Abigail Burgess (captain), Wesley Riggs, Bianca Berry, Gabby Berry, & Sydney Smith placed 3rd in the district in the Mixed Team Division. Camden Team B made up of Hilary Ambrose (captain), Kaileen Krainiak, Jamie Gillespie, & Shelby Manning placed 4th in the district in the Mixed Team Division. Abigail Burgess also placed 1st in the Mixed Team Division as the High Scoring Individual. The Horse Bowl Contest is designed to offer an opportunity for youth interested in horses to display the knowledge they have gained in a competitive and friendly atmosphere. Additionally, it is designed to encourage youth and leaders to study and obtain a more thorough and complete knowledge of horses and related subject matter. Youth will gain confidence in their horse knowledge and be rewarded and recognized for their achievements. For more information about other 4-H Youth Horse Programs or 4-H in general, contact Danelle Barco, Extension Agent, 4-H/FCS at 252-331-7630 or by email at danelle_barco@ncsu.edu.



JCPC

Camden Teen Court High School Competition Team Competed on February 4, 2012 in Greenville, NC at the NCAJ: High School Mock Trial Program. These youth were able to attend this event by fundraising and the support of Camden County and JCPC Grant Funds.

Other Cooperative Extension News:

- Save the date for the 9th Annual On the Dock of the Bay event at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, NC. May 5, 2012. For more information please contact Danelle Barco at 331-7630.
- The Power of Record Keeping! Youth and adults will learn the importance of keeping records and documenting events and activities in a specific subject matter through the NC 4-H Project Record Books & Cumulative Record Books. Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 p.m. at Camden County Senior Center. Dinner will be served.
- The Power to Make a Good First Impression! Youth and adults will learn the skills to complete an application; create a professional resume; and gain skills to impress in an interview. Tuesday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Camden County Senior Center. Dinner will be served.
- The Power of Communication! One of the biggest fears among all people is the fear of public speaking. Whether it is speaking in front of 1 or 2 people or speaking in front of large crowds, public speaking terrifies many. Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Camden Count Senior Center. Dinner will be served.
- 2012 Northeastern NC Craft Workshop. Tuesday, May 8th & Wednesday, May 9th 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Vernon James Center in Plymouth, NC. For more information please call Danelle Barco at 331-7630. Registration is required and must be completed and received by April 2, 2012
- State 4-H Camp!!!! Don't forget to sign your child(ren) up for State 4-H Camp. This year we will be camping at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, NC. Camp is open to youth ages 8-14, the cost is \$410 which includes a \$150 non-refundable/non-transferrable deposit. We will be camping July 1-6. Call Danelle Barco at 331-7630 to register.