



Rich in Heritage, with a Vision for Tomorrow

FOCUS ON CURRITUCK

A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

JANUARY 2006

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT VOTE SET FOR MAY 2, 2006 Community Information Meetings will be Held in March

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

An upcoming edition of *Focus on Currituck* will provide answers to questions regarding Unified Government and what impact it will have on the County. The newsletter will be mailed to all citizens prior to the referendum.

The Public Information Department's goal is not to encourage citizens to vote for or against a Unified Government, but to provide people with the information they need to make an informed decision.

Community meetings to provide citizens information on Unified Government will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m., Knotts Island Elementary School
- Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Carova Beach Fire Department
- Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m., Moyock Elementary School
- Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m., Historic Currituck Courthouse
- Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m., Corolla Fire Department
- Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m., Griggs Elementary School

For more details on Unified Government, visit the County's website at: www.currituckgovernment.com, or contact the Public Information Department at 232-0719.

Public Parks Offer a Variety of Recreational Activities Sound Park Now Open; Construction on Skateboard Park to Begin Soon

Currituck County citizens now have a new place to enjoy the great outdoors. Sound Park, located in Point Harbor on the Currituck Sound, is the latest addition to the County's park system. The park offers a variety of recreational facilities and features two boat launching ramps, picnic shelters, playground equipment, and much more.

Two multi-use recreation fields greet visitors to Sound Park, each surrounded by a circular asphalt walking trail. There are two softball fields and volleyball courts. Plans are to add tennis courts in the near future.

With plenty of available parking, Sound Park offers an excellent place for families to enjoy either a day at the park or a day on the water via the boat access ramps.



"The boat ramps are very popular with the public," said Jason Weeks, Currituck County Director of Parks and Recreation. "We expect them to be used quite often since so many people enjoy boating and fishing."

Persons interested in reserving a picnic shelter for a family or group function should contact the Currituck County Parks and Recreation Department at 232-3007.

SKATEBOARD PARK TO OPEN IN SPRING 2006

Plans are underway for the construction of Currituck County's first public skate park. The 12,000 square foot facility, which will be built at Maple Park in Maple, will be constructed in two stages.

The first stage will consist of a 5,000 sq. ft. multi-level bowl, or "pool," with a middle drop-in point dumping into a small half pipe. Skaters of all skill levels -- from beginners to advanced -- will enjoy the park. Riders will face varying curves and heights, along with grind rails surrounding the lip. The second stage of the park will be built in the coming months.

Grease your bearings and get ready...the park is set to open in the spring of 2006.

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

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CURRITUCK COUNTY...Rich in Heritage

Historic Preservation Project Underway

Preserving history while stimulating cultural tourism is the focus of a project being led by the NC Cooperative Extension Center in response to a need identified by County Commissioners, Extension Advisory Board members, and citizen surveys. Before time and development erase valuable pieces of Currituck's history, the Extension department enlisted the help of the School of Design at North Carolina State University to record information on approximately 400 structures in Currituck County. In a windshield survey covering every mile of highway in the County, graduate students produced needed documentation to meet National Register and state archive requirements. This work is expected to act as a catalyst for further research and development of a comprehensive analysis of historical structures.

Creating such an inventory was a top priority for County officials in order to meet one of the requirements for becoming a Certified Local Government for historic preservation. Such a designation would allow the County to apply for state and federal funding for preservation efforts. The establishment of a Historic Preservation Commission has been recommended and presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration and must be in place for one year in order to complete the certification requirements.

Currently in North Carolina, 55 counties have completed comprehensive historic surveys. There are 40 Certified Local Governments and 80 Historic Preservation Commissions.

The Board of Commissioners has approved funding to expand the current inventory completed by NCSU to include a comprehensive study on each site. Officials from the State Historic Preservation Office, County Historian Barbara Snowden, and County Manager Dan Scanlon are working with Extension Director Rodney Sawyer to provide leadership and direction on the project.

In the near future, an independent consultant will be responsible for completing the preliminary work and developing data sheets on each property. Property owners will be interviewed and asked to cooperate in the collection of historical information. The research on each property will be at no cost to individuals. It will provide assistance in determining the historic facts, as well as documenting them for future generations.

