



Rich in Heritage, with a Vision for Tomorrow

# FOCUS ON CURRITUCK

## A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

APRIL 2005

### Lighthouse issue prompts letter from Commission Chairman

To the Citizens of Currituck County:

Over the past several months, there has been much discussion in our community about the ownership and operation of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. As many of you already know, the Federal government announced nearly three years ago that the Currituck Lighthouse would be declared surplus property. Currituck County applied for ownership of the Lighthouse with the belief that this historic landmark should belong to the County's citizens. After all, it is part of our cultural heritage.

Yet in July, 2003, the Federal government awarded ownership of the Lighthouse to Outer Banks Conservationists (OBC), a Dare County, non-profit organization.

During the application process, Currituck County officials raised the concern that when the Lighthouse is awarded and no longer considered Federal property, it will need to come into compliance with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), the rules and regulations that govern how land is used and developed. Since gaining ownership of the Lighthouse, OBC has yet to apply for the necessary permit and/or take the measures needed to make this business comply with the County's ordinances.

**The County claims OBC is not in compliance with the UDO. What does this mean?**

All businesses operating in Currituck County are required to follow the County's UDO. Now that the Lighthouse is being operated as a business within a residential zone, its owners must obtain a conditional use permit, which requires, among other things, providing adequate parking and restroom facilities. Currently, there are not a sufficient number of parking spaces and restrooms to accommodate the nearly 100,000 visitors who climb the Lighthouse and the thousands more who visit the grounds each year. To date, OBC

officials have yet to apply for a conditional use permit.

**If Currituck County was awarded the lighthouse, would the County have been required to comply with the UDO?**

Yes. All historical landmarks, such as the Whalehead Club, that are open to the public are required to meet UDO requirements. Even County government buildings must comply with the UDO.

**When the Lighthouse was owned by the Federal Government, why didn't it have to comply with the UDO?**

Federal properties are not required to follow local ordinances. When OBC was awarded ownership of the Lighthouse, the Federal exemption no longer applied.

**Does OBC have other options for parking and restrooms?**

OBC owns more than ten acres near the lighthouse, some of which may be suitable for parking and restrooms. With the monies collected from admissions and the retail shop, OBC has more than ample finances to provide the necessary facilities. In addition, the State owns 30 acres surrounding the Lighthouse property. Why should OBC expect the County to provide parking when there are several acres of available land next to the Lighthouse? Has

OBC approached the State regarding parking?

**Should Currituck County provide OBC with parking and restrooms for the Lighthouse?**

First of all, it is not the County's responsibility to provide facilities for private businesses. We question, "Should the County do this? Would it be an unwise and illegal use of tax dollars?" Secondly, the

*(continued on page 2)*

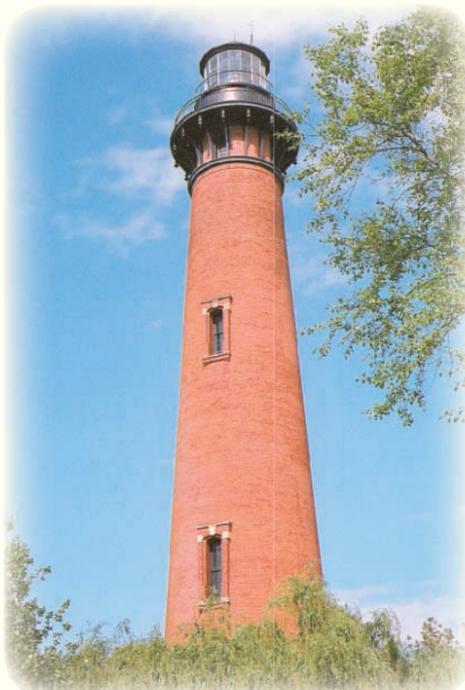


Photo by Becky Workman

### SPRING LITTER SWEEP 2005

*Commissioners Challenge Community to Participate in Cleanup Drive*

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners is asking community members to join them in taking part in Spring Litter Sweep 2005. This roadside cleanup effort is sponsored by the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and will be held in communities across the state on April 16-30. NCDOT crews, local governments, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, churches, civic groups, schools, businesses and others are encouraged to participate. The Commissioners and County employees will take part and ask citizens to meet the challenge and pick up trash in neighborhoods and roadways during this week. For more information, call the County's Public Information Office (232-0719) or the Litter Sweep Hotline (1-800-331-5864).

