



# FOCUS ON CURRITUCK

## A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 2004

### Currituck Sound Restoration Project Underway

*Organizers Seek Input, Historical Information from the Public*

Currituck Sound is recognized as a National Wildlife Refuge and provides habitat for a variety of fish, shellfish, waterfowl, and aquatic vegetation. However, since the 1980s, changes in water quality have reduced the number and extent of species once present.

In response to changes in the condition of the Currituck Sound, the US Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the State, has begun a restoration project. Local, state and federal agencies and citizens from both North Carolina and Virginia are working together to ensure the Currituck Sound reaches its most productive condition.

The Currituck Sound Restoration Project encourages public input. Citizens are asked to share any knowledge and information they may have regarding Currituck Sound. This might include old photographs and maps of the Sound and shoreline, records, fishing logbooks, and historical information. Please contact Tara Williams, Public Involvement Coordinator, at 1-800-626-8449, ext. 4694. A public involvement meeting will be held in 2005; announcement of the date and time will be made in the coming months.



### Consolidated Government Resolution Adopted By Board

Study Commission Says Citizens Would Benefit Most by 'Unified Government'

A commission of citizens established to study possible incorporation recommended recently to the Currituck County Board of Commissioners that the County instead pursue becoming a "unified government."

A "unified government" would make Currituck County the "sole local government within its confines" and be "vested with all powers, rights, and obligations of a city and a county." Incorporation Commission members, by a vote of 7-5, suggested the Board of Commissioners pursue enabling legislation from the NC General Assembly. The process would be simpler than pursuing incorporation and has many of the same advantages.

Commissioners responded by unanimously voting at their October 4 meeting to send a resolution to the General Assembly next year requesting lawmakers allow Currituck County to be a consolidated government. This legislation would prohibit other areas of Currituck from incorporating, while allowing the County to maintain one governing body and obtain funding for more services. It would also stop the formation of municipalities that would impose additional taxes, a different set of ordinances and building codes, and other duplicate services that would only burden taxpayers.

For the most part, residents would not even notice a difference in how the County operates; they would continue to enjoy low taxes, good schools, and the same services available to them now.

The resolution also states that a public referendum be held, giving citizens the final decision as to whether the County should become a consolidated government. Public hearings and a substantial effort to educate the citizenry as to the issue will be held prior to the referendum.

A report detailing the Incorporation Commission's finding is available for public review by either visiting the County's Internet website, [www.visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com) or by calling the County Manager's office at 232-2075.

## ELECTIONS:

**REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 2**

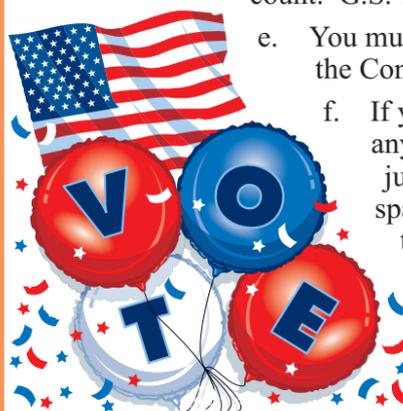
On Tuesday, November 2, registered voters are reminded to go to the polls and cast their votes. The 2004 ballot will include elections for President, federal, state, and local officials, as well as constitutional amendments. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For information on registration status, polling places, or other election matters, call the Currituck Board of Elections office at 232-2525.

#### Instructions for voters...

\*Note: A 1967 state law requires that the vote for President be separate from any other office and separate from a straight party ticket.

- To vote for all candidates of one party (a straight ticket), fill in the square to the right of the party for whose candidates you wish to vote.
- You may vote a split ticket by not filling in the square to the right of the party, but by filling in the square opposite the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote.
- You may also vote a split ticket by filling in the square to the right of the party and then filling in the square to the right of the name of any candidate you choose of a different party.
- If you wish to write in the name of a qualified write-in candidate, you must write the name in the blank space provided and fill in the square to the right of the name in order for your vote to count. G.S. 163-165.6(f)
- You must also vote Non-Partisan offices and the Constitutional Amendments.
- If you wish to write in a name for any non-partisan offices, other than judicial, write the name in the blank space provided and fill in the square to the right of the name in order for your vote to count. G.S. 163-165.6(f)
- If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.



