



FOCUS ON CURRITUCK

A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2005

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT Citizens Will Soon Cast Their Ballots

Legislation that would allow the citizens of Currituck County to vote on the County becoming a Unified Government passed with overwhelming support in both the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives. A public referendum will be scheduled in the near future. As soon as a date has been decided, it will be released to the public and local media via press releases and the County's website, www.visitcurrituck.com.

A special edition of *Focus on Currituck* will address the subject and provide answers to frequently asked questions about the Unified Government concept. It will be mailed to all citizens prior to the referendum.

Currituck County has also established a public information campaign to inform the community on what this form of government would mean to citizens. The County's goal is not to encourage citizens to vote for or against a Unified Government; it is to provide people with the information so that they can make an informed and educated decision.

If you would like to request a speaker for your civic group or organization meeting, please contact the Currituck County Public Information Department at 232-0719.

Make your voice heard...vote!

Grab Your Beach Chair And Sunscreen... New Department Promotes Tourism



Currituck County attracts thousands of visitors each year. Elegant vacation homes, a spectacular coastline, and a wide variety of things to do help make Currituck a premiere vacation destination.



To boost promotion efforts, the Travel & Tourism Department was formed. It is primarily funded through occupancy tax, a lodging tax paid by tourists.

Department employees have been developing a marketing plan that includes:

- Promoting all of Currituck County, not just the Outer Banks;
- Creating a new image regarding tourism that is geared more towards family vacations;
- Creating a comprehensive travel guide and tourism website that will include information on attractions and businesses such as restaurants, gift shops, farm markets, vineyards, and more;
- Conducting research to study the effectiveness of marketing efforts;
- Stepping up advertising efforts to include more ads in printed publications;



Currituck Outer Banks Visitors Center
in Corolla

- Utilizing the Internet for e-marketing and pay-per-click options.

"Expanding and improving travel and tourism is important for many reasons," said Diane Sawyer, Tourism Department Director. "It assists in the growth and development of businesses and makes an investment in the creation of jobs. In addition, tourism brings in millions of dollars in occupancy and sales tax. When visitors spend money in Currituck County, citizens benefit through lower tax rates and improved resources and services."

(See *Tourism* on page two)



Focus On Currituck: A Report to the Community
is produced by the Currituck County Public Information Department.

Diane C. Sawyer, *Director*
John R. Nixon, *Information & Communications Officer*

Daniel F. Scanlon, II, *County Manager*
Post Office Box 39, Currituck, NC 27929
Phone: 232-0719

Website: www.visitcurrituck.com
E-mail: contactus@co.currituck.nc.us

12,000 copies of this publication
were printed at a cost of \$0.21 per copy

Currituck / Community Update...

Currituck County Public Library Offers Computer Classes

The following computer classes are offered at the Currituck County Public Library each month, except July and August. The classes are free and open to the public. Call the library for schedules and reservations (453-8345).

Introduction to the Library Catalog

Participants will learn to use the library's computer catalog to access resources in the library collection.

Computer Basics for Beginners

Participants will learn to use Windows, the mouse, and other basic techniques.

Internet Basics

Participants will learn to use a web browser, web addresses, and search engines to explore the internet.

E-Mail Basics

Participants will learn to set up and use an e-mail account using Yahoo Mail.

Microsoft Word Level I

Participants will learn to create, edit, format, and print a short document.

Microsoft Word Level II

Participants will learn to create a one-page document, correspondence, envelopes and mailing labels. They will also learn to use graphics, font styles, and colors.

Microsoft Word Level III

Prerequisite Microsoft I & II or equivalent.

Introduction to Excel

Participants will learn the basics of the program and how to create simple spread sheets.