Citizens are encouraged to view the preliminary windshield survey and make comments and corrections as needed. A copy of the document is available at County's public libraries, the Cooperative Extension Center, and the County Manager's Office.



Rodney Sawyer presents Sue Joseph of the Currituck Public Library with copies of an inventory of historic structures in the county.



Historic structures such as the old jail (pictured above) and Jarvisburg Colored School (at right) are plentiful in Currituck County.



Update... From the Board of Elections



The 2006 Primary and General elections are right around the corner. Candidates seeking party primary nominations must soon file their Notice of Candidacy with the Currituck County Board of Elections. Filing will start at 12:00 noon on Monday, February 13 and end at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 28. Candidates for the following local offices will file during this time:

- Clerk of Court
- Sheriff
- Board of Commissioners - Moyock and Poplar Branch townships and the At-large seat

Persons interested in seeking a State Senator, State House of Representative, or Board of Education seat must also file a Notice of Candidacy with the Elections office at this same time.

The Board of Education seats are non-partisan. The seats available for the Board of Education are:

- Crawford township
- Poplar Branch township
- At-large seat

The two seats for the Soil and Water District Supervisor will file at a later time.

In other news from the Board of Elections, Rachel Boyce was recently hired as the County's first Deputy Director of Elections. Boyce is a recent graduate of Elizabeth City State University, earning a degree in Political Science with a minor in Pre-Law.



Rachel Boyce

"The Election Board is very fortunate to have such a qualified individual as our first full-time Deputy Director," said Mary Etheridge, Elections Director. "Ms. Boyce comes highly recommended, and we look forward to her working with the County."

For more information on the Elections Department, call 232-2525.

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

Fire Prevention & Safety...

VFDs Turn Up the Heat on Fire Prevention

Not only do the volunteers and employees of Currituck County's fire departments and fire services save lives and property, these brave men and women often reach out to their community by providing citizens with important fire prevention tips and fire safety programs.

National Fire Prevention month was celebrated recently in Currituck and other counties and states across the country. Local firefighters were out in force to inform the public on various fire safety and response methods. Their outreach campaign included making presentations at local schools and senior centers, holding fire station Open House events, and demonstrating fire safety techniques.

Members of the Crawford Township Volunteer Fire Department recently visited the Currituck Senior Center to provide lifesaving information specific to older adults.

"As seniors, you especially need to make sure you have working smoke detectors in your homes and are able to contact 9-1-1 in an emergency situation," firefighter Laura Walter said to those attending the presentation. She also encouraged the seniors to contact their local fire department should they have questions or concerns regarding home fire safety.

James Mims, Fire Marshal, was also at the Senior Center to speak on fire safety. Mims talked about proper placement and testing of smoke detectors. He urged seniors to examine their home from a first responder's perspective to ensure there is easy access to the home and that it is identifiable from the street. "When plants, furniture and other objects obstruct a firefighter's path into the home, it can waste valuable life-saving seconds," Mims explained.

The volunteer fire departments and Currituck County Fire Services are looking to continue educational programs throughout the year. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to call Fire Services at 232-6641 or visit the Currituck County Government website at www.currituckgovernment.com.



Family, Friends Mourn the Loss of Longtime Volunteer Firefighter

David Stoner was a special individual, giving countless hours to help others in his community. But it was his volunteer service to a local fire department that stood out and earned him the reputation as a true hero.



Stoner, who passed away on November 18, was honored just the day before at a countywide banquet held at Currituck County High School to thank the County's many volunteers. He was named the Crawford Township Volunteer Fire Department's 2005 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

"We're blessed to have so many dedicated volunteers in Currituck County," said Paul Martin, Chairman

of the Currituck County Board of Commissioners. "David Stoner was one of those volunteers who stood out, dedicating himself to serving our County for over 30 years."

A United States Navy Veteran, Stoner lived in Moyock and worked tirelessly as a volunteer firefighter for both the Crawford Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Moyock Volunteer Fire Department. His volunteer work included fighting fires, repairing fire trucks, and any other work that was needed, said his son, Chris Stoner.

"The passing of Mr. Stoner brings a tremendous loss to Currituck County," said Martin. The Board of Commissioners extends its heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Stoner's family and our admiration of his service."

The Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution at its November 21st Board meeting to recognize Mr. Stoner's achievements and commitment to the people of Currituck County. Mr. Stoner's family was present to accept the award.

Currituck County Announces Prescription Drug Discount Card



Currituck County recently launched a discount drug card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescriptions. The County is making available free prescription drug discount cards through a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards may be used by all County residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage.

A national network of more than 57,000 participating retail pharmacies will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

"Currituck County is proud to be one of the counties nationwide participating with NACo," said Chairman Paul Martin. "The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our county. Even those fortunate

to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan. Residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries to be eligible for this program."

Cards will be available at the Albemarle Regional Health Department, Department of Social Services, Tax Department, and Water Department. County residents may call toll free (877-321-2652) or visit <https://naco.advancex.com> for further information on the program.

"Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy," said Martin. "Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance."

The prescription drug program is administered by Caremark.



Are you prepared? ...

FLOOD INSURANCE AVAILABLE TO MOST CURRITUCK HOMEOWNERS

Currituck County residents are quite familiar with the threat of hurricanes to their coastal community. However, some citizens may not realize that any type of severe storm can result in damage from flooding. Areas that are close to the water are not the only locations that might experience water damage; many inland communities are susceptible to flooding as well.

Damage caused by floodwaters is not covered by a standard homeowner's policy. Therefore, it is vital that the public understand the disastrous implications flooding can have on their homes.

There is a way that citizens can take action to minimize the financial impacts of a storm. Every consumer needs to know about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Currituck County is a participant in the program, making Federal Flood Insurance available no matter where a person lives, except in Coastal Barrier Resources System (COBRA) areas.



DO YOU KNOW...?

- **...if your fuel tank is anchored securely?** A fuel tank can fall over or float away during a flood causing fuel to spill or catch fire. Tanks are owned by the propane company, so be sure to gain permission before performing any work to secure the tank.
- **...if your sewer system has a back-flow valve?** If flood waters enter your system, they can back up sewage into your home. Prevent this problem by having a licensed plumber install a backflow valve. Be sure to first check with the County's Planning & Inspections Department for the necessary permits.
- **...if your drainage system is clear of debris?** Drainage ditches, streams, channels and canals need to be kept clear to ensure the full and even flow of storm water. Water has to channel away in some direction, so make sure it has a clear "escape route" on your property.

Top 10 Facts on Flood Insurance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

1. **Everyone lives in a flood zone.**
 - You don't need to live near water to be flooded.
 - Floods are caused by storms, melting snow, hurricanes, and water backup due to inadequate or overloaded drainage systems, dam or levee failure, etc.
2. **Flood damage is not covered by homeowners policies.**
 - You can protect your home, business, and belongings with flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - You can insure your home with flood insurance for up to \$250,000 for the building and \$100,000 for its contents.
3. **You can buy flood insurance no matter what your flood risk is.**
 - It doesn't matter whether your flood risk is high or low, you can buy flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - And, it's a good idea to buy even in low or moderate risk areas: between 20 and 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from low- to moderate-risk areas.
4. **The low-cost Preferred Risk Policy is ideal for homes and businesses in low- to moderate-risk areas.**
 - Homeowners can insure buildings and contents for as little as \$112 per year.
 - Business owners can insure building and contents for as little as \$500 per year.
 - Residential renters can insure contents for as little as \$39 per year.
5. **Flood insurance is affordable.**
 - The average flood insurance policy costs a little more than \$400 a year for about \$100,000 of coverage.
 - In comparison, a \$50,000 disaster home loan can cost you about \$240 a month at 4 percent interest over 20 years.
6. **Flood insurance is easy to get.**
 - You can buy NFIP flood insurance from private insurance companies and agents.
 - You may be able to purchase flood insurance with a credit card.
7. **Contents coverage is separate, so renters can insure their belongings too.**
 - Up to \$100,000 contents coverage is available for homeowners and renters.
 - Whether you rent or own your home or business, make sure to ask your insurance agent about contents coverage. It is not automatically included with the building coverage (except under the Preferred Risk Policy).
8. **Up to a total of \$1 million of flood insurance coverage is available for non-residential buildings and contents.**
 - Up to \$500,000 of coverage is available for non-residential buildings.
 - Up to \$500,000 of coverage is available for the contents of non-residential buildings.
9. **There is usually a 30-day waiting period before the coverage goes into effect.**
 - Plan ahead so you're not caught without flood insurance when a flood threatens your home or business.
10. **Federal disaster assistance is not the answer.**
 - Federal disaster assistance is only available if the President declares a disaster.
 - Flood insurance pays even if a disaster is not declared. It's just good sense.