*Focus On Currituck: A Report to the Community* is produced by the Public Information & Citizen Affairs Department.

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# Currituck / Community Update...

## 'Self-Financing Bonds' Amendment to be on November Ballot

November's ballot will include an amendment to the state constitution that would allow local governments to use "self-financing bonds" to finance certain capital projects to promote economic development and job creation.



The Currituck County Economic Development Board has endorsed passage of this amendment, which would give the County the opportunity to issue bonds for public infrastructure such as water and sewer for private economic development.

"The taxes generated by the funded projects would be dedicated to retiring the bonds," said Wayne Leary, Currituck County Economic Development Director. "No new or special tax would be placed on the project or any other taxpayer," he said.

The self-financing bonds would not require Currituck County to pledge its taxing authority to secure the bonds. The risk is on the bondholder – not the taxpayers. In addition, the County would not be required to issue the bonds.

Forty-eight other states already allow self-financing bonds.

## Board of Commissioners



**Poplar Branch Township**  
S. Paul O'Neal, Chairman  
453-3011  
893 Waterlily Road  
Coinjock, NC 27923



**Fruitville Township**  
Ernie Bowden  
453-2453  
2155 Sandfiddler Road  
Corolla, NC 27927



**Moyock Township**  
Eldon L. Miller, Jr., Vice Chairman  
435-6530  
P. O. Box 127  
Moyock, NC 27958



**At-Large**  
Paul R. Martin  
232-3514  
107 White Heron Drive  
Currituck, NC 27929



**Crawford Township**  
Gene A. Gregory  
336-4706  
232 S. Indiantown Road  
Shawboro, NC 27973



## Low Income Energy Assistance Available

The Currituck County Department of Social Services will accept applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) from November 1, 2004 through November 12, 2004 at the DSS office, 2793 Caratoke Hwy., Currituck. Applications may be submitted from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. (Please note that the DSS office will be closed on November 11 in observance of the Veterans' Day holiday.)

*Applications will also be taken at the following locations:*

- Powells Point Senior Center, November 4, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Currituck Senior Center, November 5, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Knotts Island Senior Center, November 9, 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program will give all ELIGIBLE households a one-time payment in February, 2005 to help pay heating bills. Information on income, in addition to resources provided by everyone living at your residence, must be produced. Resources include bank accounts, property, stocks, bonds, etc. Names, dates of birth, and social security numbers for each household member must also be provided.

For additional information, call the Currituck Department of Social Services at 232-3083.

## DID YOU KNOW?

...volunteers deliver over 60 meals every weekday to elderly shut-ins in Currituck County? Home delivery is made available through the Currituck Senior Citizens Centers, the N.C. Division of Aging, and local volunteers. The program is intended to maintain and/or improve the health of impaired home-bound older persons by providing them nutritionally balanced meals. Home-delivered meals are available to persons 60 years of age or older who are physically or mentally unable to obtain food or prepare meals for themselves. Certain requirements must be met; for details, call the Currituck Senior Center (232-3505), Powells Point Senior Center (491-8173), or (Knotts Island) Gary Montalbino (429-3558).



**Volunteers Mildred Markert (left) and Zalla Working (standing) deliver a hot meal to home-bound citizen Sarah Denby.**

## Currituck County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Times

1st and 3rd Monday of each month @ 7:00 PM unless otherwise posted.

### Meeting Place:

Historic Currituck Courthouse  
Courthouse Road, Currituck  
The meetings are open to the public.



## Wildlife Resources Commission Conducts Fish Stocking

Thousands of largemouth bass were released recently in the Northwest River. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission coordinated the effort to replenish the fish population that was affected last year by Hurricane Isabel.



**Over 5,000 largemouth bass were released in the Northwest River as part of a fish stocking project conducted by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.**

Approximately 5,000 three-inch and 100 seven-to-ten-inch largemouth bass were released in the stocking. Commission biologists have been releasing fish over the past several weeks in waters throughout Northeast North Carolina, including the Chowan, Roanoke, and Pasquotank rivers.

“A hurricane can cause less than optimal conditions for fish, especially the larger ones that require more oxygen to survive,” said fisheries

biologist Kevin Dockendorf. “There were 450 miles of shoreline affected by Hurricane Isabel and quite a bit of devastation. Stocking will help to bring back some of the lost fish population.”