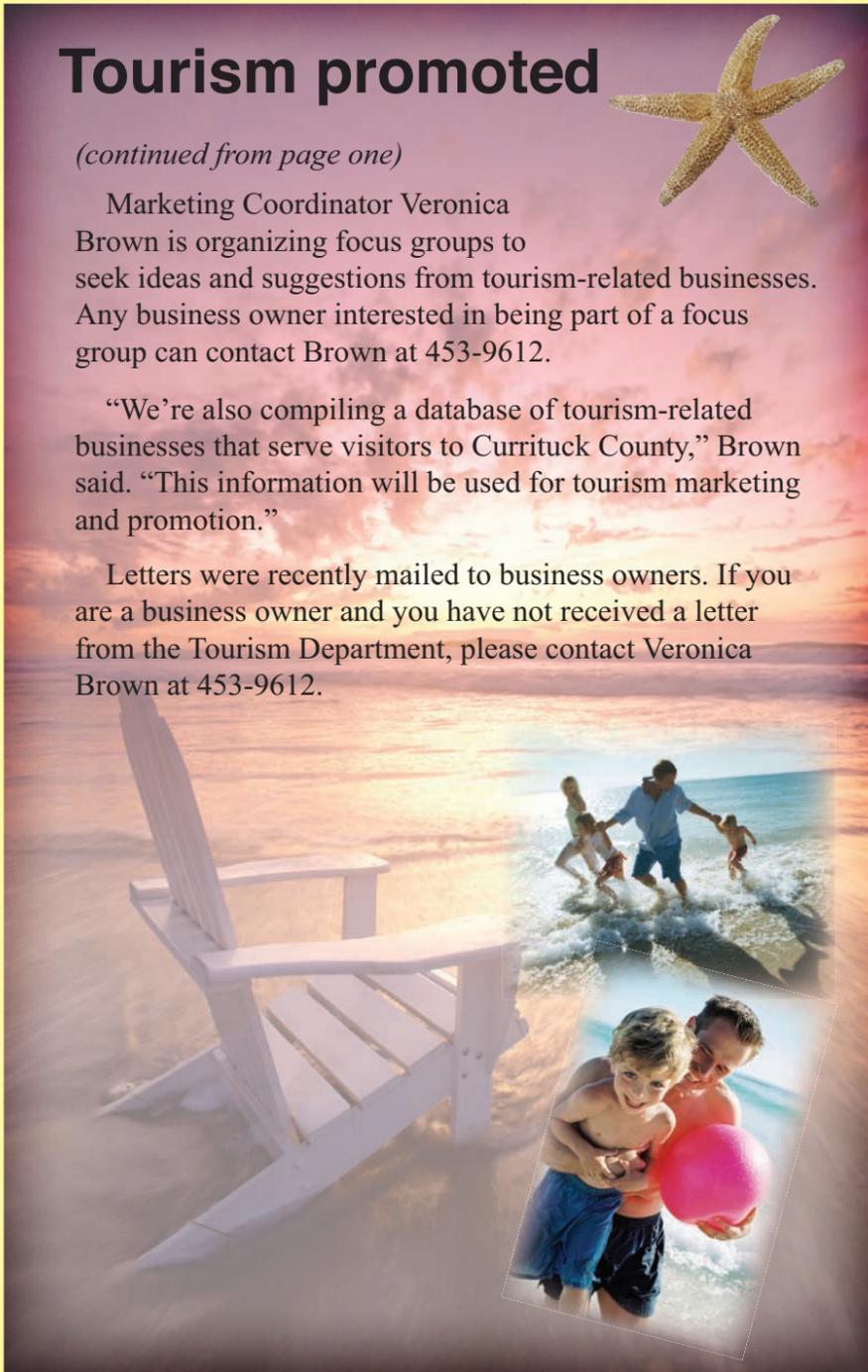
Tourism promoted

(continued from page one)

Marketing Coordinator Veronica Brown is organizing focus groups to seek ideas and suggestions from tourism-related businesses. Any business owner interested in being part of a focus group can contact Brown at 453-9612.

"We're also compiling a database of tourism-related businesses that serve visitors to Currituck County," Brown said. "This information will be used for tourism marketing and promotion."

Letters were recently mailed to business owners. If you are a business owner and you have not received a letter from the Tourism Department, please contact Veronica Brown at 453-9612.



YOUR VOTE COUNTS: News from the Board of Elections



The Currituck County Board of Elections recently completed a process to remove ineligible voters from official records and give voters an opportunity to update their voting records. This is a requirement of the State Board of Elections to comply with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the National Voter Registration Act of 2002 (NVRA).

- Some registered voters will be mailed a new voter verification card. If the information is correct, the card does not need to be returned. **Please remember if you move, change your name, or have any other changes, notify the Election Board.** On Election Day, you will be glad you did!
- The Knotts Island Precinct will be voting at a new location during the next election. The Election Board voted to move the polling place from Knotts Island Elementary School to the Senior Citizen/Ruritan Building, located at 126 Brumley Road. The Board anticipates that this will be a beneficial move for the voters of the Knotts Island Precinct.
- Voters will see new voting equipment in 2006. The public will have a chance to see this equipment before it is put in place, and demonstrations of the new machines will be set up throughout the county. The Election Board will be available for presentations to organizations as well.

For more information, contact the Board of Elections office at 232-2525.

Getting Nutritional Assistance is a 'SNAP!'

North Carolina's proposed Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP, reinvents the way food assistance is delivered to elderly individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Who is eligible? The Division of Social Services in Raleigh will identify and automatically mail applications to individuals who:

- receive SSI
- are age 65 or older
- are not living in an institution
- live in North Carolina
- purchase and prepare food separately from other household members
- are not currently receiving food stamp benefits



Procedure: A simplified application will be mailed to individuals who meet the above selection criteria. Once completed, the application must be returned to your local Department of Social Services. (Note: A second application is mailed automatically if the initial application is not returned within 30 days.)