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

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## **Chairman's letter** (Continued from page one)

Whalehead Club and new Wildlife Education Center (located next to the Lighthouse grounds) will attract hundreds of thousands of visitors. If Lighthouse patrons use these parking spaces, it will not only inconvenience visitors to attractions that are located on County property, it could possibly put the County in violation of its own UDO. In addition, when the ferry from mainland Currituck to the Whalehead Club begins operation, this too will lead to the need for additional parking.

### ***The Board of Commissioners considered constructing a fence near the Lighthouse. Why?***

Unfortunately, the Board of Commissioners felt they were left with no other option in dealing with OBC's refusal to comply with the UDO but to build a fence; however, the Board has decided not to construct a fence at this time. Although several attempts have been made by the Commissioners and County officials to meet with OBC representatives and work through the parking and restroom problems, OBC has flatly refused to meet and/or comply with the ordinances. The Board believed constructing a fence between the Whalehead/Wildlife Education Center and Lighthouse properties could possibly be the only solution left in order to protect its interests. Although a fence will not be constructed, the County has filed a lawsuit against OBC.

### ***Why doesn't the County just make an exception for the Lighthouse and allow it to operate without the necessary permit?***

The UDO requires ALL businesses to comply with rules and regulations. If the County was to allow OBC to operate the Lighthouse and its gift shop without the necessary permit and facilities, why shouldn't other businesses be allowed to do the same?

It's the goal of the Board of Commissioners to protect the interests and welfare of the citizens of Currituck County. We have taken an oath to see that laws are followed and tax dollars are spent wisely.

One fact remains regarding the Currituck Beach Lighthouse: There are thousands of people who visit the Lighthouse each year, and those visitors need and deserve adequate restrooms and parking. We will take the necessary measures to ensure what is in the best interest of the County and its visitors. Let's hope that OBC will join us in providing what is needed for the public.

**Paul R. Martin, Chairman**

*Currituck County Board of Commissioners*

## **Want to get more involved in your community? Apply to serve on an advisory board**

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners invites citizens to participate on County advisory boards and committees. If you are a Currituck County resident, at least 18 years of age, and willing to volunteer your time and expertise to your community, please consider applying to serve on one of the advisory boards or committees listed below. Applications may be obtained by visiting the County's website ([www.visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com)), or by calling the County Manager's office at 232-2075, ext. 222.

- ABC Board
- Airport Advisory Board
- Board of Adjustment
- Economic Development Board
- Library Board
- Planning Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Board
- Recreation Committee
- and many others

## **Property Owners to Receive Tax Revaluation Notices**

A property revaluation is conducted every eight years. This is to ensure that all tax values reflect current market prices and that taxation is fair and equitable.

The tax revaluation for 2005 is nearly complete and property owners will soon receive notice of the new values. The tax value for Currituck County property is expected to increase, while the tax rate will decrease proportionally.

Taxpayers who believe the new tax value is more than the property's actual value are encouraged to complete the tear-off appeal form attached to the revaluation notice. This should be mailed or faxed to the assessor's office within 20 days of the date of notice. All appeals must be in writing.

The County's website, [www.visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com), contains more information about the revaluation and, in the coming weeks, will contain the assessed values and sales information of all property in Currituck County.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

The Knotts Island Ferry will suspend service for several weeks this summer. The N.C. Department of Transportation – Ferry



Division expects to stop ferry service for needed repairs in early June, after the school year ends. Operation should resume in August, just before the school year begins. These dates are subject to change. Visit NCDOT's website at [www.ncferry.org](http://www.ncferry.org) for the latest updates.

## **Tax Exemption Deadline: June 1, 2005**

North Carolina excludes \$20,000 or 50% of the appraised value of one's permanent residence for qualifying owners who meet ALL of the following requirements:

- Have an income for the preceding calendar year of not more than \$19,200.
- Are at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled.
- Are a North Carolina resident.

