



EMS Pitches in to Help Seniors

Everyone needs a helping hand at some point, and Currituck senior citizens are no different. To that end, Currituck County Emergency Medical Services staff is taking time each week to deliver meals to senior "shut-ins," elderly citizens who are unable to provide their own transportation outside of their homes.



EMS Captain Drummond Figg, EMT-B Barbara Hill and Dawn Culley of the Senior Center help coordinate meal deliveries to County senior citizens.

EMT-B Barbara Hill makes nine stops each Wednesday to personally deliver 11 lunch meals to senior citizens in the Moyock area. Hill works in cooperation with Diane Bray, Currituck Senior Center Coordinator, and staff member Dawn Culley.

"They enjoy it, and I enjoy going to see them," said Hill, who tries to spend a few minutes talking with each person on her stops. "They enjoy the company."

See EMS Page 3

Sleigh Bells Ring on December 1

Get in the Christmas Spirit at the Currituck Christmas Parade and Tree Illumination on Saturday, December 1.

The 18th Annual Christmas Parade rolls into motion at 10:00 a.m., beginning at Knapp School and proceeding north along Hwy. 168 before ending at the Currituck Judicial Center. The 2007 parade is sponsored by the Currituck Cooperative Extension and Community Association.



A holiday celebration will take place after the parade, featuring the 55th Annual Tree Illumination ceremony. Santa Claus will be a special guest, while entertainment will be provided by the "Joyful Sounds" choral group.

See Sleigh Bells Page 7

Annual Report Highlights Tourism Impact

Currituck County's Department of Travel and Tourism recently released its 2006 - 2007 Annual Report. This document includes information and data on occupancy and sales tax collection, statistical research, and the department's marketing strategy. The available data accurately reflects visitor spending and the positive economic impact of tourism in Currituck County.

The Annual Report details the significant success achieved by the County's Travel and Tourism Department in promoting tourism and attracting visitors to Currituck County during the 2006 - 2007 fiscal year.

Tourism saved each household in Currituck County \$1,503 in 2006, compared to a state average of just \$413!

Highlighting the report is the information regarding Tax Relief for County households. Tax relief is the sales tax revenue (from state and local taxes) divided by the total number of households.

Tourism saved each household in Currituck County a total of \$1,503 in taxes during 2006. The County's figure compares favorably to the state's Tax Relief average of only \$413.

It's easy to see that having a large number of vacationers visit Currituck each year saves residents hundreds of dollars in taxes!

Currituck County enjoyed an above-average increase in visitor spending of 9.9%. Comparatively, Pasquotank County increased by 7.4% and Dare County went up by 8.7%. The North Carolina state average was an increase of 8.3%.

To request a free copy of the Annual Report, call the Tourism Department at 232-2708 or e-mail info@visitcurrituck.com.



County Receives Three State Communications Awards

Currituck County's Public Information Department was named a winner in the 2007 Excellence in Communications awards program sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Government Information Officers (NCAGIO).



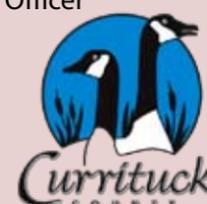
Two projects received first place awards: the County's government website, CurrituckGovernment.com, and The Moving Wall, a project that brought the Vietnam Memorial replica to Currituck County. The Department also received a second place award for the Focus on Currituck newsletter that is mailed quarterly to all citizens.

See Communication Awards Page 4

Focus On Currituck: A Report to the Community is an NCAGIO award-winning publication of the Currituck County Public Information Department.

Diane C. Sawyer, Director
 Randall Z. Edwards, Information & Communications Officer
 Daniel F. Scanlon, II, County Manager

Post Office Box 39, Currituck, NC 27929
 Phone: (252) 232-0719
 Website: CurrituckGovernment.com
 E-mail: contactus@co.currituck.nc.us



Focus on Currituck is printed and mailed to your home for just \$0.51 per issue.

NEW EMPLOYEES, PROMOTIONS, AWARDS

Currituck County Welcomes...