Currituck County Board of Commissioners

Paul R. Martin, *Chairman, At-Large*
S. Paul O'Neal, *Vice-Chairman, Poplar Branch Township*

Eldon L. Miller, Jr., *Moyock Township*

Ernie Bowden, *Fruitville Township*

J. Owen Etheridge, *Crawford Township*



Send an e-mail to the Commissioners at commissioners@co.currituck.nc.us.

Board of Commissioner meetings are aired on Mediacom Channel 18 every Monday and Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.

Fire Departments' Bookkeeping Switches Hands

In an effort to streamline the financial systems and provide more financial accountability of local fire departments, the Currituck County Finance Department has assumed the bookkeeping responsibilities for all six of the volunteer organizations.

Recent concerns over the use of public funds have prompted County officials to take measures ensuring tax dollars are utilized as efficiently as possible.

How is fire protection provided to the citizens of Currituck County?

There are six volunteer fire departments – Carova, Corolla, Crawford, Knotts Island, Lower Currituck, and Moyock – currently operating in Currituck County. Each is manned by a team of volunteer firefighters supplemented by County Emergency Medical staff. The departments operate primarily using public funds that go towards the purchase of facilities, fire trucks, equipment, etc. A countywide Fire Chief works with the departments to oversee the County's fire services program. In addition, he promotes the bulk purchasing of equipment and supplies and encourages uniform training among the departments.

Why did officials decide to have the County Finance Department take on bookkeeping responsibilities?

The growing administrative demands experienced by the fire departments are increasing workloads and, in some cases, leading to the need to hire full-time bookkeepers. By the County's Finance Department handling the finances, the need for individual bookkeepers at each department will be eliminated. This will be a **substantial savings** to taxpayers. Fire service budgets in many counties, including Pasquotank County, are managed through county finance departments.

In addition, two of the Currituck fire departments did not meet the requirements of submitting annual financial audits in a timely manner.

Currituck County's fire services are funded extremely well, with a total of over \$2 million dollars budgeted each year for the departments. The Board of Commissioners has a responsibility to the taxpayers to see that these funds are spent wisely.

Does the County have plans to take over operations of the volunteer fire departments?

No. The County has no plans to assume day-to-day operations of any of the fire departments. The volunteer firefighters are doing an excellent job of providing fire protection to the public, and the County has no intentions of making any changes to this service.

The County **IS NOT** proposing:

- to take title of existing buildings, equipment or apparatus;
- to interfere with the departments' internal operations or decision making process;
- or to manage any funds other than public funds.

What the County **IS** doing:

- acting as the treasurer for each fire department;
- taking advantage of lower prices by purchasing equipment and supplies in bulk;
- standardizing equipment among the departments;
- and ensuring the same level of fire protection in each fire district.

Future purchases of apparatus, land and facilities that are bought with taxpayer funds will be titled to the taxpayers.

What are some of the firefighters saying about the new bookkeeping process?

Craig Norville, Moyock Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief, says he supports Currituck County's efforts to unify the departments and oversee the bookkeeping. "I don't feel the County is trying to take over the fire departments. They're just looking to



streamline the system," he said. "This isn't a new trend that they're starting. It's done this way in many other counties. I've been involved in fire services in other counties, and there has always been public oversight."

Richard Lane, Moyock Fire Chief, believes that his department will benefit by the County taking over the bookkeeping responsibility. "In fact," Lane said, "with the County doing this, it'll help us do our job more efficiently, leaving us more time for training, paperwork, and other jobs."

The Board of Commissioners, along with County staff, are working to see that citizens receive the services they deserve while the fire department volunteers receive the resources they require to protect the public and continue to provide quality service.



Fourteen men and women recently graduated from the Moyock Fire Academy, an intensive six-month training program aimed at sharpening the skills of firefighters.

Graduates Of Fire Academy Prepared To Serve

After months of classroom instruction and hands-on training, the latest graduates of the Moyock Fire Academy are more prepared to fight fires and serve their community.

Fourteen men and women recently completed an intense program aimed at making them better firefighters. The Moyock Fire Academy, which first began just over two years ago, is offered through a partnership with College of the Albemarle.

According to Richard Lane, Fire Chief of the Moyock Volunteer Fire Department, the program runs from January through June and is held two evenings per week and on Saturdays. Participants log a total of approximately 500 hours of classroom and hands-on training. Those who complete the program are certified as Level II firefighters.

Students enrolled in the program are from Currituck and surrounding counties. Some are beginner firefighters, while others are seasoned volunteers who participate in the course to sharpen their skills.

The participants not only receive basic firefighter training, they also learn related safety techniques. "We teach hazardous materials operations, chain saw safety, and much more," said Lane.

"Each firefighter who attended this academy has gone above and beyond to attain the levels and standards...to be prepared," Lane said. "They've shown a true commitment to their community."

