



Camden County

NEW ENERGY. NEW VISION.

New Laws, Rules, & Regs Affecting Contractors

Mandatory Standards for Land Disturbance Activities

New Requirement: Fill Permits

On March 18, 2013 the Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance 2012-12-01, an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance which created Article 151.404 (Mandatory Standards for Land Disturbance Activities).



This amendment created requirements on the amount of fill a person can place on their lot without affecting adjacent properties as far as stormwater runoff. The standards shall apply to any application for a building permit where land disturbing activity is proposed and the placement of fill is being utilized on the lot.

In cases of natural grade differences greater than nine (9) inches between adjoining lots, the County may require (based on the size and shape of lot) a stormwater management plan prepared by a North Carolina licensed engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect reflecting that the proposed development will not create flooding or nuisance conditions on the lower lots.

This newly enacted ordinance created the requirement for a "fill permit" which must be obtained in advance of any building permit wherein fill may be utilized.

To review the entire approved ordinance, please go to www.camdencontync.gov, under government click on ordinances, click on approved ordinances, then click "Ordinance No. 2012-12-01 Amending the Camden County Code of Ordinances".

For more information, please call (252) 338-1919 ext 232 or stop by the Planning Office.

Contents

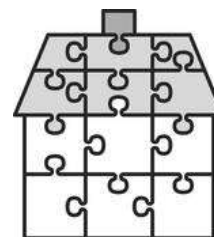
Planning Department	1-3
Tax Department	4
Soil & Water Conservation District	4
Dismal Swamp Welcome Center	5-6
Senior Center	7



Another Piece to the Puzzle...

Building a House? Improving a Rental Property? This New State Law Affects You...

Effective as of April 1, 2013, state legislators have enacted a new law requiring the appointment of a "Lien Agent" when building a new home or renovating a rental home, be it a stick built house, modular, or mobile home. Any property improvement project that is over \$30,000 in retail cost requires a Lien Agent to be appointed with the following 3 exceptions: (1) If the improvement project is to take place on or in an existing home and if the homeowner is the current resident of the home then no lien agent is required; (2) If the project being undertaken is less than \$30,000 in retail cost no lien agent is required; (3) If the project being undertaken is under contract and that contract is dated prior to April 1, 2013, then no lien agent is required. The table below summarizes when and if a lien agent is required:



Type of Project?	Existing Home?	Homeowner Lives There?	Lien Agent Req.?
New Stick Built House	No	N/A-Not built yet	YES
New Modular Home	No	N/A-Not built yet	YES
New Mobile Home	No	N/A-Not built yet	YES
Renovation	Yes	Yes	No
Addition	Yes	Yes	No
Accessory Structure	Yes	Yes	No
Renovation	Yes	No, Occupied by Others	YES
Addition	Yes	No, Occupied by Others	YES
Accessory Structure	Yes	No, Occupied by Others	YES



If you are a builder and you have a contract to build a house, and that contract is dated prior to April 1, 2013 you are exempt from the requirement. An exemption form and copy of the contract are required. Contact the Planning Department for the appropriate form.

Please contact the Camden County Planning Department for the appropriate information, forms, & worksheets relating to the Appointment of a Lien Agent. Call (252) 338-1919 x 235 for more details.

One Mill Road Park Project

Project Description

Camden County is requesting PARTF grant monies to develop a neighborhood park and boating access facility. The County has an opportunity to acquire through a "bargain sale" and develop a 1.98 acre waterfront property located along the Pasquotank River overlooking its confluence with the Albemarle Sound. The overall project includes 1) acquiring the property, 2) demolishing all existing structures (house and workshop buildings), 3) replacing an old boat ramp, 4) replacing approximately 315 feet of dilapidated bulkhead and riprap, 5) developing a picnic area with a pavilion and picnic shelters, 6) installing a playground, 7) constructing a parking area with 20 spaces designed to accommodate cars with boat trailers, 8) constructing a boardwalk along the river, and 9) constructing a bathhouse/restrooms with outside showers.

The proposed park is located at the end of One Mill Road outside the unincorporated village of Old Trap in one of the southernmost developed areas of the County. One Mill Road leads to the river, has a scattering of houses and farms, and is the only access to the property.