PETER BISHOP

Attracting additional jobs to Currituck County and creating new opportunities for its residents highlight the philosophy of Currituck's new Economic Development Director.

Peter Bishop, who assumed his role on August 7, feels another crucial element to his job is helping existing County businesses maintain success and expand when possible.

"I want to continue to support the local businesses and have the most business-friendly climate that we can," said Bishop, who comes to Currituck from Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked in private real estate development.



Position: Economic Development Dir.
Education: University of Toledo, Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy; Cleveland State University, Master's Degree in Public Administration and Economic Development

Now in an area that is undergoing significant growth, Bishop recognizes a need to work with other County departments and regional business leaders to attract commercial growth in a manner beneficial to Currituck.

"Currituck County is a good location to attract businesses," Bishop said. "I hope to follow the Commissioners' and County Manager's goal to diversify the local economy and bring good-paying positions for the citizens of Currituck County."

Foremost among others, Bishop plans to work closely with the County's Planning Department to create a flexible and streamlined process for developers.

"I'll be working with the Planning Department, to make the processes as painless as possible for developers," Bishop said

Since arriving in Currituck, Bishop has also been closely involved with the Currituck Airport staff in implementing improvement projects at the Currituck Regional Airport. Future development on that site might include an airport industrial park, which is currently in the planning process, he said.

"We want to grow the economy, but we want the new growth to fit in and be compatible with the rural character of the County," said Bishop.

BEN WOODY

Providing open communication in a friendly, customer-service environment, while ensuring orderly growth and long-term development, is the goal of Currituck County's new Planning Director, Ben Woody.



Position: Planning Director
Education: UNC-Charlotte, B.S., Major in Geography with concentration in Community Regional Planning; UNC-Charlotte, Master of Public Affairs
Previously: Senior Planner, City of Greensboro

Woody joined the County staff on September 10. He says it's imperative for the County's Planning Department to maintain a balance between growth and infrastructure needs.

"The more we grow, the more we have to balance the growth with the provision of services," Woody said. "Our job is to look 20 years into the future."

Woody's move to Currituck follows a stint as Senior Planner for the City of Greensboro. Though he's coming from a large city, Woody likes the County's relaxed atmosphere and being close to miles of gorgeous beaches.

As Planning Director, an important goal will be to protect the rural charm

that makes Currituck County a unique coastal community in the face of developmental pressures, he said.

"We have to balance economic development and growth with preserving and maintaining the character of Currituck County. That's a challenge," Woody said.

Staff Promotions



Spence Castello,
Director of
Inspections



Pat Irwin,
Director of Utilities



Benjie Carawan,
So. Outer Banks Water
Superintendent

Awarding Excellence

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: HARRY LEE

The outstanding performance of Currituck County's GIS staff received statewide recognition in September at the North Carolina National Emergency Number Association awards ceremony.



Harry Lee, Currituck GIS Coordinator, was honored with the "Communications Support Personnel of the Year" Award from NCNENA.

Through Lee's leadership, the 9-1-1 Center implemented a new GIS mapping system that has improved the crucial response information and routes which are useful to Currituck County's

Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel.

The system instantly places multiple layers of information, including maps, overhead imagery and pictures of the County, at the fingertips of Communications staff. This information can then be quickly relayed to response personnel.

The new system gives the dispatchers in Currituck's 9-1-1 Center a birds-eye view of incident locations, saving vital time and providing precise directions to the site for response teams.

BRAY COMPLETES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Diane Bray, Currituck Senior Center Coordinator, recently completed an intensive educational program that is designed to benefit older adults and their families. The three-year curriculum, which was offered through the Ann Johnson Institute for Senior Center Management, included six training modules that were based on topics suggested through focus groups, surveys and meetings with senior center managers. Bray was recognized at a ceremony held on October 26 in Raleigh.



CARAWAN TABBED FOR NCWOA AWARD

Currituck Outer Banks residents enjoy a state-of-the-art water treatment facility that thrives under the leadership of an award winning operator.