For more information, or to receive an application, call the Currituck County Tax Department at 232-3005.

## **Currituck County Board of Commissioners**

Paul R. Martin, *Chairman*  
S. Paul O'Neal, *Vice-Chairman*  
Eldon L. Miller, Jr.  
Ernie Bowden  
J. Owen Etheridge



Regular meeting times: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
(unless otherwise posted).

Meeting place: Historic Currituck Courthouse, Courthouse Road, Currituck

Meetings are open to the public.

## INCORPORATION OF CURRITUCK COUNTY

### Questions & Answers

**In recent months, the Currituck County Board of Commissioners has been discussing the possibility of incorporating the County.**



An Incorporation Commission was established to research the issue and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of countywide incorporation. The Commission, which was comprised of citizens from communities throughout the County, recommended to the Currituck County Board of Commissioners that the County instead seek to become a single unified (consolidated) government. This move would be

simpler and would give the County all the powers, rights and obligations of a city and a county.

The Board of Commissioners sent a resolution to the North Carolina General Assembly to request that Currituck County be a consolidated government. If Currituck County is successful in becoming a unified government, it would be the first county in the state to do so.

Sen. Mark Basnight, D-Dare, and State Rep. W.C. "Bill" Owens, D-Pasquotank both say they support Currituck County's effort to become a unified government.

### What are the benefits of Currituck becoming a unified government?

If Currituck County becomes a unified government, the County would:

- be better served by one local government than by two or more, with consistent coordination of government services;
- exercise all the powers of a city and county;
- prevent the duplication of services that would require citizens to pay both county and city taxes;
- have access to federal and state funding for road repair and maintenance;
- have consistent zoning regulations that address the needs and growth patterns of the County as a whole;
- enhance economic development in that potential businesses would prefer to locate where they will deal with only one level of government;
- be better able to provide for environmental protection such as dealing with stormwater runoff.

### If Currituck becomes a unified government, what will this mean to me as a citizen?

For the most part, citizens would not 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. By maintaining this current form of government, the County is more likely to continue operating in an efficient manner.

### Will my taxes increase?

No. Should Currituck County become a unified government, no additional taxes would be necessary to operate at the same level of service. In fact, one motivation for this legislation is to keep taxes low.

### Will there be changes in how the County is governed?

If Currituck becomes a unified government, it would not be necessary for the Commissioners to form a separate city council for the new government. The County could keep its current governing body – a board of commissioners – as well as its name, instead of replacing it with "City of Currituck."

### Will I be allowed to vote on whether the County adopts a unified government or not?

Yes. The resolution adopted by the County Commissioners states that a public referendum would be



held, giving citizens the final decision as to whether the County should become a consolidated government. Public hearings on the issue would be held prior to the referendum. A date for a referendum has not yet been set.

### Where can I find more information on Currituck County's effort to become a unified government?

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

# Programs, Services & Events...

## Cooperative Extension Offers a Variety of Programs

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension – Currituck County Center is an educational partnership helping people put research-based knowledge to work for economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and an improved quality of life. Extension staff coordinates educational programs, public meetings, workshops, field days, personal consultations and satellite broadcasts to help you improve your life. The Extension office is stocked with publications, newsletters, computer programs, and videotapes on a variety of topics. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; phone: 232-2261.

You can find us on the web at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/currituck/>

Some of Extension's upcoming programs and activities include:

### ServSafe® Food Safety Certification Training\*

Date: May 3 & 4  
Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days  
Location: Elizabeth City  
Open to: Restaurant Managers

### Area Craft Workshop\*

Date: May 10 & 11  
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Vernon James Center in Plymouth  
Open to: General public

### ITS-SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Training \*

Date: May 12  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Extension Kitchen  
Open to: Child care providers and parents



### Senior Health & Fitness Day

Date: May 25  
Time: 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Currituck Senior Center  
Open to: Senior adults

### Adult, Child, Infant CPR Training\*

Date: June 16 & 23  
Time: 6–9 p.m. both days  
Location: Currituck Extension Kitchen, Historic Courthouse Room 214  
Open to: General public

### Money Smart 10-Week Financial Management Series\*

Dates: July 5 – November 15  
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Northeastern Community Development Corporation, Camden  
Open to: Limited Resource families



\* Pre-registration is required and class space is limited; call 232-2261.