For more information about the NFIP and flood insurance, call 1-800-427-4661, or contact your insurance company or agent.

For an agent referral, call 1-888-435-6637, TDD 1-800-427-5593.

For Your Information ...

COUNTY ADOPTS NEW FLOOD MAPS

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners recently adopted new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that became effective December 16, 2005. It was necessary for the Board to approve the maps because without the County's continued participation in National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), flood insurance would not be available to those constructing homes and other structures in the County. In addition, the over 4,500 current flood insurance policy holders in Currituck could be required to pay off their mortgages as financial lenders would no longer provide loans on structures without flood insurance. Federal disaster funds -- such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance -- would also not be available for flood damage.

Typically, when a resident purchases or builds a home or business in a flood prone area, the mortgage lender requires the buyer to purchase flood insurance. The FIRMs dictate premiums paid by homeowners and businesses. Some of the contributing factors to these rates include: location, topography, and water proximity. All 100 counties in North Carolina participate in the flood mapping program.

Currituck County also participates in the NFIP's Community Rating System, an incentive program that encourages public education regarding flood preparedness and the adoption of building standards that reduce flood losses. The County's active participation in the program has resulted in homeowners receiving a 15 percent discount on their flood insurance policies.

The follow questions and answers provide additional information about the National Flood Insurance Program and the new rate maps:



Where can I locate the FIRM that shows the flood risk zone for my home?

Every community that participates in the NFIP keeps one or more sets of the FIRM panels currently in effect in a map repository where they are accessible to the public. Contact the Currituck County Planning Department at 232-3055.

Am I required to purchase flood insurance?

If the purchase of your home was financed by a federally-backed mortgage loan, and your home is located in a high risk area where a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) shows that there is a one percent or greater annual chance of flooding, your lender must require you to obtain flood insurance for the life of the loan. If the annual risk of flooding is less than one percent in your area, your lender has the option to require you to purchase flood insurance, but there is no federal requirement that the lender do so.

How do I find the level of flood risk for the area where my home is located?

To inform homeowners, lenders, insurance agents, developers, state and local officials, and other interested parties about flood risks, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has produced FIRMs under a series of federal mandates dating back to 1968. In 2000, the State of North Carolina assumed responsibility for producing and maintaining the FIRMs for all North Carolina communities through a Cooperating Technical Partnership with FEMA.

FIRMs use zone designations to identify areas where there is a high (one percent or greater), moderate (0.2 percent to one percent), or minimal (less than 0.2 percent) annual chance of flooding. In coastal areas, the high risk areas are designated as either AE Zones or VE Zones. Moderate and minimal risk areas are designated as X Zones on newer FIRMs and as B and C Zones on older FIRMs. For more information on how these risk areas are determined, please refer to the "Coastal Flood Studies" fact sheet.

My house was built in an AE Zone according to the FIRM in effect at the time of construction. On the updated FIRM for my community, the zone has been changed to Zone VE. What will happen to my NFIP insurance premium when the new map officially takes effect?

If you can show that your house was built in compliance with the local flood map and local floodplain management regulations that were in effect at the time of construction, your property can continue to be rated as an AE Zone property under the NFIP "grandfather rules" and your premium will not increase. Or, if you can show that your home has been continuously insured for flood since before the map change, your premium will not increase. However, if you cannot provide documentation to support one of these conditions, your policy will be re-rated when the new map takes effect using the VE Zone designation and the updated BFE, which may raise your premium.

My house qualifies for a Zone AE rating under the "grandfather rules," even though the zone changed to Zone VE on the new FIRM. How long will I continue to receive this benefit?