Benjie Carawan received the "Outstanding A-Well Operator of the Year Award" from the North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association. This honor was presented at the association's annual business meeting on September 24. Carawan was recognized for his ability, devotion and technical expertise in the operation of a water treatment facility.

The award recognized Carawan for his outstanding work as Chief Operator.

HONORS, FIREWISE COMMUNITY

Family Honors EMS Responders

Three members of the Currituck County Emergency Medical Services team received a heartfelt gesture of gratitude at the October 15 Board of Commissioners meeting for their outstanding effort and compassion in the line of duty.

As the Commissioners, County Staff and numerous citizens looked on, plaques of appreciation were presented to EMT – Paramedic/Firefighter William Jones, EMT – Basic Jennifer Donohue and EMT – Intermediate Bonnie Boyer for their performance during a recent emergency response situation.

On July 6, 2007, the EMS members responded to a medical emergency involving Rosa Lee Elswick, of Madison, Va. Elswick had been traveling home with her family following an Outer Banks vacation and fell ill, with paralysis along the right side of her body.



EMS personnel honored before the Board of Commissioners, L-R, Jennifer Donohue, Bonnie Boyer and William Jones. Also pictured is EMS Chief Michael Carter.

Through the efforts of Jones, Donohue and Boyer, who treated Elswick at the rest area on Hwy. 168,

Elswick was able to complete her trip home with her family. It was later learned that the paralysis was caused by cancer. Elswick passed away on August 28.

Members of Elswick's family, who traveled with her that day in July, were touched by the caring nature of Currituck's EMS staff. To show their appreciation, the family had the plaques made to publicly honor the three emergency workers.

The family's feelings were summarized in a letter accompanying the plaques. It wished to remind everyone that, "... our true heroes are the men and women we depend on in our daily lives to comfort and care for us."

.....

EMS

Continued from Page 1

Aside from providing a nutritious lunch, Hill said the service also helps her keep an eye on County residents who have health concerns. She often performs blood pressure checks for many of the seniors.

"The little bit of time you spend with them, you know they appreciate it," said Hill, a 13-year EMS veteran who began delivering meals on October 3.

Michael Carter, EMS Chief, sees his staff's involvement as an important step towards maintaining positive community relationships.

"There are wonderful things happening in this county on a daily basis and I am glad that we can be a part of this program," Carter said.

Not only are meals delivered in Moyock but also at Knotts Island, Currituck, Grandy and Powells Point.

The lunches are delivered each week, Monday through Friday. While EMS helps with the task on Wednesdays, plenty of opportunities remain for other departments, organizations and individuals to join the effort.

"To be able to go out and do that for them, it's a neat thing," said EMS Captain Drummond Figg.



Currituck Club Designated a Firewise Community

Neighborhood is One of Only Eight in NC to Achieve 'Firewise Communities USA' Status

Wildfires, such as the recent ones in California, have communities across the country thinking about how they can protect their properties from fire. One neighborhood in Currituck County is making fire safety a top priority.

Residents of The Currituck Club in Corolla established a Firewise Task Force in February 2007. The task force, a project through the Firewise Communities USA program, conducted a community-wide assessment to determine what measures were needed in order to protect homes and other structures – including the community's 18-hole golf course – from fire.

The Currituck Club is one of only eight communities in the state to attain Firewise Communities USA status. It is the only neighborhood in all of Northeast North Carolina to reach this achievement.

The National Firewise Communities program provides wildland/urban interface resources for firefighter safety, community planning, landscaping, construction and maintenance to help protect people, property and natural resources from fire.

The Firewise Task Force conducted a two-week cleanup campaign, helping residents identify and address the features of a Firewise Community. These included such measures as: making sure landscaping has "survivable" space around structures (pruning trees, removing flammable plants that contain resins, oils and waxes that burn easily); creating a Home Ignition Zone that reduces or eliminates fire hazards often created by vegetation and combustible constructions such as wooden porches, storage sheds and fences; keeping roofs, gutters and eaves clear of leaves and other debris; creating a disaster plan with family members; and clearly marking structures with street names and numbers for easy location by emergency responders.