A recognition ceremony for the latest graduates was held recently. Graduates from Currituck included: **Kevin Ayers**, Moyock VFD; **Tabitha Carter**, Crawford VFD; **Jamie Czajka**, Moyock VFD; **William Greene**, Lower Currituck VFD; **Lt. Brooks Hart, Jr.**, Lower Currituck VFD; **Frederick Lane, III**, Knotts Island VFD; **Michael Lane**, Moyock VFD; **Clarence Lilly, Jr.**, Crawford VFD; **Bruce Miller, Jr.**, Lower Currituck VFD; **Lt. James Morris**, Lower Currituck VFD; **Asst. Chief Robert Norville**, Moyock VFD; **Kevin Old**, Moyock VFD; **Michael Todd**, Moyock VFD; and **Laura Walter**, Crawford VFD.

Instructors included (all from Moyock VFD): **Fire Chief Richard Lane**, **Asst. Chief George Bergamini**, **Capt. Bobby Lane**, **Lt. Robert Pervere**, and **Firefighter Kevin Czajka**.

It's Hurricane Season ...

Are You Prepared?

With the 2005 hurricane season underway, local emergency personnel encourage citizens to be prepared and know where to obtain vital information before, during and after a storm.

"Being a coastal community, our residents need to be aware and make preparations for the possibility that a hurricane will strike," said Stanley Griggs, Emergency Management Director. "This means residents should have an evacuation plan and know what supplies they will need."

Where are hurricane advisories for Currituck County posted? How do I know when an evacuation order has been issued by County officials?

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) issues hurricane advisories periodically during storms. These advisories address weather conditions, predicted landfall areas, and evacuation notices, if needed. Advisories are posted on the County's website (www.visitcurrituck.com) and on local cable government access channels, as well as sent to local media (radio and television stations, newspapers). Should power outages occur, the media and County website may not be able to post advisories. A battery-powered radio is usually an effective resource since many radio stations have generators and can continue to broadcast.

Where to find resource information:

Telephone (for County offices) –
 Emergency Management 232-2115
 Public Information 232-0719

Internet sites -
 Currituck Co. Emergency Management: www.visitcurrituck.com
 National Weather Service: www.nws.noaa.gov
 National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
 Currituck Co. Public Schools: www.currituck.k12.nc.us
 FEMA: www.fema.gov
 Dominion NC Power: www.dom.com
 Eastern NC Natural Gas: www.eneng.com
 NC Dept. of Transportation: www.ncdot.org

Local radio and television stations –
 WCXL-FM – 104.1
 WRSF-FM - 105.7
 WERX-FM - 102.5
 WKJX-FM - 96.7
 WOBR-FM - 95.3
 WOBX-FM - 98.1
 WCNC-AM - 1240
 WZBO-AM - 1260
 WVOD-FM – 99.1
 WGAI-AM – 560
 Mediacom Government Access – Channel 18
 WTKR-3 CBS www.wtkr.com
 WAVY-10 NBC www.wavy.com
 WVEC-13 ABC www.wvec.com
 WSKY-4 IND www.wsky4.com



When an evacuation order is issued, do I REALLY need to evacuate?

Emergency Management officials will order an evacuation if conditions are expected to be dangerous. While no one will force you to leave your home, it is strongly advised that you follow the suggestion of officials and evacuate for the safety of you and your family. Those living in low-lying areas and manufactured homes are especially vulnerable to storm damage and/or flooding, but the danger is not exclusive to these areas.

What are the evacuation routes for Currituck County?

Persons evacuating from the Currituck Outer Banks should follow NC 12 south to US 158 west. Mainland residents should travel US 158 west, NC 168 north. (See map to right)

What should I do with storm debris?

The only debris that is picked up by DOT or the County is that which is generated by a State of Emergency or other state/federal declared disaster. **NO COMMERCIAL OR NEW CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Debris pickup will be available for a LIMITED TIME.

Storm debris should be placed beside the roadway (State-maintained

roads) and off of the pavement, but in the right-of-way. Use caution not to put items too close to the road as it may cause obstruction. Stacks of debris should be in manageable piles and not of an excessive height.

The following types of debris will be picked up (must be separated by type):

- *Vegetative: limbs/branches, trees, leaves, stumps, etc.
- *Metals: siding, structural steel, roofing, etc.
- *Construction/building materials and wood furniture

Please save household chemicals, pesticides, motor oil, gasoline, paint, and other hazardous materials for collection at a later date. Do not put these materials in with household trash.

Do I need a re-entry permit to get back in the County following a hurricane?

