



# FOCUS ON CURRITUCK

## A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

APRIL 2006

## UNIFIED GOVERNMENT... Citizens to Decide at Primary Election



When Currituck County voters go to the polls in May to cast their ballots, they will also be asked to decide on an important issue: whether Currituck County should become a Unified Government. This public referendum will be held during the May 2, 2006, primary election.

A Unified Government would give the County all the authority, rights, duties, and obligations of both a county AND a city under North Carolina law. Citizens are encouraged to become informed about Unified Government, ask questions, and express their opinions.

An informative publication about Unified Government is available on the Currituck County Government website at

[www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com) or by calling the Public Information Department (232-0719). The *Overview for Citizens of Unified Government* is designed to provide voters the information they need to make an informed decision. It is not intended to encourage individuals to vote for or against a Unified Government.

This issue of *Focus on Currituck* contains frequently asked questions regarding Unified Government. Anyone wishing more information is encouraged to call the Public Information Department or the County Manager's Office (232-2075).

On May 2, make your voice heard...vote!

## Questions & Answers on Unified Government

### What is a Unified Government?

A Unified Government would make Currituck County the sole local government within the County. It would be vested with the authorities of both a city and a county. The North Carolina General Assembly recently passed legislation allowing Currituck and any other North Carolina county that does not currently have incorporated areas (towns/cities) to form a Unified Government.

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

For the most part, citizens would not notice a difference in how the County currently operates. Most government services would remain unchanged.

As the County grows, it will continue to face issues and obstacles associated with growth such as a lack of adequate school facilities. A unified form of government could serve to assist the County with these and other future challenges.

### Will my taxes increase?

Should Currituck County become a Unified Government, no additional taxes would be necessary to operate at the same level of service available to citizens now.

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

If Currituck becomes a Unified Government, there would not be a separate city council or mayor. The County would keep its current governing body – the Board of Commissioners. The County Manager would remain the chief administrator.

### Could a Police Department be created to handle law enforcement?

No. The Unified Government legislation passed by the N.C. General Assembly prohibits a police department from being formed. The Currituck County Sheriff's Office would remain the law enforcement agency providing service to citizens.

### Will my community be able to form its own local government (town/city)?

Unified Government takes away the ability for municipalities (towns/cities) to form. Some believe a smaller government (town council, city council) can better address the unique needs of a community, while others believe a consolidated (unified) government is more than adequate to meet the needs of the entire county.



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### *Focus On Currituck: A Report to the Community*

is an award-winning publication of the Currituck County Public Information Department.

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**12,000 copies of this publication  
were printed at a cost of \$0.36 per copy**

# Unified Government...Q & A

(continued from page 1)

**If the County gains the powers of a city, will it establish a public roads department and take over maintenance of roads?**

If Currituck becomes a Unified Government, it will have the right to create a public roads department, but is not required to and may maintain status quo. Since road construction and maintenance is expensive to operate -- and the grants the County could obtain may or may not adequately cover the costs -- the current Board of Commissioners is not proposing to take over road maintenance. The County's main roadways (for example, Hwy. 158/168) are, and will continue to be, maintained by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

**Should the County become a Unified Government, will it be eligible to receive additional funds?**

Yes. For example, the County could gain a portion of the franchise taxes collected for utilities.

**Will a Unified Government require changes to the County's zoning regulations and building codes?**

The County would continue to have a single Unified Development Ordinance that addresses the needs and growth patterns of Currituck County as a whole. If areas of the County were to incorporate, those cities/towns would be able to adopt their own ordinances and regulations that may or may not conflict with the County's regulations.



**If areas of the County were to incorporate, would they be entitled to any of the tax revenues (ad valorem, sales tax, occupancy tax, land transfer tax) currently being collected by the County?**

The County would only be mandated to contribute a portion of the sales tax to incorporated towns/cities; however, a town/city could join the League of Municipalities and petition the Legislature for an additional portion of the sales tax, as well as a portion of the land transfer tax and occupancy tax. (The land transfer and occupancy taxes go towards funding school construction, senior services, recreation, and some law enforcement needs.)