It could take five years for the fish to rebound on their own, Dockendorf explained. “By stocking the rivers with these fish, it will help reduce this time.”

Paul Martin, Currituck County Commissioner, heard the Wildlife Resources Commission was conducting fish stocking in the waters of neighboring counties. He contacted the Commission and requested the project be implemented in Currituck as well.



Commission biologist Kevin Dockendorf (left) is assisted by Gene Gregory, Currituck County Commissioner, as the fish are loaded onto a boat at the public boat ramp on Poyner's Road.

“Several years ago, Currituck County offered some of the best bass fishing in the world,” said Martin. “But in the early 1980s, for several reasons, the fish population suffered.”

Martin believes fish stocking such as this recent one will help revitalize the local waters to a productive state.

The fish that were stocked at Northwest River were transported from a warm-water fish hatchery located in Pender County.



## Head, Heart, Hands, Health...

### 4-H Provides Opportunities For Youth To Get Involved

*I pledge my head to clearer thinking  
My heart to greater loyalty  
My hands to larger service and  
My health to better living  
for my club, my community, my  
country, and my world*

From leadership to livestock, from demonstrations to developing lifeskills, 4-H is helping youngsters become involved and productive citizens through a wide variety of programs, projects and activities.

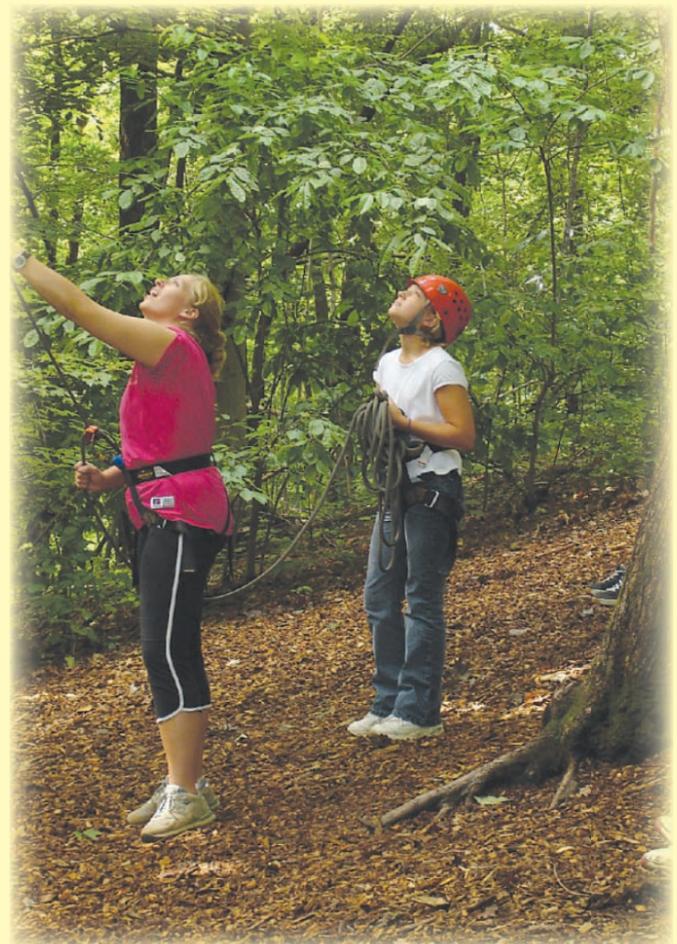
The 4-H motto is “To Make the Best Better,” and that’s what the 4-H program works toward. The young people who join 4-H grow through accomplishments, build self-confidence, and set and achieve goals, all while having fun!

Research indicates that 4-H members are more likely to: have a positive view of their role in the community; develop a sense of compassion and caring for others; and have better relationships with adults than non-members. 4-H clubs are designed to include the eight critical elements necessary for positive youth

development:

1. Develop meaningful relationships with caring adults
2. Experience opportunities for self-determination
3. Provide an accepting and inclusive environment
4. Contribute through community service
5. Provide a safe environment for learning and growing
6. Give opportunities to develop skills and mastery
7. Engage in learning
8. Have an opportunity to be an active participant in life-now and in the future

The 4-H program is a powerful, proven program that makes a positive difference in the lives of those who participate. Parents who are interested in getting their children (ages 5- 18) involved in 4-H should contact Ellen Owens, 4-H Agent, at the Currituck County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, 232-2262.