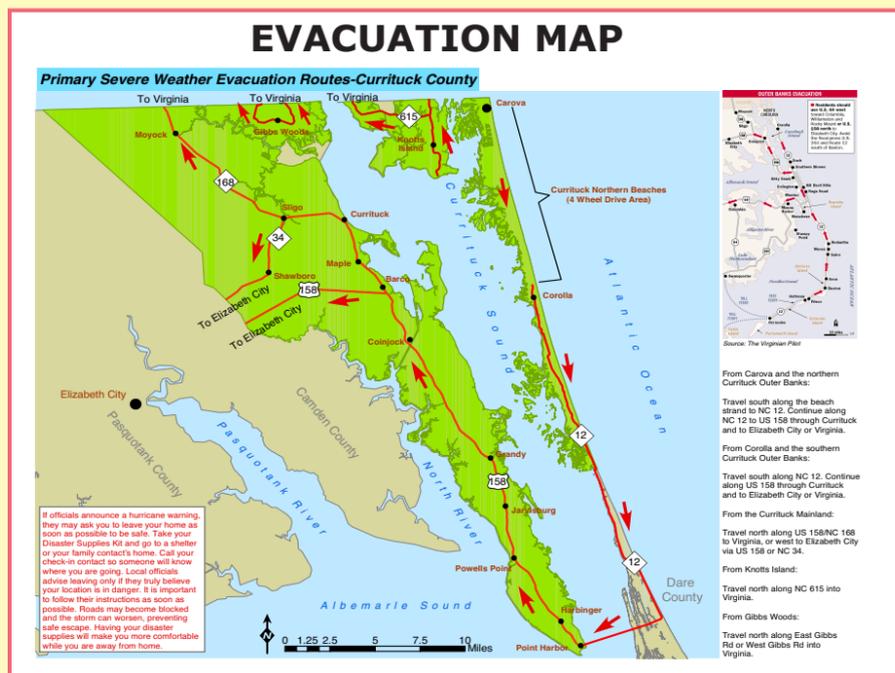
Re-entry will be permitted for citizens only when Emergency officials declare it safe for them to return to their homes. If the County has suffered severe, widespread damage, **mainland residents will need a driver's license or other form of identification that shows they are a resident and/or property owner.** This could include a water bill, tax bill, deed, rental agreement, etc.



Property owners and residents of the Currituck Outer Banks have been mailed re-entry permits. If you have not yet received a 2005-2006 re-entry permit, call the Emergency Management office at 232-2115. One of the reasons these permits are issued is to expedite your re-entry; however, should you need to re-enter the County and do not have a re-entry permit, you can show another form of identification such as a driver's license, tax bill, water bill, rental agreement, or any other document that shows you reside or own property on the Currituck Outer Banks. **REMINDER: Your re-entry permit does not grant you re-entry until emergency officials decide it is safe to do so. Mainland residents DO NOT need a re-entry permit, but they DO need proof of residency.**

Currituck County business owners and employees have been issued special permits with the following re-entry guidelines:

- Priority One** – includes essential personnel: fire, EMS, law enforcement, utilities, damage assessment team, and essential hotel employees to provide housing for recovery personnel
- Priority Two** – includes residents and critical businesses (essential personnel): food service, drug stores, banks, gas stations, insurance, property management, building supply, local contractors, and tree removal
- Priority Three** – non-resident employees of non-critical businesses; non-resident property owners
- Priority Four** – visitors and the general public



Terrorism Exercise Tests County's Emergency Preparedness

While the Boy Scouts coined the term "Be Prepared," Currituck County employees have been putting their own preparation skills to the test.

A two-day training session held recently at Jarvisburg Church of Christ had County Emergency Management, law enforcement, and other staff members practicing response tactics to a simulated Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident. This practice terrorism exercise allowed the County's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to assess its emergency response plan. The exercise not only served as a simulation for a WMD incident, but it also helped adjust the county's Emergency Operations Plan for emergency situations (i.e. hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.).

The event brought together county emergency management coordinators, as well as state and federal agencies including the FBI, SBI, Fire & Medical Services, NC Highway Patrol, and the National Guard. While the focus was on the Currituck County's Emergency Management Plan, the exercise gave participants an opportunity to evaluate current concepts, plans, and capabilities for preventing or responding to a terrorist incident in all nine northeast NC counties.

For the exercise, participants responded to a simulated terrorist attack



Sgt. Walker (center) of the National Guard's Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, conducted a briefing during a recent terrorist training drill that was hosted in Currituck County. County Manager Dan Scanlon (left) served as the Incident Commander for the event that included nine counties, as well as state and federal agencies.

of a radiological "dirty bomb" that detonated near a Currituck County school. Players learned valuable lessons on how to maximize life while minimizing risk.

Stanley Griggs, Emergency Management Director, was pleased with the county's performance on the exercise. "We learned a lot about what works and what we need to improve on in the future," said Griggs.

In attendance was Gerald Rudisill, Jr, Deputy Secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. Secretary Rudisill stated, "The exercise was well developed and reflected an enormous amount of prior planning. I thought the working relationships of the players...were quite solid. The manner in which the county's leaders engaged in the exercise could serve as a model."

Currituck County recently implemented a new computer program – WebEOC – that allows county emergency management coordinators to communicate faster and more precisely using the Internet. "We feel more prepared than ever," said Dan Scanlon, County Manager. "With new technology and redefined communication guidelines, county employees are prepared to do their best when an emergency strikes."