## Food Stamp Program Provides Nutrition Assistance to Those in Need

The Currituck County Department of Social Services is committed to ensuring that all eligible households and individuals have access to healthy, nutritional meals. The Food Stamp Program (FSP) provides nutrition assistance to eligible working families, the elderly and disabled individuals.

Many of the regulations that kept people from being eligible in the past have been changed. The program offers deductions from your income for housing costs, medical expenses (for elderly or disabled people), child care expenses, and obligated child support paid by a household member.

In addition, each licensed household member (18 years or older) can own a vehicle of any make and value, as well as own land/property, and may still be eligible for FSP benefits to supplement grocery expenses. All benefits are issued on a plastic card that you use just like a bank card at the grocery store.

There are several reasons why many elderly and disabled individuals do not participate in the FSP, such as a lack of information and a perceived lack of need. For many, receiving adequate benefits from the FSP could help prevent hunger, enhance nutritional and health status, and increase independence.

Please contact the Currituck County Department of Social Services at 232-3083 for more information. Applications are taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. at the DSS office, 2793 Caratoke Hwy., Currituck.

## Does Your Child Have Health Insurance?

**NC Health Choice for Children** provides low cost health insurance to qualifying children and teens. Health Choice is for children of working families who do not qualify for Medicaid and may not be able to afford private health insurance. Even children with one or two working parents earning \$35,000 a year or more may qualify. The program can also cover children living with grandparents, other family or friends.

Your child may be eligible for this low-cost health insurance if:

- Your family's monthly income meets the income level guidelines
- Your child is under 19 years old
- Your child has a valid Social Security number

For **NC Health Choice**, how much you pay depends on your family's income. You may only be charged a small co-payment for prescription drugs, OR you may pay a small yearly enrollment fee and co-payments for office visits, prescription drugs, and non-emergency visits to the Emergency Room. Some families may have a **yearly** fee of \$50 per child, but no more than \$100 per family.

Children in the NC Health Choice program must pay for prescription drugs. The costs are:

- \$1.00 for each generic drug;
- \$1.00 for each brand name drug which doesn't have a generic substitute;
- Either \$3.00 or \$10.00 for each brand name drug which has a generic substitute that could be purchased instead. Whether you will have to pay \$3 or \$10 depends on your family's income when you applied for NC Health Choice. Your child's NC Health Choice insurance card will tell you what you can expect to pay.

If you are required to pay a yearly enrollment fee, you may have small co-payments for visits to health care providers. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR checkups** (well-child care visits), **for shots** (immunizations), **or for regular teeth cleaning** (routine dental visits); however, there are co-payments for all other healthcare visits (including visits when your child is sick or needs to see a specialist like a physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, etc.). Co-payments are \$5 for an office visit and \$20 for non-emergency visits to the Emergency Room.

Please call Currituck County Department of Social Services at 232-3083 for more information, or to request an application.

# For Your Information ...

## Qualifying Families, Individuals Can Get Help with Heating and Cooling Costs

Families experiencing a heating or cooling emergency may be eligible for assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP). This program helps low-income households with their heating and cooling costs.

Each year, the Currituck County Department of Social Services receives a limited amount of funds for the CIP program. Families and individuals must meet certain income requirements.

The maximum payment amount is \$300 per household, per State fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). The funds can possibly be used for:

- Paying heating/cooling related deposits;
- Paying heating bills (this may include electric or gas bills, fuel oil, etc.);
- Bulk-buying (air conditioners, heating units, etc.);
- Utility payments (related to heating or cooling) which include, but are not limited to:
  - Bills; connection or reconnection fees; or security deposits.
- Home Repairs, which include - but are not limited to:
  - Heating or cooling appliance replacement or repair; insulation replacement; necessary wiring/circuit board replacements to be able to heat or cool home; replacement/repair of windows, roofs, walls, or any repair/replacement completed that would allow households the ability to heat or cool their homes.
- In-kind services such as blankets, space heaters, and warm clothing.

Please note that there is no specific application period for CIP. Call the Currituck County Department of Social Services (232-3083) to check on the availability of CIP funds, verify income criteria, or receive further information.