As long as your house is not altered in a way that causes your policy to be re-rated, you will continue to qualify for a Zone AE rating. Under NFIP rules, a house must be re-rated based on the newest effective FIRM if it is substantially improved. "Substantially improved" means any repair, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a house, the cost of which exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the house before the start of construction. This term includes repairs to structures that are "substantially damaged" by any cause (fire, wind, flood, etc.) such that the cost of restoring the house to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the house before it was damaged.

NFIP rules also require a house that is substantially damaged or improved must be brought into compliance with the flood risk zone designation and BFE, and local ordinance requirements in effect at time of the repairs or improvements. When you apply for a building permit, your local building officials will be able to advise you whether the damage or improvement is considered "substantial" and, if so, what is required to bring the house into compliance.

My house is shown as being in Zone VE on the current FIRM. On the new FIRM the zone designation is changed to Zone AE. What will happen to my flood insurance premium when the new FIRM official takes effect?

You should contact your insurance agent to ensure that your flood policy is re-rated when the new FIRMs officially take effect. The change to a Zone AE designation will likely lower your premium. A new Elevation Certificate may be necessary to document the elevations used for rating, but the annual premium savings will justify the cost of the certificate.

The FIRM shows that my property is located in a COBRA Zone. What does that mean?

COBRA Zone is the colloquial term for areas mapped and designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) units. The Coastal Barriers Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 removed Federal government support for building and development in undeveloped portions of hazardous coastal areas. The Act includes a ban on sale of NFIP insurance for structures located in mapped COBRA Zones. Additional legislation in 1990 increased the area under CBRS protection and extended the ban on sale of NFIP insurance to "Otherwise Protected Areas" (OPAs), which are also shown on FIRMs. The U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, is responsible for interpreting the boundaries of CBRS units and OPAs.

My home is not located in an AE or VE Zone. Can I still purchase NFIP flood insurance?

Yes. Anyone who owns insurable property in a community that participates in the NFIP can purchase flood insurance. The annual premium for a home located in a B, C, or X Zone will be lower than the premium for the same amount of coverage in an AE or VE Zone, unless the AE or VE Zone home qualifies for an elevation discount. You can save even more money on flood insurance depending on your building's height in relation to the Base Flood Elevation. For additional information, please contact the Currituck Planning Department at 232-3055. You may also visit www.ncfloodmaps.com.

Currituck / Community Update...

Sign Up Now for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to all people with Medicare, regardless of income or assets. Medicare will offer insurance coverage for prescription drugs through Medicare drug plans. Insurance companies and other private companies approved by Medicare will provide these plans. In order to get Medicare drug coverage, individuals will need to enroll in a Medicare drug plan by May 15, 2006.

Questions and concerns about changes in Medicare can be directed to Georgia Kight, Family & Consumer Science Extension Agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at 232-2261.

In North Carolina, there are 16 approved companies that will offer a total of 38 Prescription Drug Plans (PDP). Ten of these plans offer national coverage, which is especially important for beneficiaries who have residences

in more than one state. The PDP premiums range from under \$20 to \$68 per month. Beneficiaries will want to compare plans and select the one plan that best meets their individual needs.

Assistance is available for people with Medicare who have limited incomes and resources. If they qualify, they can receive assistance with premiums, deductibles and co-payments for their prescriptions. Applications may be completed for those who have an annual income below \$14,355 as an individual or \$19,245 as a couple and assets lower than \$10,000 for individual and \$20,000 for a couple. Contact the local Social Security office or Georgia Kight for assistance with the application process.



Currituck Residents Named NC Volunteer Award Winners

Five Currituck County citizens have been named recipients of the 2005 North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

The program honors individuals, groups, and businesses in the state that make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service.

Recipients from Currituck County are: **Deborah Robin Bateman**, a volunteer with the Guardian Ad Litem program; **Alice Chatman**, who has volunteered for the past 36 years with the NC Cooperative Extension Service; **Marion Dannert**, current president of the Currituck County Arts Council, an all-volunteer organization that brings arts programs to the public schools and community; **Neely Dowdy**, a parent volunteer at Moyock Elementary School who assists teachers and tutors students; and **Herbert Robbins**, a volunteer with the Corolla Branch Library who has boosted membership in the Friends of the Library organization and raised awareness of the library.