Towns/cities would have a budget ordinance with a property tax levy of at least \$0.05 per \$100 valuation. In addition, towns/cities may or may not assess additional taxes on residents residing in incorporated areas in order to obtain the funds needed to operate and provide services (police, fire services, zoning, administration, etc.).

**Will a Unified Government limit the number of elected leaders in the County?**

Since a single elected board (Board of Commissioners) would continue to govern, there would not be a need for additional elected leaders, such as Councilmen. At this time, there are five elected members of the Board of Commissioners. In the future, the Board may or may not choose to increase the number of individuals elected to represent the County as Commissioners. Unified Government will not affect this decision.

**If the Unified Government referendum passes, will Currituck then be called the "City of Currituck?"**

No. Currituck would continue to be referred to as "Currituck County."

**Has any other county ever formed a Unified Government?**

No. There are many counties and cities across the country that have merged, but no county has ever formed a Unified Government.

## Major Programs Provided by Counties and Municipalities in North Carolina

Counties must provide certain mandated services and can provide additional services depending on the needs and interests of citizens. When a government provides a service, government officials use public money to pay for the service.



The chart below shows a general listing of the programs local governments are authorized to provide under North Carolina law. Counties and municipalities may choose to contract for these programs rather than operate them directly. No one government provides all of these services.

\*Source: North Carolina City and County Management Association

**Services Usually Provided by Counties Only**

- Community colleges
- Cooperative extension
- Court facilities (construction & maintenance only)
- Elections
- Jails
- Mental health services
- Public health services
- Public schools
- Register of deeds
- Social services
- Soil and water conservation
- Tax assessment
- Youth detention facilities

**Services Usually Provided by Municipalities Only**

- Cemeteries
- Electric systems
- Gas services
- Sidewalks
- Street lighting
- Streets
- Traffic control
- Urban development

**Services Usually Provided by Both Municipalities and Counties**

- Airports
- Ambulance service
- Animal shelters
- Art galleries and museums
- Auditoriums/coliseums
- Building inspection
- Buses/public transit
- Cable television regulation
- Community and economic development
- Community appearance
- Emergency management
- Environmental protection
- Fire protection
- Historic preservation
- Human relations
- Industrial development
- Job training
- Law enforcement
- Libraries
- Open space and parks
- Planning, land use regulation, and code enforcement
- Property acquisition, sales and disposition
- Public housing
- Recreation programs
- Rescue squads
- Senior citizen programs
- Sewer systems
- Solid waste collection and disposal
- Storm drainage
- Tax collection
- Veterans' services
- Water supply and protection



**Historic Currituck County Courthouse**

### Currituck County Board of Commissioners

- S. Paul O'Neal, *Chairman, Poplar Branch Township*
- Paul R. Martin, *Vice-Chairman, At-Large*
- 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](mailto:commissioners@co.currituck.nc.us).

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

# Our Growing Community...

## Currituck County: FACTS & FIGURES

- ▶ From July 2003 to July 2004, Currituck was the **17th fastest growing county in the United States**.\*
- ▶ Population estimate for 2004: **22,067 (year-round residents)**;\* Population percent change from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004: **21.3 percent**;\* Population percent change from 1990 to 2000: **32.4 percent**\*
- ▶ More and more people are moving to Currituck each year because of the exceptional quality of life, which includes:
  - ◆ **low taxes;**
  - ◆ **one of the highest achieving school systems** in the State;
  - ◆ **a slower pace of life;**
  - ◆ **attractions** such as beaches and public parks;
  - ◆ and **close proximity to the metropolitan area** of Tidewater, Virginia.
- ▶ All of the above reasons are why the County is growing. Simply stated, people realize that Currituck County is an **excellent, family-friendly place to live.**
- ▶ Currituck County's 2005-2006 budget (general fund) is \$41,548,537; the current tax rate is 32 cents per \$100 valuation. This is the **2nd lowest tax rate in North Carolina.**
- ▶ The **public school district enrollment** for the 2005-2006 school year is 3,988 students. The Currituck County Board of Education estimates student enrollment to be 5,248 by the 2014-2015 school year. This would be a **32% increase in just ten years.** The Board of Education expects that **nearly \$64,000,000 will be needed for school construction during the next ten years** to meet the demands for school facilities.
- ▶ The Board of Commissioners is dedicated to seeing that the school district receives the funding needed to best meet the educational needs of the children. **Currituck ranks 17th out of the State's 117 school districts in local education funding per student.** As a result, the Currituck County Public Schools continually excel in student achievement, **ranking as one of the top performing school districts in North Carolina.**
- ▶ **Local government strives to operate efficiently and effectively** to provide services to citizens. These include:
  - ◆ law enforcement
  - ◆ emergency medical services
  - ◆ communications (9-1-1)
  - ◆ emergency preparedness
  - ◆ fire protection
  - ◆ social services
  - ◆ senior adult services
  - ◆ planning and zoning
  - ◆ courts
  - ◆ economic development
  - ◆ and others
- ▶ Public parks, youth and adult recreational opportunities, and library services are available to all residents. Satellite government offices -- including building inspections, law enforcement, and a library branch -- are located in Corolla, giving residents of the area easy access to government services.