Currituck 4-Her Shadow Wissman (right) gets ready to tackle the high ropes course at the Betsy Jeff - Penn 4-H Center in Reidsville, N.C.

## Planning And Inspections: Meeting The Challenge To Promote Efficient Growth

The Currituck County Planning and Inspections Department works to promote efficient and orderly growth and development of Currituck County's 273 square miles. The department provides guidance and direction in the adoption of policies and regulations to encourage planned, long-range community development in the County.

### What the Planning and Inspections Department does...

- Administers land use, environmental, and building regulations
- Provides technical assistance to governmental agencies, advisory groups, and private citizens
- Processes applications for major and minor subdivision approvals, rezoning requests, special use permits, conditional use permits, variances, text amendments, and planned development applications
- Coordinates appeals and interpretations to the Board of Adjustment
- Enforces the N.C. State Building Code as mandated by State Statute
- Issues permits for construction of building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems, and gas piping
- Conducts inspections to ensure code compliance
- Issues occupancy permits upon satisfactory completion of work
- Increases public awareness of planning

The department serves as a professional staff to the County Planning Board. Additionally, it makes recommendations and suggestions to the Board of County Commissioners,

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**Currituck County is the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing county in North Carolina and 54<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the United States.**

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citizen advisory groups, and other agencies on comprehensive land use policies and plans, zoning recommendations, special permits, hazard mitigation, and subdivision regulations. The department is directly responsible for the administration of the Unified Development Ordinance, Special Use Permits, site plan approvals, zoning ordinance amendments, and map changes.



David Webb, Planner I with the Planning and Inspections Department, reviews a flood map with a citizen. The department issued 613 single family building permits in 2003, while Currituck County experienced an average 4.5% annual housing growth each year for the past three years.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

### Q. When are building permits required?

A. Building permits are required for the following residential construction:

- Single family dwellings (site built homes)
- Modularity (on frame/off frame) & manufactured homes
- Additions (attached garages, porches, utility rooms, decks, carports, etc.)
- Detached accessory structures (garages, carports, sheds, gazebos, above/in-ground pools, hot tubs, wooden pool/hot tub decking, etc.)
- Bulkheads, piers, platforms, & beach access ways
- Chimney/woodstove
- Roofing (not required for shingle/covering replacement only)
- Improvements/alterations in excess of \$5,000 and/or any work classified as structural or load bearing
- Any work involving electrical, plumbing, mechanical, insulation or gas piping work
- Demolition permits are required to take down/demolish structures
- Moving permits are required to relocate structures on the same property, or to move structures from one parcel to another

Building permits are also required for all commercial projects, including new construction, additions, alterations, accessory structures, signs, change of occupancy, etc.

Building permits are not required for the following; however, zoning permits and/or zoning requirements may apply: Residential storage and accessory buildings, 144 square foot or less, with no dimension greater than twelve (12) feet, including height, and that may not be used as living space (per section 1803 of the Unified Development Ordinance); fences, concrete patios or walkways. CAMA permits may also apply, if

the proposed project is located on or near the ocean, sound, river, canal, or other navigable waterways. Contact the Planning Department and/or the local CAMA officer for information and requirements for these types of permits.

### Q. What is required to apply for a residential building permit?

A. This will vary, depending on the type of permit being applied for. The items required for submittal may include, but are not be limited to, the following:

- Site plan, drawn as true to scale as possible, or professional survey (per section 1202 of the Unified Development Ordinance, lots 20,000 square feet or smaller shall require a professional survey/site plan, excluding the placement of mobile homes in mobile home parks and accessory structures). Please refer to this section of the Ordinance for site plan requirements or contact the Planning Department at (232-3378 Ext. 260, 245, or 264)
- Topographic Plan
- Septic permit, lot evaluation, written authorization from the Environmental Health Department (232-6603) or signed Water/Sewer Reservation form from utility
- Engineered, sealed building plans or construction drawings (two complete sets)
- Original, signed general contractor affidavit or owner affidavit, and trade affidavits, if applicable
- CAMA permit, if applicable

Please refer to the submittal requirements listed in the permit application package.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

### Q. Where should I go to apply for a building permit?

A. Applications for building permits can be submitted in person at either of the building permit offices (153 Courthouse Rd., Currituck or 1123 Ocean Trail, Corolla) or by mail (P.O. Box 70, Currituck, NC 27929). You must submit the completed permit application, along with all required documentation and any applicable permit or review fees. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please allow approximately 3-5 working days for processing of residential permit applications and approximately 3-4 weeks for processing of commercial applications. This is subject to change, depending upon the volume of permits received.