## Teach your children fire safety! One day it may save their lives...

Five-year-old Vincent Calvacante (pictured) knows the importance of fire safety. You see, he recently saved himself and his parents from their burning home. Because Vincent had been taught fire safety, he knew to act quickly and warn his parents of the smoke that was filling their residence.



All it takes is a few minutes to teach your children how to plan for, prevent, and respond to fire emergencies. You should also plan a home escape route and practice with your entire family.

For more information on fire safety, contact Dusty Ruscoe, Currituck County Fire Chief, at 232-6641. Fire safety information is also available on the County's website ([www.visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com)).

## Whalehead Club Open for Tours

The Whalehead Club at Currituck Heritage Park in Corolla opened its doors last month for the first tour of the season. The historic Whalehead Club was the private residence of wealthy industrialist Edward Collings Knight, Jr. and his wife, Marie Louise LeBel. The Knights built this grand private residence during



Photo courtesy of Steve Thomas

the "Golden Age of Fowl Hunting" and named it Corolla Island. The house, built in 1925, is one of the most unique displays of Art Nouveau architecture on the East Coast.

At the end of 2004, several original furnishings were acquired by the Whalehead Preservation Trust

and are now on display. Among them is a signed Louis Majorelle walnut table in the Art Nouveau style with lovely rosewood inlay and bronze mounts. It has been determined from photographs that a pair of end tables in this style was in the library during the Knight's occupation. There is a strong possibility that this table is part of the original pair. Also in the library is an Art Nouveau styled Louis Majorelle walnut tall case clock, commonly called a "Grandmother Clock." It was returned by a descendant of the house's second owner, Ray Adams. It now stands near Mrs. Knight's 1903 Steinway Piano, where it once stood during the Knight era. Additional furnishings have also been acquired and are currently being restored.

Currituck Heritage Park is a popular destination for weddings, family reunions, picnics, and leisurely fun on the Currituck Sound. Learn local history and heritage along self-guided walkways or signup for educational programs that will be offered daily.

Currituck Heritage Park is open from sunrise to dusk. The Whalehead Club is open for tours through Thanksgiving. Tours begin every half hour from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 per person and free for children up to 8 years old; group discounts are available. Daily specialty tours are available by reservation.

Call 453-9040 for more information or reservations. Visit the Whalehead Club website at [www.whaleheadclub.org](http://www.whaleheadclub.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

### ...Community groups may request speakers?



Owen Etheridge

Commissioner Owen Etheridge spoke recently to senior adults at the Currituck Senior Center. His presentation focused on the functions of local government and some of the services the County provides its citizens. Etheridge also answered questions on a variety of subjects and issues relating to the County. A **speaker's bureau** of Currituck County government officials and staff is currently

being developed. Community groups interested in requesting a speaker for meetings or other functions may call the Currituck County Public Information Office at 232-0719.



# Water Quality Report...

## 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Currituck County Water

PWS ID# 04-27-010

The Currituck County Water Department is pleased to report that the County's drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.

In an effort to keep customers informed, the Water Department is providing the following information concerning water quality. Included are details on water sources, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The department's goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water and help customers understand the efforts made by staff to continually improve the water treatment process and protect water resources.

### What the EPA Wants You to Know...

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people

with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC

**The 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report shows that Currituck County's water is safe and meets federal and state guidelines.**

**For additional information about water quality, call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include **microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; **inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater

discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; **pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; **organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and **radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source...

The water that is used by this system is 28 groundwater wells located off Maple Road and drawing from the Yorktown Aquifer. Currituck County obtains processed water from the South Camden Water Plant to supplement our water supply. This water is blended at the Currituck Water plant with our water for distribution.

### Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results...

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

The relative susceptibility rating of each source for Currituck County Water was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

### Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating
Currituck Wells 3,6,8,9,14,26	Lower
Currituck Wells 1,2,4,5,7,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,27,28	Moderate
South Camden Shallow Wells 1,2	Moderate
South Camden Deep Wells 1,2	Lower

## Jones part of team that ensures quality water to Currituck County citizens

Visitors to the Currituck County Mainland Water Plant will see two walls lined with numerous framed certificates. These "water walls," as the plant operators call them, reflect thousands of hours

of training and certifications achieved by employees.