\*Source: US Census Bureau

## Keifer Named Planning Director

The Currituck County Government offices recently welcomed Sarah Keifer as the new Planning Director. Keifer, who began employment with the County on February 8, previously served as the Assistant Planning Director for Kent County, Delaware. She replaced Gary Ferguson, who retired in early February.

Keifer received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Delaware and worked as a planner in that state for the past eight years.

Among Keifer's many accomplishments, she is most proud of her work re-writing and implementing new subdivision ordinances for Kent County.

As Keifer settles into her new position with Currituck County, she is reviewing the recent evaluation and recommendations made of the Planning & Inspections Department by a consulting firm.

"The staff works very hard to address customers' concerns in a timely and efficient manner," Keifer said. "These recommendations will help us expand on an already solid base of operations."

Keifer went on to say that many of the suggestions made in the evaluation have already been put into practice.

When asked why she wanted to come to Currituck, Keifer said the people and the County's potential were the top reasons she chose to relocate.



## Construction to Begin Soon on New Knotts Island Fire Station

The community of Knotts Island will soon have a new fire station.

Currituck County has plans to build the station between Capps Creek Road and Bufflehead Court on a nine-acre parcel owned by the Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department. The new facility will replace the current fire station that is aging and in constant need of repair.

"We've added on to the building twice, but it's just not meeting our needs," said Nathan Thorn, Fire Chief of the Knotts Island department.

Work on the new fire station is expected to begin this summer. It will have three drive-thru bays and hold at least six emergency response vehicles.

Living space and sleeping areas for Emergency Medical personnel who are on 24-hour shifts will also be expanded.

Thorn said the station will provide a training area for the 25 volunteers and paid staff who provide fire and rescue services. In addition, the station will give the Currituck County residents an expanded location for voting in elections.

Thorn explained that donations made by citizens over the years will go towards helping to furnish and equip the facility.



# Now is the Time to Get Ready ...

## PREPARE FOR THE 2006 HURRICANE SEASON

With the 2006 hurricane season just around the corner, Currituck County's Emergency Management Department is encouraging everyone to make preparations and plan ahead for possible storms.

National Hurricane Preparedness Week is set for May 21-27. In conjunction with this annual awareness week, Currituck officials are stressing that being prepared does not mean waiting until a hurricane is off the coast; it means starting now to make plans and gather the supplies needed should authorities call for an evacuation or if power is lost for several days.



Hazards from a hurricane come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding. It is important for your family to have a plan that includes all of these hazards. Look carefully at the safety actions associated with each type of hazard and prepare your family disaster plan accordingly. But remember, this is only a guide. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

You should be able to answer the following questions before a hurricane threatens:

- What are the Hurricane hazards?*
- What does it mean to me?*
- What actions should I take to be prepared?*

With national weather experts predicting another active storm season, now is the time to make preparations. Call the Currituck County Emergency Management Department at 232-2215 for additional information on how you can prepare for hurricane season.

### Lending a Hand to Those in Need

The 2005 hurricane season left the entire country thinking differently about what impact storms can play on communities. Those hit hardest have been able to fight back against these tragedies by the thousands of hours volunteers dedicated to clean-up and repair.

