



**Board of County Commissioners**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*(This is the seventh in a series of releases aimed at highlighting some of the important, but not well known, county provided services. This is in conjunction with the **You Are Why We're Here** communication campaign.)*

## Public Works

**WOODBINE, GEORGIA - February 13, 2015** – Of the 300 miles of roads in the unincorporated area of Camden County approximately half (169 miles) are paved and the rest (131 miles) are dirt. Maintaining, repairing and providing drainage for these roads falls to the Roads and Bridges Division of the county's Public Works Department. The other division, the Capital Improvements Division, is primarily responsible for overseeing the design and construction of new and renovated buildings owned by Camden County.



It is a lot of work for Public Works Director Harvey Amerson and his crew of fifteen employees. Amerson, who has worked for Camden County for twenty years, said it is always a balancing act between providing quality services and finding ways to cut costs. One way he does that is by utilizing the Georgia Department of Corrections inmate labor program. Using this program on several recent and current projects will save approximately \$250,000.

The largest current ongoing construction project is the expansion of the Camden County Jail in Woodbine. The expansion will provide a new kitchen and a 50-bed dormitory style pod. The expansion should be complete in approximately one year. Another large project being worked on is the construction of a Camden County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) shooting range on Georgia Highway 110 near Highway 40. The 35-acre project is anticipated to include three ranges within the complex. The use of inmate labor will cut the construction cost by approximately half.



*“Award-Winning Government”*

STEVE L. HOWARD  
County Administrator

JOHN S. MYERS  
County Attorney

WILLIS R. KEENE JR.  
Commissioner, District 1

CHUCK CLARK  
Commissioner, District 2

JIMMY STARLINE  
Commissioner, District 3

GARY BLOUNT  
Commissioner, District 4

TONY SHEPPARD  
Commissioner, District 5

The Roads and Bridges Division also stays very busy. Their highest priority is keeping water off the roads. Amerson said beavers are not his favorite animals as they often cause flooding by the building of dams on local waterways, hence making more work for the department. This division is also responsible for making repairs to potholes and washouts, trimming tree limbs, clearing vegetation from county right-of-ways, mowing county roadsides, picking up litter and maintaining safety and traffic signage on county roads.

Recent road projects include the resurfacing of Kinlaw Road, Powderhorn Road, Liberty Tree Road and Sheffield Island Road. The Road Department has also resurfaced short areas on Elliott's Plantation Road, Refuge Road and Dover Bluff Road. In addition, the right-of-way is being cleared for the paving of Powell Street, Jody Lane and Kayla Street. The grading of dirt roads is always an ongoing project.

County Administrator Steve Howard said although they may often work behind the scenes, the Public Works Department is invaluable. "The County is fortunate to have an experienced Public Works team that properly and efficiently maintains our roadways. The staff do a great job and their work is essential for the well-being and vitality of Camden County. Public works literally paves the way for the County's future."



For additional information, please contact Camden County at 912.576.5601 or visit our website at [www.camdencountyga.gov](http://www.camdencountyga.gov).

**About Camden County:** Located in the extreme southeast corner of Georgia, Camden County truly is "Georgia's Coastal Community of Choice." Originally formed in 1777, Camden County is best known for its rich history, natural scenic beauty and Southern hospitality. Our vision is helping to make this the best place to live by preserving and enhancing the history and quality of life, while promoting smart growth and providing an efficient, effective and responsive government.

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