Yama Jones is one of the plant operators whose name appears on many of those certificates. He has obtained the "A Well" water operator certification, which is the highest certification for North Carolina. In addition, he will test



Jones and the other plant operators test samples daily to ensure water is free of contaminants.

for the "A Distribution" certification this coming May.

"I've put in a lot of hours, trying to improve myself in my job," Jones said. "I try to do the best job I can."

Jones began employment with Currituck County in 1989. Over the years, he has worked for the maintenance, solid waste, and animal control departments. In 1996, Jones was hired as a meter reader for the water department. He used his off hours to study and work towards a water plant operator's certificate, which he obtained in 1997.

"Training and education are important," said Jones. "The state's

standards for water quality are very stringent...we always have to stay on our toes so we can deliver the best product possible."

Jones is one of four water operators who work at the Mainland Water Plant that is located on Maple Road. Dennis Curtis, the Chief Operator, and other employees maintain and operate the 28 groundwater wells and processing equipment that provide water to customers.

"We have an exceptionally good staff," said Leland Gibbs, Water Department Superintendent. "Our operators are very conscientious. They spend many hours training and working to obtain certifications."

Gibbs explained that Yama is an employee who continually goes above and beyond. "He is always ready and willing to do whatever is needed," he said.

Jones explained that plant operators are responsible for testing water samples every day for a variety of contaminants and bacteria. More intensive tests are conducted on a monthly basis, with samples sent to a lab in Elizabeth City.

Water from the mainland plant continually meets all federal and state water quality standards.

"People buy a lot of bottled water," said Jones. "But what they don't realize is that bottled water is not held to as strict of standards as the water we filter here at our plant. We deliver a good, safe product that is pleasing to the palate. That's our goal."

Jones says he will continue to train and hopefully add even more certificates to the "water wall." It's his mission, he says, to "do the best job I can possibly do."

# Water Quality Report (continued)...



## 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Currituck County Water

The complete SWAP Assessment report for Currituck County Water may be viewed on the Web at: <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws/swap> To obtain a printed copy of this report, please mail a written request to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1634, or email request to [swap@ncmail.net](mailto:swap@ncmail.net). Please indicate your system name, PWSID, and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report please contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at 919-715-2633.

It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the system’s potential to become contaminated by PCSs in the assessment area.

### Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year...

During 2004, or during any compliance period that ended in 2004, Currituck **did not** receive a violation.

### What If I Have Any Questions Or Would Like to Become More Involved?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Leland Gibbs at Currituck County Water 453-2155. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled monthly meetings; please call for an appointment.

### Water Quality Data Table of Detected Contaminants

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2004.** The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

### Important Drinking Water Definitions:

*Not-Applicable (N/A)* – Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or for that particular Rule.

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at

the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The “Goal”(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Extra Note: MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

### Currituck County Water Facts...

- Again this year, Currituck County’s water met all federal and state requirements for water quality. Water is tested daily by plant operators.
- The average family of four pays less than 1/2 cent per gallon for clean, fresh water delivered to their home.
- The Water Department staff handles 6,524 active accounts; this reflects a customer base increase of 553 accounts for 2004.
- The department processed a total of 66,248 water bills during 2004. This includes accounts for mainland and Currituck Outer Banks customers.
- This past year, a total of 53,304 meters were read; this reflects an increase of 3,324 meters since 2003.
- The Water Distribution staff maintains and repairs the water lines that deliver over 310 million gallons of water to customers each year.
- The County’s water source is 28 groundwater wells located off Maple Road, drawing from the Yorktown Aquifer. Currituck also purchases some water from Camden County.
- The Water Plant operates an average of 15 hours per day, seven days per week.
- In 2005, the Water Department will implement an online payment system for water bills.