While we can't stop hurricanes from happening, we can be ready to assist other people if the worst does occur.

From giving a neighbor a ride, to distributing ice and water to those who are thirsty,



being proactive and signing up for volunteer duty can improve the lives of others. Clean-up crews, pet shelters, interpreters, shelter volunteers, and many other positions are needed immediately after a disaster strikes.

Citizens are encouraged to sign up today to help their community tomorrow. If you would like to participate in one of the many volunteer opportunities available in Currituck County, contact Volunteer Coordinator Gerri Andrews at the Currituck County Public Library, 453-8345.



### Here's How You Can be Prepared...

Every June through November, recheck your supply of tools, batteries, non-perishable foods, battery-operated radio, and other equipment you will need when a hurricane strikes.

Know what a hurricane **WATCH** and **WARNING** means...

**WATCH:** Hurricane conditions are possible in the specific area, usually within **36 hours**.

**WARNING:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area, usually within **24 hours**.

### Create a Family Disaster Plan

- **Identify ahead of time where you will go if you are told to evacuate.** Choose several places -- a friend's home in another county or state, a motel/hotel, or a shelter.
- **Have telephone numbers available for these places**, as well as a road map of your locality. You may need to take alternate or unfamiliar routes if major roads are closed or clogged.
- **Tune to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or television stations** for evacuation instructions. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

### Internet Resources

Official Currituck County Advisories & Information:  
[www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com)

National Weather Service:  
[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

National Hurricane Center:  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

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

American Red Cross:  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Salvation Army  
[www.salvationarmy.com](http://www.salvationarmy.com)

### Evacuation Assistance is Available for Disabled, Elderly

A county-wide hurricane evacuation can be a scary situation for anyone having to leave their home, but it can be even more frightening if that person doesn't have the means to leave at all.

Residents who are disabled or elderly may need assistance when evacuation is necessary. Thankfully, the Currituck County Department of Social Services has established a program to address these needs.

A comprehensive list compiled by the department shows where those in need are located. By having a list at hand, Social Services staff can quickly find individuals who require help during emergency situations.

If you or someone you know is elderly or disabled and may need assistance during an evacuation, please contact the Currituck Social Services Department at 232-3083.

# For Your Information ...

**DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY...A Sweetheart Valentine's Dance and Reception** at the Currituck Senior Center had guests dancing to the music of Anna and the Skylarks. The event was hosted by the Currituck Senior Center and co-sponsored by the Currituck County Arts Council from a grant by the North Carolina Arts Council.



## Engineering Firm Wins Award for Design of Outer Banks Water Plant

The engineering company that designed the Southern Outer Banks Water System (SOBWS) was selected to receive an Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina.

Representatives from Arcadis, the Raleigh engineering firm that designed the reverse-osmosis water plant located on the Currituck Outer Banks, accepted the award at a ceremony held recently in Raleigh.

The plant, which serves approximately 2,000 customers in seven communities in Corolla, delivers up to 2 million gallons of water per day. Half of the water is treated conventionally with chlorine and filters, and the other half is treated through reverse-osmosis.

Plans are to expand the water plant as needed.



The Currituck Outer Banks Water System in Corolla

## Did You Know?

Since 1986, the **Currituck Soil & Water Conservation Department** has administered \$1,738,290 of State and Federal funds for programs that benefit the landowners, farmers, and citizens of Currituck County. The following is a breakdown by program or project:

- \$942,042 –NC Agriculture Cost Share Program
- \$345,381—Debris removal on 62 miles of drainage ways
- \$129,518—Knapp, Central and Moyock Schools Drainage Projects
- \$15,013—Alligator Weed Control in drainage ways
- \$281,336—Clean Water Management Trust Fund - Guinea Mill Canal Project
- \$20,000—Countywide Drainage Study
- \$5,000—Canoe Trails Project

The Soil & Water Conservation staff also provides assistance with soils information, drainage problems, soil and water information, and education in public schools.

For more information, contact Kim Ferrell or Mike Doxey at 232-3360.