'HOLD THE SALT, PLEASE'

New System Providing Water to Outer Banks Customers

Now fully operational, the Southern Outer Banks Water System (SOBWS) is delivering fresh water to thousands of residents and guests from Ocean Sands to Corolla Village. Capable of producing two million gallons of water a day, the state-of-the-art system is comprised of two separate plants contained within one facility.



A traditional "conventional system" processes water from a shallow aquifer with a series of additives and chemicals to remove impurities. The second system is a "reverse osmosis" process, by which saltwater is passed through a series of filters removing the salt and

turning what would be undrinkable water into crystal clear tap water.

The plant is operated by six employees, including a Water Superintendent, Plant Chief Operator, Distribution Supervisor, and three Water Plant Operators.

Patrick Irwin, SOBWS Superintendent, claims the reverse osmosis system as his favorite feature of the new facility. "It never ceases to amaze me how unusable, brackish saltwater can be turned into pure, drinking water," said Irwin.

Pulling from five deep wells over 250 feet below ground, the system taps into an abundant source of saltwater that is deemed useless by many other plants. Under 200 lbs. of pressure, the saltwater passes through a series of micro-filters, and accumulated salt is removed. The water then moves to a 1.5 million-gallon storage tank until it is ready for consumption.

With the system now serving a majority of the Currituck Outer Banks, residents have noticed a great difference in the water quality. The SOBWS already has proven to be a highly worthwhile investment.

For questions, customers may call the Currituck County Water Dept. at 232-2769, ext. 225 or e-mail bwuest@co.currituck.nc.us. Technical/construction questions should be directed to Patrick Irwin at 453-2620 or 453-2370; e-mail sobws@compueasy.com.

A dedication of the water plant will be held Thursday, September 1, 2 o'clock p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Citizens are Encouraged to Recycle

Currituck County's population is growing at a rapid pace, a trend that is expected to continue. Low taxes, good schools, and family-friendly communities have spurred many to make Currituck their home.

With business and population growth, many concerns arise, but none can impact our quality of life or personal well-being more than proper waste disposal. Growing concerns of what to do with the increase in trash production is of vital importance to the County and its citizens. Recycling helps us address this problem.



- ◆ County employees recently began litter pickup for a section of US 168 and Courthouse Road through the Adopt-a-Highway program. While this is an energetic start, recycling can help prevent the need for more such services in the future. Reducing our amount of waste will help prevent the construction of landfills and increased trash in our streams.
- ◆ All eight county convenience stations offer a wide variety of recycling options. Each center breaks down recyclables into the following: aluminum and tin; newspapers/telephone books; plastics (#1, #2); glass (green, clear and brown); cardboard; yard waste; bulky items; white goods (stoves, refrigerators); Antifreeze; used motor oil; lead acid batteries; and tires. **Please remember: items too large for the convenience centers should be taken to the County's transfer station in Maple. This includes large tree limbs and other yard debris.**
- ◆ Recycling does work, and it is helping to make sure we leave our planet healthy and beautiful for future generations to enjoy. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, recycling and composting activities in 1999 prevented about 64 million tons of material from ending up in landfills and incinerators. Today, the United States recycles 28 percent of its waste, a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years.

Please take the initiative to recycle and help keep our waters clean and landscapes beautiful. For additional information on County recycling programs, contact Currituck County Public Works at 232-2504.

Social, educational opportunities are plentiful at the senior centers

As our senior adult population continues to grow, local senior centers are becoming increasingly popular.

These facilities – including the ones in Currituck County – have become a haven for adults looking for activities, information, and opportunities to interact and mingle with others older adults. Funded by local government and supplemented by the Albemarle Commission, the centers offer a wide variety of social and educational programs.

The senior centers were originally founded as a pantry service, providing meals to area seniors in need. They were formed to provide older adults healthy, well-balanced meals, as well as a place to interact, reminisce and participate in programs, workshops and classes.

Currituck County currently has three senior center locations: **Currituck**, located at 2793 Caratoke Hwy., Currituck; **Powells Point**, located at 8011 Caratoke Hwy., Powells Point; and **Knotts Island**, located at 129 Brumley Rd., Knotts Island. Each center offers educational and nutritional programs, organizes home-delivered meals, offers exercise classes, and plans social functions.

Over 200 participants and volunteers take part in senior center programs. These include a variety of lecturers providing insight and expertise in a multitude of subjects ranging from healthcare concerns, to social security, to local issues.

Senior Center coordinator, Diane Bray, hired in August 2002, oversees the facilities. She has brought a renewed vitality to the programs and strives to provide a wide variety of activities and programs such as line dancing, knitting, computer classes, nutritional programs, and group trips.

“I enjoy working with the senior adults,” said Bray. “They have lived such full and fascinating lives and have so many wonderful stories to tell. That deserves to be acknowledged,” she said.