### Q. What is a zoning district?

A. Generally, all property in Currituck County is zoned as residential, commercial, or manufacturing.

- Residential: includes homes as well as land used for agricultural purposes
- Commercial: includes general businesses
- Manufacturing: accommodates industrial development that includes creating, processing, repairing, painting, and other assembling of good, merchandise, or equipment



You may contact the Planning Department to inquire about the current zoning of your property and

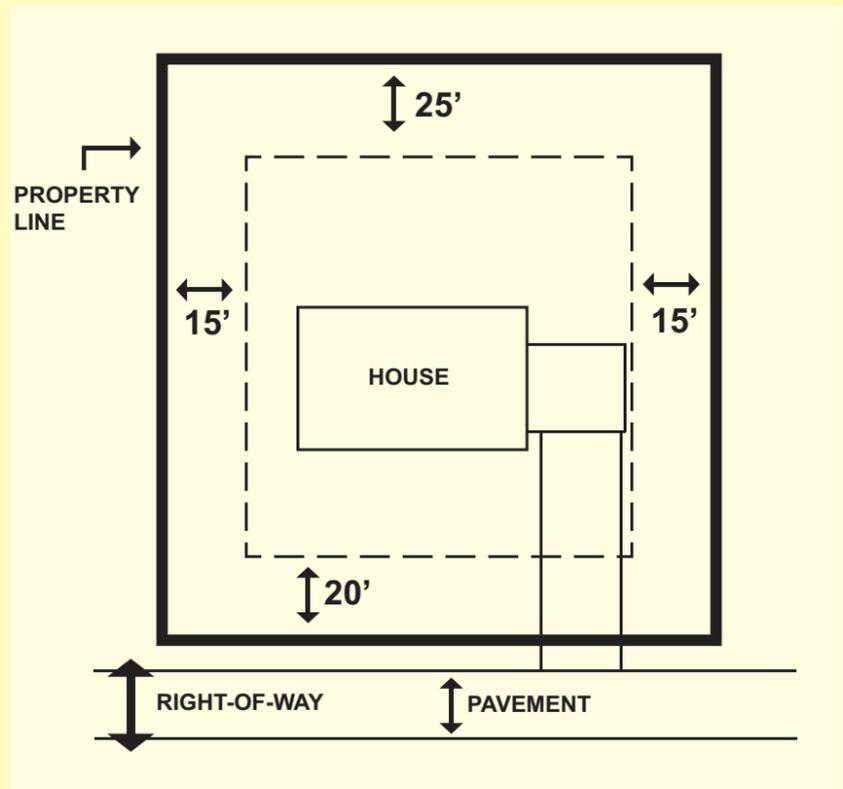
what uses are allowed in that zoning district. To request that property be rezoned, submit a completed rezoning application to the Planning Department no later than 45 days prior to the Planning Board meeting on which you wish to be heard. The Planning Board will review your application and make a recommendation for approval or denial. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

### Q. What is the role of the Planning Board? Board of Adjustment?

A. The role of the Planning Board is to: make recommendations concerning proposed zoning and how property should be divided to ensure safety and public health; provide a “development vision” for the future relating to growth, development and redevelopment of the County; and develop and recommend policies, ordinances, and other means of carrying out plans in a coordinated and efficient manner. The Board of Adjustment’s duties are similar to that of a court in that the board members take sworn testimony and decide cases based on the facts presented to them. The board’s role is to: grant variances from zoning regulations in certain cases; interpret the rules when a citizen, for example, disagrees with how the Planning staff understands and applies the rules; and grant Conditional Use Permits, which are designed for land uses that might have an impact on neighboring property owners.

### Q. What are structure setbacks?

A. A structure setback is the distance from the property line or street right-of-way to the closest portion of the structure (building). Below is a drawing that shows setbacks for a typical single family home.