## Library Branch, Visitor's Center to Open in Moyock

Work is underway to refurbish the former Moyock Methodist Church into a branch of the Currituck County Public Library and a distribution center for tourist information.

Located at the corner of Hwy. 168 and Puddin Ridge Road in Moyock, the facility will offer library services to residents. Visitors will have access to brochures, maps and other publications that feature attractions, activities, restaurants, and accommodations.



The library branch/visitor's center is expected to open this summer.

## A Home Founded in Hope... Adoptions, Foster Parents Sought for Children in Need

Nothing is more of a blessing than bringing a child into a family. And for those wishing to start or expand their family, adoption or foster parenting could be the right choice.

With thousands of children nationwide waiting for a loving home, the Currituck County Department of Social Services (DSS) offers information and assistance. Whether it is an individual wishing to place a child up for adoption, or a caring family wanting to open their home to a child in need of foster care, DSS staff can provide guidance. Qualified case managers are available to help families through the process.



Please contact the DSS at 232-3083, or visit their offices at 2793 Caratoke Hwy., Currituck.

**What is Foster Care?** Foster care is a temporary living arrangement for abused, neglected, and dependent children who need a safe place to live when their parents or caretakers cannot take care of them.

*What Foster Parents do...*

- Provide basic necessities
- Encourage positive relationships
- Protect the child
- Discipline in a positive way
- Help the child to grow
- Work as part of a team
- Help support and prepare the child for his or her future



## Changes in Place for May 2nd Primary Election

New voting equipment and a new voting location will be in place for the 2006 Primary election to be held on May 2.



While paper ballots will still be used, the ES&S Model 100 optical scan machine will tabulate votes. The Model 100 alerts voters to over-voted races and under-voted ballots, greatly enhancing the ability to capture voter intent.

For voters who are blind, vision-impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible for them to mark a ballot in the usual way, the new AutoMark voter assist terminal will be available. The terminal is a ballot-marking system designed to provide complete privacy and accessibility.

Voters from the Knotts Island and Church's Island precincts now have new voting locations. The Knotts Island Senior Center/Ruritan Building, located at 126 Brumley Rd., will serve Knotts Island voters, while voters from Church's Island will now cast their ballots at the Waterlily Fire Department, located at 424 Waterlily Rd. in Coinjock.

The Elections Office reminds voters:

- April 7 is the last day to register to vote in the May 2 Primary.
- One-stop voting in the Board of Elections office will begin Thursday, April 13 and end Saturday, April 29 at 1:00 p.m. The Board of Elections office will be open daily Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for one Saturday, April 29, when the office will open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Some voters have been sent new verification cards because of polling place changes.
- Any changes to your address, name, or party affiliation before the May 2 primary must be done by April 7. Making the changes now will save you time on Election Day.

For additional information on the upcoming election, call the Board of Elections Office at 232-2525.

## Candidates File for Upcoming Elections

Primary and General elections for Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, Sheriff, and Clerk of Clerk have seen several candidates file to run for office.

The following are contenders for upcoming political races:

### Board of Commissioners:

At-Large -

Paul R. Martin, (incumbent), Currituck, Republican  
Gene A. Gregory, Shawboro, Democrat  
Thomas Daniel McCarthy, III, Moyock, Democrat  
David Palmer, Sr., Barco, Unaffiliated

Moyock -

Eldon L. Miller, Jr. (incumbent), Moyock, Republican  
Janet L. Taylor, Moyock, Democrat  
Gloria Shytles, Moyock, Republican  
Arnold Argandona, Moyock, Republican

Poplar Branch -

S. Paul O'Neal (incumbent), Coinjock, Republican  
Eddie Lynch, Powells Point, Republican  
Barry Nelms, Poplar Branch, Democrat

### Board of Education:

At-Large -

Pat Stretar, Moyock  
Michael Payment, Grandy  
Alverta Robinson, Shawboro  
Bobby Bell, Shawboro

Poplar Branch -

Cathy Midgette-Hatcher, Poplar Branch

Crawford -

Sharon Martz, Currituck

### Sheriff:

Susan Johnson, Currituck, Democrat  
Arthur Kirwan, Currituck, Republican

### Clerk of Court:

Sheila R. Romm, Moyock, Democrat

The Primary election will be held Tuesday, May 2; the General election will be held Tuesday, November 7.