Ann Sawyer, better known as “Miss Ann,” works at the Currituck center,



The year's most outstanding volunteers were honored at the annual Senior Center Luncheon.

warmly greeting visitors as they arrive. She has served as a volunteer and assistant coordinator since the center opened back in the early 1990s. “The people are the most important and gratifying part of my job,” she said.

The home-delivered meals program is seeking volunteers. Anyone interested is asked to contact: Donna Gregoire, Currituck Senior Center, 232-3505; Lou Hemmreich, Powells Point Senior Center, 491-8173; or Jan Morgan, Knotts Island Senior Center, 429-3231.

‘Eat Smart’ program addresses childhood obesity



Overweight children and adults have reached epidemic proportions nationally as well as in North Carolina. The NC Cooperative Extension – Currituck County Center offers the “Eat Smart, Move More” program directed at children ages 0 – 5 years. The program uses children’s books with nutrition themes to teach the importance of eating right and getting physically fit. Participating staff visit day care centers, family homes, kindergarten classes, and preschools, sharing the nutrition message through a variety of fun experiences.

Those interested in having an instructor visit a kindergarten class, preschool, day care center, or home may contact Sheila Gregory, Erline Jones or Georgia Kight at 232-2261.

NEW EBT ISSUANCE SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The issuance dates for Food Stamp Electronic Benefits Transfers (EBT) changed in July. Household Food Stamp benefits will still be placed on EBT accounts based on the last number of the individual’s Social Security Number (SSN); however, the issuance dates have changed. The new issuance schedule is:

If the SSN ends in:	Households benefits will be available after 6:00 a.m. on the:
1	3 rd day of every month
2	4 th day of every month
3	5 th day of every month
4	6 th day of every month
5	7 th day of every month
6	8 th day of every month
7	9 th day of every month
8	10 th day of every month
9	11 th day of every month
0	12 th day of every month

For questions regarding this change, please contact the Food Stamp EBT Call Center at 1-866-719-0141 or the CARELINE at 1-800-662-7030 (English/Spanish), or 1-877-452-2514 (TTY). These numbers can be called at no cost from home telephones.

DID YOU KNOW?

The countywide property tax rate has been lowered:

Revenue neutral tax rate	=	28¢
Countywide fire tax rate	=	2¢
School capital reserve tax	=	2¢
Total countywide tax rate	=	32¢

Telephone pinning now available for EBT cards

Food Stamp clients who have been issued an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card can now call a toll free telephone number to select their PIN number. As a result, clients will no longer need to go to the Social Services office to select their PIN through the system. This will allow recipients to use their Food Stamp benefits more quickly. The card mailer envelope that holds newly issued Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards will provide instructions on how the caller can get their PIN assigned. The EBT Customer Service # is 1-888-622-7328. Anyone requiring help with this process can still come to the Social Services office.

CURRITUCK COUNTY SCHOOLS 2005-2006 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August	February
18-24 Workdays*	20 Workday*
25 First Day for Students	
26 Early Release Day**	March
September	28 End of Grading Period
2 Early Release Day**	29 Workday*
5 Labor Day Holiday*	April
October	6 Early Release Day**
27 End of Grading Period	17-21 Easter Break*
28 Workday*	May
November	26 Workday*
7 Early Release Day**	29 Memorial Day Holiday*
11 Veterans' Day Holiday*	June
23 Workday*	9 Last Day for Students/ Early Release Day**
24 Thanksgiving Holiday*	12-14 Workdays*
25 Holiday*	
December	* Denotes no school for students.
19 Workday*	**Students will attend ½ of day on Early Release Days.
20-30 Christmas Break*	Inclement Weather Days: Nov. 23, Dec. 19, Feb. 20, May 26, April 21, April 20
January	
16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday*	
19 End of Semester	
20 Workday*	
30 Early Release Day**	

Attorney Joins County Staff

Katherine McKenzie has been hired to serve as full-time attorney for Currituck County. She was previously employed by the Twiford Law Firm and worked from its Moyock office.



Katherine McKenzie

Having a full-time attorney on staff will save the County the cost of contracting for day-to-day legal services, thus saving taxpayers' dollars. McKenzie, who is a graduate of Duke University and Wake Forest University's School of Law, will provide legal advice and representation to the Board of Commissioners, County Manager, and other County departments on a broad range of issues.

While McKenzie will not provide legal services to individual county residents, she will represent the County on behalf of the government staff and elected officials. For inquiries concerning court dates, traffic offenses, or other court-related business, citizens should continue to direct calls to the Clerk of Court's Office (232-2010).

With a firm legal footing on County issues, McKenzie will help to ensure successful representation on the County's behalf.

County Finance Department Earns Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Currituck County's Finance Department has been named a recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award was presented to the finance department for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004.



The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting that is awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association. Currituck County's attainment of this award represents a significant accomplishment by the finance staff.