Two-year-old Patrick Smith sits in a Corolla Volunteer Fire Department truck during The Currituck Club's First annual Firewise Day held recently at the neighborhood's entrance.

Doug Wendling, Chairman of The Currituck Club's Firewise Task Force, said one goal of the group is to ensure that community architectural guidelines are kept in accordance with Firewise principles. He said the group is also working to improve emergency vehicle ingress and egress, as well as providing individual property owners with personal Firewise assessments of their property.

The NC Division of Fire Services, Currituck County Fire Marshal, and Corolla Volunteer Fire Department have provided tremendous support to The Currituck Club's Firewise efforts, said Wendling.

"We've received a lot of cooperation from everyone here," said Mike Ward, President of property owners' association. "Everyone is completely supportive of this effort."

For additional information on the Firewise Communities program, visit the Firewise website at www.firewise.org.

Currituck County Board of Commissioners

Barry C. Nelms, Chairman, Poplar Branch Township
Phone: 453-4153

Gene A. Gregory, Vice-Chairman, At-Large
Phone: 336-4706

Janet L. Taylor, Moyock Township
Phone: 435-6965

Ernie Bowden, Fruitville Township
Phone: 453-3940

J. Owen Etheridge, Crawford Township
Phone: 455-0586

E-mail: commissioners@co.currituck.nc.us

Board of Commissioner meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month. They are also aired on Mediacom Channel 18 every Monday and Tuesday at 7:00 PM.



AWARDS, SENIOR GAMES, FERRY, MEDICARE

Currituck Treasures Volunteers... Citizens Honored for Volunteer Service



Volunteers for Currituck County Government were recognized by the Board of Commissioners at a pirate-themed banquet held recently at Currituck County High School. These individuals were honored for their dedication and service in such ways as coaching youth sports, volunteering at local fire departments, serving as a Master Gardener, and giving time to work at the public library.

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year awards were presented to the following:

- Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach - Greg Skok
- Basketball Coach - Dawn Leigh
- Flag Football Coach - Vincent Cason
- Cheering Coach - Adrienne Sheehy
- Tackle Football Coach - Tony Fallon
- Baseball Coach - Scott Williams
- Softball Coach - Jack Phillips
- Special Olympics - Alysia Bailey
- Community Resource Development - Tom Jones
- Extension & Community Association - Erlene Jones
- 4-H Youth Development - Terry Temple
- Support Our Students - Alysia Bailey
- Master Gardeners - Jim Martin
- Farm Cooperator - Wade & JoAnn Morgan
- Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Dept. - Mary King
- Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Dept. - The Volunteers of the LCVFD
- Corolla Volunteer Fire Dept. - Rich Sigal
- Currituck County Public Library (Mainland) - Jim & Elaine Dougherty
- Corolla Library Branch - Abby Green
- Currituck County EMS - William & Sue Doherty

Communication Awards

Continued from Page 1

Currituck County's website is a comprehensive site that includes information on government services, facts and figures, maps, ordinances, and public notices. The site also features many online services including: payment of water and tax bills, election registration, customer services survey, employment application, and several other forms.

Currituck County staff, together with the American Legion Post 288, hosted The Moving Wall on October 25 – October 29, 2006. During this five-day event, over 10,000 people went to Veteran's Memorial Park in Coinjock to observe this special memorial that stands as a reminder of the sacrifice made by the 2.7 million men and women of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War.

A committee of employees and volunteers spent several months planning for the arrival of The Moving Wall. It was comprised of representatives from



local government, the Sheriff's Department, civic groups, US Coast Guard, NC Highway Patrol, Naval Station Support Activity Northwest, Currituck County Schools, and several businesses.

The Focus on Currituck newsletter is a quarterly publication of Currituck County Government. The newsletter includes articles of interest, a calendar of events, and other information pertaining to local government. All text is written and design work completed by the Public Information staff.