## Senior Citizens Eligible for Free Pet Taxi Service, Reduced Adoption Rates for Shelter Animals

The Animal Lovers Assistance League, Inc., is offering a free Pet Transport Service to assist those 65 years of age and older who need help in transporting their pet to their veterinarian or groomer.

According to Ginger Sikes, President of the League, "Pets often play an important role in the lives of senior citizens. Sometimes all that is needed is a little help in making sure that the pet can continue to receive veterinarian and grooming care."

The pet's owner must provide a carrier that is suitable for transporting the pet. He or she must also make arrangements for paying the veterinarian or groomer.

Services are available on the Currituck County Mainland, the northern part of Dare County, and parts of Camden County. For additional information or to apply for this assistance, please call: Jo Meade,

Chairperson, at 232-3052; or Ginger Sikes at 232-3696. Or you may contact the League by mail at: Animal Lovers Assistance League, Inc., PO Box 266, Currituck, NC 27929.



For senior citizens, the League is also offering a reduction in the adoption fees for animals adopted from the Currituck County Animal Shelter. The League's new "\$65.00 for

Those 65" policy includes a spay/neuter voucher for a dog or puppy in addition to its first shots (except rabies and a heartworm test). For cats and kittens, the fee for Senior Citizens is \$35.00, which includes the spay/neuter voucher and most shots (except rabies). The vouchers, which provide nearly full reimbursement to the veterinarian who performs the spay/neuter, are honored by most local veterinarians. Proof of age must be provided.



The shelter also maintains a "wish list" for those requesting a certain size or type of pet. Shelter staff will contact the person if a pet that matches his/her wish is turned in at the shelter. When possible, the shelter provides a Personality Profile of the pet in order to try to accommodate the wishes of a person with the type of pet that best fits his/her needs. For Senior Citizens, for example, this may help match a more mellow pet with a person who prefers one that is already trained.

The Currituck Animal Shelter, which is located at 204 Airport Road in Maple, is open daily from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., except on Tuesdays, when the hours are 12:00-6:00 p.m. For additional information, please call the shelter at 457-0011.

## LOOKING AHEAD... CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Food Fun Training for Day Care Providers

Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.  
at the NC Cooperative Extension Kitchen  
Call 232-2262 to register; cost is free, but space is limited.

### Good Friday Holiday

Friday, April 14  
County Government Offices, Public Library Closed

### Principles of Youth Development Training

NC Cooperative Extension - Currituck County Center  
Monday, April 17, 6-8:00 p.m. in the Extension Kitchen  
Call 232-2262 to register.

### Currituck Flower & Garden Show

Saturday and Sunday, April 22 & 23  
at the Currituck County High School, Barco

### 2nd Annual Corolla Island Spring Social

Saturday, April 22, 6:00 p.m. - Midnight  
at the Whalehead Club, Corolla  
Visit [www.whaleheadclub.org](http://www.whaleheadclub.org) for details.  
Tickets are available by calling the Whalehead Club at 453-9040.

### Registration for Support Our Students Summer Camp

April 24 - May 19  
Open to youths ages 10-13; call 232-2262 for details.

### Last Day for Medicare Beneficiaries to Register for Medicare Part D Without Penalty

Monday, May 15  
Call the NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2261 for assistance.

### CPR Recertification Classes

Thursday, May 25 & Thursday, June 22  
For more information, contact the  
NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2262.

### Adult Softball Registration Deadline

Friday, May 26  
Call Currituck County Parks & Recreation  
at 232-3007 to register.

### Schefflera Bonsai Class

Saturday, May 27, at the Coinjock Ruritan Club,  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Call the NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2262  
for registration information.

### Memorial Day Holiday

Monday, May 29  
County Government Offices, Public Library Closed

### National Senior Health & Fitness Day

Wednesday, May 31  
at the Currituck Senior Center  
Call 232-3505 for details.

### "Root Over Rock" Bonsai Class

Saturday, June 24 at the Coinjock Ruritan Club  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
To register, call the NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2262.

### Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks

Sponsored by Currituck County  
and the Currituck Chamber of Commerce  
Tuesday, July 4  
at the Whalehead Club, Corolla  
Call the Chamber of Commerce at 453-9497 for details.

## 9th Annual Currituck Flower and Garden Show Promises to be 'Bigger and Better'

Plans are underway for the Currituck Master Gardeners' 9th annual Currituck Flower and Garden Show. The event will be held Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23, at Currituck County High School in Barco. Show hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.



"Each year the show gets bigger and better," said Jan Perry-Weber, Agricultural Technician with the NC Cooperative Extension Service - Currituck Center. "This year's event will feature a plant sale with a large variety of annuals and perennials, as well as many opportunities for the public to learn how to care for their plants."

Throughout the fall and winter, Currituck Master Gardener Volunteers learn about plant science through hands-on projects, Perry-Weber explained. They grow new plants from seed and propagate others by using layering or cuttings.

Perry-Weber and Tommy Grandy, Agricultural Extension Agent, guide the gardeners in their quest of plants that are appropriate for this region.

In addition to plants, shrubs and trees, visitors to the Flower and Garden Show will find a large variety of garden art, tools, and crafts for sale. "This is a great opportunity to find those special items that will make your garden stand out," said Perry-Weber.

There will also be raffles, door prizes, food, and activities for children in the "Secret Garden." Workshops will be held hourly, giving attendees a chance to learn about Bonsai, herbs, native plants, composting, organic gardening, and other topics.

Admission to the Garden and Flower show is free. For more information, contact the NC Cooperation Extension office at 232-2262 or 232-2261.

## Newsletter Earns State Award for Effective Communications

Currituck County's newsletter, *Focus on Currituck: A Report to the Community*, has been named a winner in a statewide communications contest sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Government Information Officers (NCAGIO). The newsletter, which is produced quarterly by the Public Information Department in conjunction with the county departments, was named a first-place winner in the Regular Publications category of NCAGIO's annual competition.



NCAGIO is an organization of public information officers who work for the state government, city and county governments, and non-profit associations and organizations. The awards contest annually acknowledges NCAGIO members' outstanding work in writing, photography, art, publications, television production, Internet sites, communications plans, and other communications.



Currituck County employees and their family members volunteered their time to pick up trash through the NC Adopt-a-Highway Program. The staff adopted a two-mile stretch along Hwy. 168 in Currituck.

# Currituck ... Community Update

## Tourism, Government Websites Provide County Information

A new website is providing visitors to Currituck County the latest tourism information.

The Currituck County Department of Travel & Tourism launched the Internet site -- [www.visitcurrituck.com](http://www.visitcurrituck.com) -- last month. A variety of activities, attractions, accommodations, festivals, restaurants, and things to do are featured on the site. It also highlights community events and historical landmarks that attract visitors, as well as provides the tools needed to plan a memorable vacation.

Tourism-related businesses will soon be able to submit their company information to the website via the Business Resources section. Businesses will have access to news about cooperative advertising and other marketing opportunities.

The County's government website now has a new address: [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com). The site continues to grow and offer expanded online services such as deed searches, water bill and tax payments, applying for County jobs, and more.

Website visitors are encouraged to bookmark these addresses for quick access to tourism and government information.

For details about these websites, or information on getting your business information included, contact the Department of Travel & Tourism at 232-2708 or 453-9612.

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



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

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU...



The Board of Commissioners is seeking public input. So, if you have a suggestion or idea for your local government, you may:

- send an e-mail to [contactus@co.currituck.nc.us](mailto:contactus@co.currituck.nc.us);
- call the Public Information Department at 232-0719;
- or speak during the Public Comment portion of a Board of Commissioners' meeting.

## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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

Good Friday	April 14, 2006
Memorial Day	May 29, 2006
Independence Day	July 4, 2006

### Currituck County Public Library Summer Reading Program

Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.  
Open to Children in Grades Kindergarten – 5



Program Dates:  
June 13  
June 20  
June 27  
July 11  
July 18  
Thursday, July 27  
Call 453-8345 to register



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



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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.