Award recipients were recognized at a recent meeting of the Currituck County Board of Commissioners.

"It's wonderful that people are willing to serve their community," said Mary Ellen Maxwell, County Coordinator for the awards program.

Applications for the 2006 awards program will be available in April. For more information, contact Maxwell at 232-3445.

Growth = New Schools



Being one of the top twenty fastest growing counties in the nation can be a daunting task for any school system to face. However, Currituck County Schools has managed to keep its focus on the children.

Already recognized throughout the state for superior schools, the Currituck Public School District will soon expand to include new elementary schools.

Land was recently purchased by the Board of Education through funding provided by the Board of Commissioners. School officials intend to build an elementary school on a site located in Shawboro. The new school will allow fifth grade students from Moyock Middle School to relocate to the new facility.

Clark Pierce has been selected as the architect for the school. The Board of Education traveled with Pierce to Greensboro recently to visit some prototypes of potential school designs.

Future plans include building an elementary school in the Jarvisburg area.

Additional information on school construction will be released as it becomes available. For

questions, please contact Sandy Kinzel, Director of Elementary Education and Communication for the Currituck County Schools, at 232-2223, ext. 300 or go to www.currituck.k12.nc.us.



Temporary Change of Water Treatment Process

From Mid-November 2005 thru February 2006, the Currituck County Water Plant will change its drinking water disinfectant from chloramines to chlorine. The purpose of this change, which occurs annually, is to help ensure a high level of disinfection in our community's network of water mains.

In an effort to maintain compliance with the Disinfection By-Product requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Currituck County mainland water system utilizes chloramination at its water treatment facility. Chloramination is the controlled application of ammonia to the chlorine normally used for water disinfection. This process, unlike simple chlorination, does not react with naturally occurring organic material in the source water to form disinfection by-products currently regulated by the SDWA.

Water systems that utilize chloramination must periodically return to the free chlorine process. This change provides additional assurance that the proper disinfection of water in the system is maintained.

Although the change will not pose a health risk, some customers may detect a slight chlorine odor in the water during this period. This would be due to the presence of residual chlorine rather than odorless residual chloramines. For more information, call the Currituck County Mainland Water Plant at 453-9382.

Currituck / Community Update...

This Winter, Put Your Phone on I.C.E.

During a crisis, it is critical that emergency responders have quick access to a victim's medical history and next-of-kin. The task of gaining this information can prove even more daunting when a victim is unable to speak due to injuries.

Currituck County Emergency responders are recommending that citizens utilize a program called I.C.E. (In Case of Emergency). With the program, victim's contact information is readily accessible, and now thanks to I.C.E., workers will not be "out in the cold" when it comes to finding a victim's family.



Cell phones provide fast, convenient access for millions of users to friends and family throughout the world. These same devices can be used as an efficient means to contact a victim's family in a short amount of time.

The basic premise of the I.C.E. program is to enter your next-of-kin into your phone's contact list with I-C-E in the name field. That way, when first responders locate you in an emergency, they can call the I.C.E. listing and gain important personal and medical information.

"Today's technology gives us many advantages, such as implementing I.C.E.," said Interim County EMS Director, Cindy Simpson. "People should be sure to use a contact number that is accessible at all times, such as a cell phone number."

Emergency responders also recommend individuals list as many I.C.E. contacts as possible, such as I.C.E. Wife and I.C.E. Doctor. This gives responders additional means to gain information.

By no means is I.C.E. a substitute for carrying identification and medical information in print form. Cell phones can become damaged in an accident and may be inaccessible. However, using multiple means of identification can assist workers in identifying a victim's needs faster.

Tips For Getting the Most Out of In Case of Emergency

The following are ways you can make the most of the I.C.E. program:

- Make sure the person whose name and number you are giving has agreed to be your I.C.E. contact.
- Make sure your I.C.E. contact has a list of people they should contact on your behalf, including your place of work.
- Make sure your I.C.E. person is one who is easy to locate.
- Make sure your I.C.E. contact knows about any medical conditions that could affect your emergency treatment, such as allergies or current medications.
- Make sure if you are under 18, your I.C.E. contact is a parent or guardian authorized to make decisions on your behalf.
- Should your preferred contact be deaf, then prefix the number with ICETEXT.