### Q. What setbacks are required for a fence?

A. Fences six feet or less in height generally are permitted up to a property line. Some properties have established drainage and utility easements that are necessary for stormwater improvements and utility installation. In these instances, fence placement may be restricted. The recorded plat or map of your property may identify the drainage and utility easements that currently exist. The recorded plats and maps are located in the Currituck County Register of Deeds office.



### Q. How many inoperable vehicles can I have in my yard?

A. Currituck County residents may have two inoperable vehicles in their yard as long as the vehicles are completely covered by a waterproof covering material. An inoperable vehicle is one that does not have a current license plate and inspection sticker. More than two inoperable vehicles will be classified as a junkyard.

# Planning and Inspections (continued)...

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

### Q. Does my construction project require a CAMA permit?

A. The Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) requires permits for development in Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) in Currituck County. A CAMA permit must be obtained if the construction project meets all of the following conditions:

- it is considered "development" under CAMA;
- it is in, or it affects, an Area of Environmental Concern established by the Coastal Resources Commission;
- it doesn't qualify for an exemption.

A project is probably in an AEC if it is:

- in or on the waters of the state, on a marsh or wetland area;
- within 75 feet of the normal high water line along estuarine shoreline;
- within 30 feet of the normal water level of areas designated as inland fishing waters by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission;
- within 575 feet of the mean high water line along the shoreline of an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) as designated by the Environmental Management Commission;
- within approximately 300 feet of the ocean beach; or
- within approximately 1,000 feet of an inlet.

Currituck County processes Minor Permit applications for development over land. All other CAMA permits are processed by the Regional Office in Elizabeth City (264-3901). Currently, Currituck County has five local permit officers that process Minor Permit applications:

#### Mainland

Local Permit Officers: Stacey Smith, David Webb  
Telephone: 232-3055

#### Currituck Outer Banks

Local Permit Officers: Jon Hain, Tod Burns, Janet Waller  
Telephone: 453-8555

Additional information can be found on the Internet at:

<http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us>.

### Q. Can I subdivide my property?

A. Possibly, if your property meets certain requirements. A single parcel of land may be subdivided (split into more than one lot) to create additional lots; however there may be a limit to the number of times your property may be subdivided.

Generally, the minimum lot size is one to three acres, depending on how your property is zoned. In most cases, if your parcel number ends with a letter (for example: 000-123-001 D), that letter represents how many times your property has been subdivided. The property in this example has been subdivided four times (A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5).

The Planning Department can approve subdivisions of five lots or less; subdivisions greater than five lots must get approval from the Board of Commissioners.

Regulations on subdivisions can be found on Currituck County's Internet website: [www.visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com).

## PLANNING & INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Gary Ferguson, AICP, Director

#### Mainland Office

153 Courthouse Rd., Currituck  
Phone: 232-3378

#### Corolla Satellite Office

1123 Ocean Trail, Corolla  
Phone: 453-8555

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Preliminary Flood Maps Available for Public Review

Preliminary copies of updated Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report (both dated August 31, 2004) have been issued to Currituck County.

This is a county-wide remapping of the Flood Hazard Areas for the County. The FEMA Appeal Period for commenting on the preliminary FIRM panels and FIS Report will last from September 17, 2004 through December 16, 2004 for Currituck County. Before

the new maps can become effective in 2005, the County will also have to adopt an updated Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The new FIRM panels are available for public inspection at the Planning Department and the Corolla Satellite Office.

Two public meetings will allow the residents of Currituck County to see the results of the advanced mapping technology used to create the new maps and provide comments. The meetings are scheduled for **November 8, 2004 (4-6 PM) at the Corolla Fire Station (827 Whalehead Drive, Corolla)** and **November 15, 2004 (4-6 PM) at the Historic County Courthouse**. Staff from the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program will be present to answer questions on the new maps.



## Inter-County Transportation Available

Do you or someone you know need transportation for shopping, work, or college?

Inter-County Public Transportation Authority (ICPTA) is the local transportation provider for persons residing in the counties of Currituck, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, and Camden.

The cost of transportation is free for qualifying persons. Fares for non-qualifying persons vary from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per trip occurring within ICPTA's region. Call 338-4480 for more information or to schedule transportation.

Those needing transportation to Currituck County's Senior Citizens Centers should call:

- 232-3505 - Currituck Senior Center
- 491-8173 - Powells Point Senior Center
- 429-3231 - Knotts Island Senior Center

For medical transportation (doctor's appointments, dialysis, cancer treatments, etc.), call the Currituck Department of Social Services at 232-3083.