Project Justification

The County has only one public Camden Community Park, located in the Courthouse Township, 12 miles north of the proposed project. The Dismal Swamp State Park is located in the north end of Camden approximately three miles from the North Carolina/Virginia state line, but is more a nature conservancy than a recreational facility. With residential areas scattered throughout the County, there are no Neighborhood Parks. All the public meetings and surveys in the **2008 Comprehensive Systemwide Parks and Recreation Access Plan** identified a lack of park facilities and distance to the one Community Park as barriers to participation in parks and recreation activities, and identified a need for satellite park facilities across both the north and south ends of the County. The 2008 Systemwide Plan also includes a comparison of park facilities across North Carolina counties. Camden ranks 88th in County residents per local park acre, 94th in residents per picnic shelter, and 49th in residents per playground. Approval of the requested PARTF assistance will move Camden County forward towards meeting parks and recreation needs of our citizens.

The proposed Neighborhood Park, picnic shelter, playground, boat launch, and boardwalk will serve the 2,250 residents of the Shiloh Township (25% of the population), as well as attract other Camden residents and visitors to the beautiful view area of the Pasquotank River and the Albemarle Sound.

Camden has only two public boat launches along 78 miles of shoreline. One has direct access to the Pasquotank River but has no other park facilities. The other launch provides access to Sawyers Creek and is adjacent to the Community Park to the north. The remainder of the shoreline is either private waterfront residential development (11.5 miles), or undeveloped swamp forest (63 miles), with some adjacent farmland. The 2008 Systemwide Plan also identifies needs and the desire for public beach access and boat ramps.

As noted above, the County has very little commercial economic development activity and related revenue. A critical objective of the County's economic development efforts focuses on promoting eco-tourism through our natural resources, such as the rivers and Albemarle Sound. The replacement of the private boat ramp and pier, combined with the development of the park, will provide unconstrained public access to the water-related activities that support tourism, including sports fishing, recreational boating, swimming, and paddling.

The One Mill Road Park project is an excellent opportunity to acquire a rare waterfront property at a bargain price, and to meet multiple county objectives: 1) adding the first small, family-oriented Neighborhood Park, 2) in an underserved part of the County, 3) with facilities for active and passive recreation, and 4) to promote eco-tourism. The park and its amenities will primarily serve the residents of the lower third of the County, and secondarily other Camden and North Carolina residents. It will also provide an important asset to attract visitors from out of state.

Tax Department

Starting with March renewals due July 1, you will receive your tax bill through DMV along with your registration renewal. The website where you can get all information about this change is www.ncdot.gov/dmv/vehicle/tagtax. Tax office will still upload the bill information and process values and situs then we forward to DMV. 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. 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.

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

Camden Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Camden SWCD is promoting the establishment of a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) to increase awareness and promote the agricultural community, and its way of life. The proposed ordinance will be open for discussion at a public hearing to be scheduled by commissioners at their April 1, 2013 meeting. Members hope to protect their farms from any negative impacts of non-farm development within ½ mile of their operations.

The ten (10) year Conservation Agreement between the county and landowner maintains the land for the intended purpose of farming. It is voluntary and can be withdrawn with 30 days written notice. Benefits for members include increased public awareness of agriculture, North Carolina's # 1 industry, increased protection from nuisance suits, and abeyance of water and sewer assessments. The Rural working landscapes are an integral part of our heritage. Field and woodland preservation are both of vital importance today and for future generations.

To secure county certification as qualifying farmland, a landowner must: (a) be participating in the farm present-use-value taxation program established by N.C.G.S. 105-227.2 through 105-277.7, (b) be managed, if highly erodible land exists on the farm, in accordance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service defined erosion-control practices, and (c) be the subject of a conservation agreement between the county and the landowner.

A district shall contain a minimum of 20 contiguous acres of qualified forestland; 10 contiguous acres of qualified farm land; or 5 contiguous acres of qualified horticultural land.

For more details about the Voluntary Agricultural District contact Brian Lannon in the Camden Soil and Water District office at 338-1919 ext. 262 or at blannon@camdencountync.gov.