The awards were presented at the NCAIO annual conference held last month in Chapel Hill.

24th Annual Senior Games On Tap For Spring

Currituck senior adults will have the opportunity to participate in the 24th Annual Albemarle Senior Games, to be held in Elizabeth City on April 14, 15 & 22; and May 1 and 25, 2008.

Local participants will compete in events such as Track and Field, Bocce, Shot Put, Discus, Football and Softball Throw, Croquet, Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, Basketball Shooting, Tennis, Golf, Badminton, Table Tennis and Bowling.

The Currituck Senior Center also participates in the Silver Arts competition, which includes Literary Arts, Heritage Arts, Visual Arts and Performing Arts.

More than 60,000 seniors participate in Senior Games across North Carolina, helping them to stay fit and enjoy the company of friends and family.



James Teal, (L) and Jessie Garrett carry the County's banner during the Senior Games.

Anyone interested in participating in the 2008 Senior Games should contact Diane Bray at the Currituck Senior Center (232-3505).

Ferry Adds Second Run For School Year

Knotts Island children who attend schools on the Mainland have one less excuse for being tardy. On October 23, the North Carolina Department of Transportation added a second run to the ferry service between Currituck and Knotts Island.

This second run, which will continue through the end of the 2007-08 school year, is being made in addition to the ferry's regular schedule of runs. It includes a beginning run at 6:30 a.m. from Knotts Island and a final run at 6:30 p.m. from the Currituck dock.

The following is a complete ferry schedule, including both ferry runs:

From Knotts Island	From Currituck
6:30 a.m.	6:00 a.m.
7:00 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
12 noon	12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.

Maximize Your Medicare Drug Plan In 2008

Cooperative Extension can help you evaluate your current Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for 2008 so you'll get the most out of your options. Trained counselors are available to guide you through making changes to your plan and checking to see if you qualify for premium payment and drug co-payment assistance.

Though changes to your current plan take effect on January 1, 2008, these updates must be made during the Medicare Annual Open Enrollment period between November 15 and December 31, 2007.

Along with helping you make changes, counselors can assist you with applying for Extra Help, through the Social Security Administration and the Governor's NCRx Program.

In 2008, the Medicare Part B premium will increase from \$93.50 per month to \$96.40 and the deductible will increase to \$135. The Part A deductible will increase from \$992 to \$1,024 per benefit period.

Call the Extension at 232-2261 for answers to all of your questions about Medicare.



ELECTION BOARD, WATER UPDATE

Election Board News

Precinct Officials Appointed for 2007-09 Cycle

The Currituck County Board of Elections appointed the following officials to serve as Precinct Officials for the 2007-2009 election cycles:



Churches Island: Chief Judge-Beth Childers; Judges-Dorothy Hocutt, Mary Oakes; Assistants-James Haynes, Whitfield Moore

Poplar Branch: Chief Judge-Leslie Knopfler; Judges-Beverly Brown, Nora Norris; Assistant-Patricia Pulver

Powells Point: Chief Judge-Shirley Crank; Judges-Aloma Hemmerich, Selina Jarvis; Assistant-William Downey

Whalehead: Chief Judge-Annie Ponton; Judges-Donna Bleier, Irene Baronet

Coinjock: Chief Judge-Carol Keaton; Judges-Carolyn McCarter, Spencer Castello

Courthouse: Chief Judge-Nancy Bass; Judges-Linda Robinson, Kelly Arp; Assistant-Alma Smith

Indian Ridge: Chief Judge-Carol Slezak; Judges-Betty Romano, Jean Potter

Moyock: Chief Judge-Diane Ferebee; Judges-Patricia Howard, Lori Childree

Gibbs Woods: Chief Judge-Kathryn Read; Judges-June Beck, Ruth Hargrave

Carova Beach: Chief Judge-Cynthia Rhodes; Judges-Patricia Vann, Karen Gregory

Knotts Island: Chief Judge-Sandra Caffee; Judges-Margaret Waterfield, Laurel Hicks