# FLOODS: *Are you prepared?...*

Floods can happen anytime and anywhere, causing destruction, emotional anguish and financial hardship. You do not need to live near water to experience flooding. Floods result from storms, melting snow, hurricanes, water backup due to inadequate or overloaded drainage systems, and other causes.

Flood damage is especially difficult to deal with when victims realize their property is not covered by their general homeowners' insurance policy. Flood insurance, which reimburses policy holders for flood damage, is required and purchased each year by Currituck County citizens who reside in areas considered flood zones. Those who are currently eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) discount of 10% recently received a 15% discount on their premiums. This rate decrease was due to a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decision to upgrade Currituck County's flood insurance rating from eight to seven. Lower numbers result in lower insurance premiums.

The increased savings are a tangible result of the voluntary activities Currituck County has implemented. These include an improved digital mapping system and community outreach projects (such as providing the following flood information).

## FLOOD INSURANCE

The need for flood insurance in any community is determined by the location of the property. Although insurance is not required in all cases, it is suggested. The National Flood Insurance Act, as amended in 1973, requires that flood insurance be purchased "by property owners who are being assisted by Federal programs or by Federally supervised, regulated or insured agencies or institutions in the acquisition, or improvement of, land or facilities located or to be located in identified areas as having special flood hazards." Homeowner insurance policies exclude flood damage.

## FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT

Property located in Flood Zone "A" or Flood Zone "V" on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), is subject to regulations. Before starting development on any lot, tract, or parcel in these zones, the owner or developer must first contact the Department of Planning and Inspections to determine what permits will be required. Permits are required for, but not limited to, the following: mining, new construction, additions, alterations, and changes in use.

## FLOOD MAP DETERMINATIONS

The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are the result of the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) which investigated the existence and severity of flood hazards in Currituck County. The maps contain official delineation of flood insurance zones and base flood elevation lines. Base flood elevation lines show the location of the expected whole-foot water surface elevation within the 100-year flood zone. Currituck County is divided into zones, each of which has a specific flood potential as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Atlantic Ocean, Albemarle Sound, and Currituck Sound are the primary sources of flooding in Currituck County.

Call the Currituck County Planning and Inspections Department at 232-3055 to learn if your property is located in a flood zone, or to obtain information on the following topics:

1. elevation requirements
2. selecting a qualifying contractor
3. site visits for advice on flood protection measures
4. review of plans to retrofit your home

Additional information on flood protection can also be found at the Currituck County Public Library in Barco. Several books are available on protection and construction in flood prone areas.

## DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Drainage ditches, streams, channels, and canals must be kept free of debris that can cause them to lose carrying capacity. Debris from dumping, vegetation and sedimentation can build up in a drainage system and cause flooding. Dumping of debris in drainage systems is unlawful in North Carolina. Keep drainage ditches on your property clear and functional.

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM FLOODING

### Do you know the projected flood elevation of your area?

Check with the County Planning and Inspections Department to see if your property is located in a flood zone. This information will help you determine how much water is likely to come in your home during an extreme flood situation.

### Is the main electric panel board located above potential flood waters?

The main electric panel board (electric fuses or circuit breakers) should be at least 12" above the projected flood elevation for your home. The panel board height is regulated by code. All electrical work should be done by a licensed electrician.

### Are electric outlets and switches located above potential flood waters?

Consider elevating all electric outlets, switches, light sockets, baseboard heaters, and wiring at least 12" above the projected flood elevation of your home. You may also want to elevate electric service lines (at the point they enter your home) at least 12" above the projected flood elevation. In areas that could get wet, connect all receptacles to a ground fault interrupter (GFI) circuit to avoid the risk of shock or electrocution. Have electrical wiring done by a licensed electrician.

### Are the washer and dryer above potential flood waters?

For protection against flood waters, the washer and dryer can sometimes be elevated on masonry or pressure-treated lumber at least 12" above the projected flood elevation. Other options are moving the washer and dryer to a higher floor, or building a floodwall around the appliances.

### Are the furnace and water heater above potential flood waters?

The furnace and water heater can be placed on masonry blocks or concrete at least 12" above the projected flood elevation, moved to inside a floodwall or moved to a higher floor.