Submissions were judged by an impartial panel that verified award recipients met high standards, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 15,000 government finance professionals.

NC Community Foundation to Hold Fundraiser in October

The North Carolina Community Foundation will hold a fundraiser on October 28 in Corolla which will benefit, among others, the Whalehead Preservation Trust's newly established Endowment Fund. Activities will begin at noon with special tours of the Whalehead Club and a golf tournament at the Currituck Club. This will be followed by coastal gourmet cuisine served poolside at the Hampton Inn & Suites, as well as a "turtle race." For more information, please contact the NC Community Foundation at 491-8166 or the Currituck Department of Travel & Tourism at 453-9612.



Changes in Medicare Will Provide Prescription Drugs to Some

Medicare recipients with limited income and resources may be able to get extra help with paying for prescription drugs. Beginning January 1, 2006, a new program will provide prescription drug coverage under Medicare. Those who qualify may be eligible to receive assistance with monthly premiums, deductibles, and co-payments.

Persons with an annual income below \$14,355 for an individual, or \$19,245 for a married couple living together, could qualify. Certain other requirements must be met.

Applicants must complete an *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs Form SSA-1020*; however, those who



have Medicaid with prescription drug coverage and Medicare, Medicare and Supplemental Security Income, or their state pays for their Medicare premiums, automatically qualify and do not have to complete a form.

Applications are being mailed to Medicare beneficiaries who may be eligible. The applications should be completed and mailed as soon as possible. Those not receiving a form may call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Applications can also be found on the Internet at www.socialsecurity.gov.

For more information about the Medicare prescription drug plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or visit www.medicare.gov.

Locally, individuals may contact Georgia Kight, Family & Consumer Science Agent with the NC Cooperative Extension – Currituck County Center, at 232-2261. They may also contact the local Social Security Office at 338-1155.

Currituck ... Mark your calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

Labor Day Holiday

Monday, September 5
County Government Offices, Public Library Closed

Children's Programs at the Currituck Public Library

Begin in September:
Storytime (ages 3-5), Tuesdays, 10-11:00 a.m.
Toddler time (up to 2 years), Thursdays, 10-11:00 a.m.

Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, September 10, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,
at the Currituck County Public Library, Barco

4th Annual Celebrate America Concert: the Atlantic Fleet Brass Quintet

Sunday, September 11, 3:00 p.m.
at the Currituck County Public Library, Barco
Free and open to the public; call 453-8345 for details.

Herb Seminar

Friday, September 23, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon,
at the Corolla Public Library, Corolla.
For more information, call the NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2262.

Beginners Bonsai Class

Saturday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.
at the Coinjock Ruritan meeting hall, Coinjock.
For more information, contact the NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2262.

2nd Season of the Currituck Speakers' Forum: Iraq...Then and Now

Saturday, October 15, 2:00 p.m. at the Currituck Public Library,
8:00 p.m. at the Corolla Library Branch
Program presented by Dr. Sarah Shields.
Call the Library at 453-8345 for additional information.

PARKS & RECREATION

Youth Athletic Programs



TACKLE FOOTBALL

Ages 11-12
Tryouts – August 30 - September 1
Where: Knapp Elementary School
Call 232-3007 for times.



FLAG FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING

Sign-ups begin September 5; end October 1
On-site registration - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Currituck Middle School
Online deadline - September 29

BASKETBALL

Sign-ups begin November 7; end December 3
On-site registration - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Currituck Middle School
Online deadline - December 1

Call the Parks & Recreation Department at 232-3007 for more information.

Parents Encouraged to Register for Workshop Series

Moms and dads are invited to attend Parenting Matters, a series of parenting education sessions set to begin Thursday, September 29. Topics to be covered include: Parenting Challenges, Taking Care of Yourself, Understanding Your Child's Behavior, Effective Communication, Power Struggles, and Stress.

The classes, which are being sponsored by the NC Cooperative Extension – Currituck Center, are free and open to the public. For location information or to register, contact Georgia Kight, Extension Family & Consumer Science Agent, at 232-2261.

Currituck County Online Information & Services at

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



BIG SWEEP 2005 SET FOR OCTOBER

For over 17 years, *Big Sweep NC* has continued its mission of achieving litter-free waterways throughout the state. This annual event encourages volunteers to come together to clean trash and other debris from along rivers, lakes, and the ocean. In addition, *Big Sweep NC* works to prevent litter through public educational programs.

The date for this year's cleanup effort has moved from September to October in order to accommodate for the hurricane season. October 1 is scheduled as Currituck County's pick-up day; further details will be announced soon via the County's website, www.visitcurrituck.com, and Government Channel 18 on Mediacom cable television. For further information on *NC Big Sweep*, visit www.ncbigssweep.com or contact the Currituck County Soil and Water Conservation Department at 232-3360.



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



Postal Customer

Postal Patron

"Currituck County is committed to equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in all programs and services, and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, disability, or veteran status."