Rover Substitute Judges: Frances Roberts, Lee Baronet

Upcoming Election Deadlines

Monday, February 11, 2008, at 12 noon: Filing will open for the following local offices for the General Election and/or Primary:

1. Register of Deeds
2. County Commissioner - District 1 (old Fruitville seat)
3. County Commissioner - District 2 (new seat)
4. County Commissioner - District 4 (old Crawford seat)
5. County Commissioner - At-Large (new seat)
6. Board of Education - Fruitville Township
7. Board of Education - Moyock Township

The deadline to file is Friday, February 29, 2008, at 12 noon.

The Elections office and County website, www.CurrituckGovernment.com, have fact sheets available for anyone interested in filing for office.

* NOTE: Currituck County has adopted a new voter district map for election to the Board of Commissioners. Please go to the County website to view this new map.

Voting districts for the Board of Education remain unchanged.



County Plans for Mainland Water Expansion

Currituck County's Mainland Water System will experience an expansion in the next few years, beginning in early 2008. This will include water main improvements, additional elevated storage and a new water treatment facility incorporating reverse osmosis desalination into the treatment process.

The County's new treatment facility is scheduled for completion in July 2009. Plans for water main improvements include a booster pump station on Tulls Creek Road, which will move a higher volume of water to customers in Moyock.



Additional elevated storage components will include a 500,000 gallon tank in the Moyock area and a 300,000 gallon tank in Harbinger. These tanks will provide increased storage and improved pressure. They are scheduled for completion by the summer of 2008.

The mainland water treatment facility expansion will add 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of production to the current 1.4 mgd, providing a total production capability of 2.9 mgd. In addition, the plant's designs will accommodate an expansion to 3.0 mgd by adding more reverse osmosis treatment trains. Four new wells drilled into the Yorktown aquifer are planned with a nominal yield of 600 gallons per minute (gpm) to supply water to the reverse osmosis units.

Additional information on water rates and fees schedules, frequently asked questions and how to apply for water service is available on the Currituck County website, www.CurrituckGovernment.com.

Water Conservation Tips



Use hot water efficiently. When letting sink or shower water run to heat up, capture warm-up water for other uses. Insulate hot water pipes to save energy.

Brush teeth efficiently. Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth or shave. Turn the faucet on just briefly to rinse.

Wash clothes wisely. Match washer's load selector to your load size. Wash only full loads. Buy an "Energy Star" washer to save water and energy.

Test your toilet. Add food coloring to the toilet tank and wait a few minutes. If color appears in toilet without flushing, replace flapper valve.

Reduce water use. If you don't have a low-flow toilet, use plastic bottles filled with water and pebbles to displace water in the tank.

Flush only when necessary. Every flush you eliminate saves many gallons of water. Install a water-efficient toilet. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.

Take half-full baths. Try bathing in a tub that's less than half full. When you're finished bathing, use the bath water to rinse the tub.

Short showers save water. Install a low-flow showerhead and a flow controller. Try to limit showers to fewer than five minutes.

Use less water for dishes. Scrape dishes clean to limit pre-rinsing. Soak dirty pans or dishes before washing. Run the dishwasher only when it's full.

Don't waste drinking water. Instead of running the tap to get water cold, keep water in the fridge. At restaurants, request only the drinking water you need.



Prepare food efficiently. Use a vegetable brush. Spray water in short bursts. Defrost foods in the microwave or overnight in the refrigerator, not with running water.

For more information on water conservation, visit www.waterwiser.org or www.wateruseitwisely.com

Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training

Now is the time to apply for the 2008 Currituck County Master Gardener volunteer training program.



Classes will begin on Tuesday, February 5, and will continue for 13 weeks. These sessions provide a broad scope of horticulture training in several areas: including plant identification, organic gardening, landscapedesign, and pest management.