Furnaces that operate horizontally can be suspended from ceiling joists if the joists are strong enough to hold the weight. Installing a draft-down furnace in the attic may be an option if allowed by local codes. Some heating vents can be located above the projected flood elevation.

Outside air conditioning compressors, heat pumps or package units (single units that include a furnace and air conditioner) can be placed on a base of masonry, concrete, or pressure-treated lumber. All work must conform to state and local building codes.

### Is the fuel tank anchored securely?

A fuel tank can tip over or float in a flood, causing fuel to spill or catch fire. Fuel tanks should be securely anchored to the ground. Make sure vents and fill-line openings are above projected flood levels. Propane tanks are the property of the propane company. You'll need written permission to anchor them. Be sure all work conforms to state and local building codes.



### Does the sewer system have a backflow valve?

If flood waters enter the sewer system, sewage can back up and enter your home. To prevent this, have a qualified, licensed plumber install an interior or exterior backflow valve. Check with the Planning and Inspections Department for permit requirements.

*If you are building or remodeling a home, there are many other ways to protect your property. For more information, talk to a professional home builder, architect, contractor, or building supply retailer, or call the Currituck County Planning and Inspections Department at (252) 232-3055.*

### For more information, contact:

Currituck County Planning and Inspections Department  
232-3055

[www.visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com)

### Visit these other websites for additional information:

Federal Emergency  
Management Agency  
[www.fema.gov/nfip](http://www.fema.gov/nfip)

North Carolina Emergency  
Management  
[www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org)

This flood preparedness information was printed as part of Currituck County's commitment to the National Flood Insurance Program – Community Rating System – Community Outreach Project

# Currituck - For your information...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *"Those Irritating Plants" Workshop*

Friday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. at the Historic Currituck Courthouse (2<sup>nd</sup> floor board meeting room), 153 Courthouse Rd., Currituck.

Participants will learn to recognize poison ivy and other potential allergenic plants, as well as receive tips on how to reduce exposure to these plants.

Speaker will be Susan French, Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Beach.

The Currituck County Center of N.C. Cooperative Extension will be hosting the workshop. Registration is free; call 232-2262.

### *Currituck Saturday Forum - Featuring NC Authors & Lecturers*

Program series starts November 20;

held Saturdays at the public libraries in Currituck and Corolla.

Call the Currituck County Public Library at 453-8345 for more information.

### *Christmas Craft Workshop at the Currituck County Public Library*

Saturday, December 4, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Adults and children will learn to make unique Christmas ornaments and decorations. Special guest will be Chef Dirt, who will teach participants how to make a holiday treat. Call the Library at 453-8345 to register.

### *52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Currituck Tree Illumination & 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade*

Saturday, December 4, starting at 3:00 p.m.

The parade will begin at Knapp School, proceed to Courthouse Road, and conclude at the Judicial Center with the Tree Illumination.

For more information, call the Cooperative Extension office at 232-2262.

*Holiday Concert Featuring the Hampton Roads Metro Band*  
Sunday, December 12, 3:00 p.m. at Currituck County Middle School; free admission and open to the public.

Performances also by Currituck County schools' band students. Sponsored by Currituck County Parks & Recreation and the Currituck County Arts Council.

### *Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training Classes*

Applications are now being accepted.

Classes begin Tuesday, February 1, and will be held at the Historic Currituck Courthouse on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m. for 13 weeks.

The Master Gardener program provides a broad scope of horticulture training in areas such as plant identification, organic gardening, landscape design, and pest management.

For more information, call the Cooperative Extension Center at 232-2262.

### **Customer Call Number Available To Report Unburied Cable Lines**

Customers of Mediacom cable television can report unburied cable lines by calling 252-482-5583. Callers should leave a message that includes their name, telephone number, and location of the unburied cable. The caller will receive a return call within 24 hours to confirm the information. Calls made on weekends will be returned the next business day.



## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

**Currituck County Government Offices will be closed on the following holidays:**

Veterans' Day	November 11, 2004	Thursday
Thanksgiving	November 25 & 26, 2004	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	December 24 & 27, 2004	Friday & Monday
New Year's Day	December 31, 2004	Friday
Martin L. King, Jr.'s Birthday	January 17, 2005	Monday



County of Currituck  
P.O. Box 39  
Currituck, NC 27929



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