Remember, add I.C.E. information to (or near) the official photo identification you routinely carry in your wallet.

For additional information on I.C.E., contact Currituck County Emergency Medical Services at 232-7746, or log onto www.icecontact.com.

Volunteers Honored for Service to Community

First Annual Event Thanks Citizens Who Gave Their Time

They served as coaches for youth sports, donated to local needy families, fought fires, and many other tasks. Over 550 individuals, civic groups, and business leaders were invited by the Board of Commissioners to the first annual countywide Volunteer Recognition Banquet held November 17 at Currituck County High School. The event honored Currituck County volunteers who gave their time to local government projects and programs.

Outstanding volunteer awards were presented to the following:

Parks & Recreation -

Angel Abbott, Cheerleading Coach of the Year
Danny Leonard, Flag Football Coach of the Year
Richard LaBounty, Tackle Football Coach of the Year
Ken McMurray, Soccer Coach of the Year
Beth Keenehan, Softball Coach of the Year
Sam Casey, Baseball Coach of the Year
Allen Capps, Basketball Coach of the Year

NC Cooperative Extension Service -

Jessica Heyder, Extension Advisory Board
Erline Jones, Extension Community Association
Becky Baggett, 4-H Program
Susan Johnson, Support Our Students Program
Hank & Terrie Swank, Master Gardeners Program
Joe Etheridge, Farm Cooperator

Currituck County Department of Social Services -

Corolla Chapel

Volunteer Fire Departments -

Moyock Volunteer Fire Department, Mike Lane
Carova Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Doug McCabe
Corolla Fire and Rescue Squad, Ed Cox
Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department, Curtis Burmeister
Crawford Township Volunteer Fire Department, David Stoner

Currituck County Fire Services -

Laura Walker

Currituck County Emergency Medical Services -

Mike Childress

Currituck County Public Library -

Barco Library, Bettye Lee
Corolla Branch, Herb Robbins

Currituck County Community Volunteer of the Year -

American Legion Post #288



Recipients of the 2005 Currituck County Outstanding Volunteer Award

Currituck ... Mark your calendar

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Would you like to sharpen your gardening knowledge and skills? If so, now is the time to complete an application for the 2006 Currituck County Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training Classes. These classes provide a broad scope of horticulture training in areas such as plant identification, organic gardening, landscape design, pest management, and more.

Anyone interested in participating in the Master Gardener program may apply, regardless of past gardening experience. Participating is an excellent way to learn more about gardening, meet other gardeners, and develop skills that can make gardening efforts more successful.

Classes will begin Tuesday, February 7, and will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Historic Currituck Courthouse.



The program is sponsored by the NC Cooperative Extension Service - Currituck County Center.

For more information, please contact Jan Perry-Weber with the NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2262.

PARKS & RECREATION

Youth Athletic Programs

SPRING SOCCER

Sign-ups begin January 16, 2006

End February 4

On-site registration - February 4

from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - location to be announced

Online deadline - February 2

YEARLY CURRITUCK ATHLETIC ASSOC. MEETING

February 9, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at Currituck Middle School

T-BALL, ROOKIE LEAGUE, BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

On-site registration begins February 18, 2006

at the Knapp School Gym from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

and on February 25 at the Knapp School Gym,

Griggs School Gym & Moyock School Gym from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

On-site deadline - March 4 at the Knapp School gym

from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

PLEASE NOTE:

Currituck County Government Offices and the Currituck County Public Schools will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2006 in observance of the *Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday*

Currituck County Online Information & Services at

www.currituckgovernment.com

- Search real estate listings and deeds
- 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



ONLINE PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS NOW AVAILABLE

The Currituck County Water Department is pleased to offer online payments through MUNIS Online services. Customers may now pay their water and sewer bills with Visa or MasterCard through the County's Internet website, www.currituckgovernment.com / Online Services. There is no additional charge for this service.

In order to process an online payment, you will need to have your water account number.

For additional information, call the Water Department at 232-2769.



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.