### CURRITUCK WATER CCR RESULTS 2004 Unregulated Inorganics Contaminant

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range		Proposed MCL
			Low	High	
Sulfate (ppm)	6/14/04	9mg/L	N/A		500

### Unregulated VOC Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range	
			Low	High
Chloroform (ppm)	12/1/04	.00417 mg/L	N/A	
Bromodichloromethane (ppm)	12.1/04	0131 mg/L	N/A	
Bromoform (ppb)	12/1/04	0283 mg/L	N/A	
Chlorodibromomethane (ppm)	12/01/04	0427 mg/L	N/A	

### Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MBLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	8/13/02	.486mg/L	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppm) (90th percentile)	8/13/02		0	0	AL=1.5	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppm) (Total Trihalomethans)	N	.057mg.L	N/A	N/A	.080	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppm) (Total Haloacetic Acids)	N	.0044mg.L	N/A	N/A	.060	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### SOUTH CAMDEN WATER CCR RESULTS 2004

#### Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppm) (Total Trihalomethans)	N	.055	N/A	N/A	.080	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppm) (Total Haloacetic Acids)	N	.049	N/A	N/A	.060	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm) (Total Haloacetic Acids)	N	.76	.64 .87	MRDLOG=4	MRDL=4	Water Additive Used to Control Microbes

#### Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	MCL
Copper (ppm) (90th percentile)	7/28/04	/101	0	1.3	AL=1.3
Lead (ppb) (90th percentile)	7/28/04	<3	1	0	AL=15

#### Unregulated VOC Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water
Bromoform (ppb)	1/05/04	3.2
Bromoform (ppb)	4/13/04	2.7
Bromoform (ppb)	8/19/04	44.0
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	8/19/04	2.0
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	1/05/04	1.2
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	4/13/04	1.2
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	8/19/04	9.0

# Currituck - For your information...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Kindergarten Registration for the 2005-2006 School Year**

Thursday, April 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m. at each of the county's elementary schools. Children must be 5 years old by October 16, 2005 in order to enroll. Parents should bring the child's original birth certificate, immunization records, and recent physical verification.

Call the Superintendent's office at 232-2223 for details.

### **N.C. Department of Transportation Spring 2005 Litter Sweep**

Volunteer for the Annual Spring Roadside Cleanup to be held April 16 - 30 in communities across North Carolina.

To register, call the Litter Sweep Hotline at 1-800-331-5864.

### **"Bring Your Own Plant" Bonsai Class**

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Currituck County Center located at the Historic Currituck Courthouse, Courthouse Rd., Currituck. Call 252-232-2261 to sign up.

### **Currituck Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Currituck County Public Library in Barco. Call the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Currituck County Center at 232-2261 for more information.

### **Senior Health and Fitness Day**

Wednesday, May 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Currituck Senior Center. Activities will include health screenings, demonstrations, football and softball toss, nutrition bingo, cake walks, lunch, and much more.

Call the Senior Center at 252-232-3505 to register.

Sponsored by N.C. Cooperative Extension - Currituck County Center, the Currituck Senior Center, Currituck Parks and Recreation, and Albemarle Regional Health.

The Currituck County Regional Airport was the scene for a recent taping of the popular television show "Monster Garage." Jesse James, the show's host, and a film crew from the Discovery Channel taped the segment entitled the "Flying Car Challenge." Numerous media covered the event, including CBS news, The Jay Leno Show, and Popular Mechanics. "Monster Garage" takes a team of mechanics and has them transform an ordinary vehicle into an extraordinary machine, all within one week. For this segment, the team converted a Panoz sports car into a flying vehicle. This unusual car - and its successful flight - will be featured in the show's two-hour season finale to be aired in June.



Jesse James (top) greets fans at the Currituck Regional Airport. Approximately 250 people stood outside in the cold weather to get a glimpse of James and his flying car. At left, James walks to the car after a photo shoot for Popular Mechanics magazine. The Panoz sports car (bottom) heads down the airport runway and eventually lifts about two feet into the air, proving the flying car a success.



Photos by Becky Workman

## **Currituck County Online Information & Services at**

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

- Search real estate listings
- Pay property taxes
- Apply for a job
- Learn about government departments
- Apply for volunteer board positions
- View and print GIS maps
- Find Currituck County official forms



## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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

Memorial Day	May 30, 2005
Independence Day	July 4, 2005
Labor Day	September 5, 2005



County of Currituck  
P.O. Box 39  
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