Dismal Swamp Welcome Center

This spring make plans for you and your family to visit us at the Dismal Swamp. Come observe the ecological significance of Camden County wetlands at the State Park's visitor center and exhibit hall. As always, the majority of activities offered are free. Visit us and you'll soon learn why George Washington called the Dismal Swamp "a glorious paradise".

If you are interested in Civil War history, we now offer a self-guided driving tour with the new Battle of South Mills brochure. It was made possible, in part, by the Camden County Tourism Development Authority and two local historians, Ann Jennings and Bruce Long. It highlights significant sites with detailed turn-by-turn directions, descriptions and a map. Pick one up today for free at the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center or download one from our website at www.dismalwetlandwelcomecenter.com. Mr. Long has also launched a new website specifically for educating Camden residents and visitors about the historic battle. To view his website go to www.rblong.net/southmillsbattle/.



As always, the staff at the Welcome Center (771-8333) are glad to loan (4) adult bikes for FREE during our regular operating hours. Guests may ride our bikes on the three mile paved trail adjacent to the canal. First come first served.

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

All of this and more wait for you at the Dismal Swamp complex located just 3 miles south of the NC border on US Hwy 17. So what are you waiting for? Come discover the treasures that others travel thousands of mile to see.



Dismal Swamp State Park / Welcome Center Calendar of Events

What	When	Where (Meet At)
 <p>Wagon Rides - Every Sunday Wagon Rides at the Dismal Swamp State Park Every Sunday in April Insect repellent recommended.</p>	<p>Sundays in April April 21, & 28 11:00AM & 2:00PM</p>	<p>State Park Visitor Center For more information: 252-771-6593</p>
 <p>Night-Time Insect Safari Join us as we conduct a nighttime insect inventory. We will set up our UV light and see what moths and other critters can be found.</p>	<p>Saturdays in April April 20, & 27 7:30 PM Pre-registration required</p>	<p>State Parks' Horseshoe Road Access For more information: 252-771-6593</p>
 <p>20th Annual TarWheel Century Bicycle Event Featuring 33, 62, and 100 mile routes.</p>	<p>Saturday April 27, 2013</p>	<p>Start & Finish are at Camden County High School For more information and event registration: www.rivercitycyclingclub.com</p>
 <p>Kayaking the Canal Paddle the historic Dismal Swamp Canal</p>	<p>Saturday April 20, 2013 10:00AM Pre-registration required</p>	<p>State Park's Kayak/Canoe Launch For more information: 252-771-6593</p>
 <p>Snakes Get a close up view of some of the swamp's native snakes...</p>	<p>Saturday April 27, 2013 3:00 PM</p>	<p>State Park's Auditorium</p>
<p align="center">For more events, see our website at www.camdencountync.gov</p>		
<p align="center">SAVE THE DATES OCTOBER October 19, 2013 Dismal Days South Mills Dismal Swamp State Park, Camden, NC/ Dismal Swamp Welcome Center</p> <p align="center">NOVEMBER November 2-3, 2013, (Sat) 10am - 5pm & (Sun) Noon - 5pm Holly Days Festival Camden Camden County Intermediate School, Camden, NC</p>		<p>Camden Welcomes a New Business</p>  <p>Yes, we have a new antique /decorating business in Camden County called The Nesting Cottage. The new owners have totally revamped what was formally the Dusty Attic located on Hwy 158 across from Towne Bank of Currituck. Find them on Facebook by searching for "The Nesting Cottage" or better yet, stop by and welcome them to the community.</p> <p><i>Please visit and patronize all of our local businesses.</i></p>

Camden County Senior Center

The seniors are having a blast. We have birthday celebrations the 1st Friday of each month. In February, we made Birdfeeders for National Birdfeeder Month. Come join us for Arts & Crafts offered monthly. The Senior Center has exciting day trips, we recently took a trip to the Williamsburg Outlet. Are you a senior and tired of shopping in the Elizabeth City area. Join us on April 22, 2013 for a day of shopping at the Smithfield Prime Outlets. The seniors will venture off to Perquimans Community Center on April 9th for the opening of Senior Games. If you would like any additional information about the activities of the Camden Senior Center, please feel free to call us at (252)335-2569.