Classes will be held at the new North Carolina Cooperative Extension facility located on

Hwy 158; cost is \$65 per person. Anyone interested is encouraged to apply, regardless of previous gardening experience.

If you would like to become a Master Gardener, call the NC Cooperative Extension office at 232-2262 to receive an application.

New Cooperative Extension Facility Nears Completion

Currituck County's newest government building will feature educational classrooms, computer training classrooms, conferencerooms and botanical gardens.

County officials plan for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Center of Currituck County to be completed and open to the public at the beginning of 2008.

Located on U.S. 158, west of Central Elementary School, the \$6.7 million facility will be home to the Elizabeth P. Sanderlin Auditorium, allowing the Extension to host large public meetings and special events. Sanderlin worked as a home extension agent in Currituck County in the 1950s and 1960s, and helped start the county's roadside farm markets.

The building will also house offices and laboratories for Extension staff, demonstration ponds and plots for lawns, a demonstration kitchen for teaching and an Extension Library to house client resources, texts, curriculum and historical records.



Extension Service is an arm of the State's two land-grant universities-North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T University. Educational programs are offered in the areas of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Education, 4-H and Youth Development, Community and Rural Development.



Upcoming Programs at the Currituck Library

Winter Forum

Library officials have planned an exciting series of speakers from the North Carolina Humanities Council and the UNC Speakers Bureau. These free forums last about one hour and are followed by refreshments provided by the local Friends of the Library.

January: Kevin Duffus, researcher, author and documentary filmmaker who specializes in North Carolina maritime history, will discuss shipwrecks and their legacy on the Currituck Outer Banks.

February: David La Vere, professor of U.S. History at UNC Wilmington, will present a program on the fate of the Lost Colony – one of North Carolina's greatest mysteries.

March: Peter White, professor of biology at UNC Chapel Hill/ College of Arts and Sciences and the director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, will discuss native plants and the importance of plant diversity and conservation.

Calling All Teens ...



The Currituck County Library in Barco has started a teen advisory group to help select books for the Teen Section and plan programming specifically for teenagers. The advisory group is open to any teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18. Call 453-8345 and ask for Patsy or Sandy for more information.

Coming Soon ... World Book Online

The Currituck County Library has subscribed to the online version of the World Book Encyclopedia. In addition to being available within the library, this subscription will allow Currituck County Library Card holders to access the encyclopedia from any computer with an Internet connection. The World Book website will be reached by clicking on the blue World Book icon on the Albemarle Regional Library home page: <http://www.youseemore.com/ear/>.

There will be a version for young children and a standard version for older children. The site contains video and audio links and additional information not found in the encyclopedia's print version.

Did You Know?

If you are planning an event, state fire codes may require a permit and inspection. For safety reasons, large tents/canopies (greater than 200 square feet) or groups of smaller tents/canopies may require permits and inspection. Please contact the Inspections Department (232-3378) at least two weeks before the event to ensure the proper forms are completed and the permit is issued prior to your event.



OPERATION SANTA CLAUS, HOLIDAY EVENTS

Operation Santa Claus Bringing Christmas Joy

In an effort to make sure all Currituck County children enjoy Christmas, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is taking applications for its Christmas assistance program, Operation Santa Claus.

This initiative is to help provide toys for children ages 4 to 12. Applications are being accepted at DSS through December 20, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Anyone who cannot apply in person may have a representative apply for them.

All applicants must provide the following verifications:

- Picture ID for person applying
- Social Security Cards for all household members
- Proof of income for all household members, including:
 - Child support
 - Pay stubs
 - Social Security
 - Retirement or pension payments

Current recipients of Food Stamps or Medicaid do not need proof of income or Social Security Cards.

For more information, contact the Dept. of Social Services at 232-3083.



GREEN TIP: Change a Light

ChangeALightNC.org promotes energy savings by encouraging homeowners to replace standard light bulbs with energy-efficient Compact Fluorescent Lights.

CFLs last up to 10 times longer and use about one-quarter of the energy needed by a standard light bulb. Each CFL saves approximately \$40 in electricity during its lifetime.

According to the organization, changing one bulb for each North Carolina household would:

- Conserve enough energy to light more than 86,000 homes for one year;
- Save more than \$15 million in annual energy costs;
- Cut greenhouse gases equivalent to emissions from 19,000 cars a year.

Visit ChangeALightNC.org for more information.

Tree Lighting to Precede Whalehead Club's Holiday Piano Concert

The first annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will kick off the Christmas holiday in Currituck Heritage Park. It will be held Saturday, December 8, at 5:00 p.m.

The tree lighting, will precede a 7:00 p.m. Holiday Piano Concert at the historic Whalehead Club. Held in the Whalehead Club's library, the concert will feature the Steinway grand piano of Mrs. Edward C. Knight, Jr., one of the home's original owners.

Guests viewing the lighting are invited to take family holiday portraits at the tree, which will be located near the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. Holiday splendor will include the lighthouse, which will be decorated for the holiday season.

Prior to the piano concert, the Whalehead Club will be available for tours. Refreshments will also be offered to visitors inside the building.

During the concert, listeners will be mesmerized by the sounds of Mrs. Knight's grand piano. This original Steinway was customized to her specifications and has graced the Whalehead Club for more than a century. Made of tiger mahogany, this elegant artifact is a Louis XV design and will entertain guests of all ages.

Visitors to Currituck Heritage Park, located on Route 12 North near milepost 11, can find ticket information for the tree lighting and piano concert at www.whaleheadclub.org, or call the Whalehead Club at 453-9040.

County Dedicates New Facility

Currituck County Sheriff Susan Johnson and County Commissioner, Owen Etheridge, formally dedicate the grand opening of Morgan Cafeteria, at the County's Detention Center, on November 5.



Named for former Currituck Sheriff's Deputy Watt Morgan, the kitchen is serving meals to inmates and County employees can purchase lunch in the cafeteria.

Sleigh Bells

Continued from Page 1

This year's parade will not travel Courthouse Road, but instead will move directly up Hwy. 168 to the Judicial Center. Ample parking will be available in lots at the Currituck Senior Center/Department of Social Services and Health Department.

The Cooperative Extension would like to invite everyone to participate in holiday giving by bringing non-perishable goods for the needy throughout the County. Items can be placed in boxes located at the Judicial Center.



James Gardner, 2006 performer.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, SAFETY TIPS

Winter Calendar of Events

December 1 - 18th Annual Christmas Parade, starting from Knapp School, 10:00 a.m.

December 1 - 55th Annual Tree Illumination, at Currituck Judicial Center, following the Christmas Parade



December 1 - 3rd Annual "Make It and Take It" Ornament Workshop at the Currituck County Public Library, 11:00 a.m.

December 8 - 1st Annual Currituck Heritage Park Tree Lighting, 5:00 p.m.

December 8 - Whalehead Club Holiday Piano Concert, 7:00 p.m.

December 17-19 - Holiday Open House, Currituck County Public Library

December 24-26 - County offices closed for the Christmas Holiday

January 1 - County offices closed for the New Year's Holiday

January 10, 2008: NC Bariatric Surgical Support Group meeting at the Currituck Senior Center, 6:30 p.m., 757-312-5265

January 21 - County offices closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

February 5 - Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training Classes begin; call 232-2261

February 7, 2008: NC Bariatric Surgical Support Group meeting at the Currituck Senior Center, 6:30 p.m.

February 11 - Filing opens for General Election and/or Primary Election, starting at 12:00 noon.

February 29 - Board of Election deadline to file for office, 12:00 noon.



Holiday Fire Safety Tips

Christmas Trees:

Purchase a freshly cut, green tree. The trunk should be sticky with resin and should have a couple of inches cut off to expose the fresh wood. When tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose too many needles.

Do not place the tree close to a heat source, such as a fireplace, heat vent or portable heaters.

Do not leave the tree up for longer than two weeks.

Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times and do not let the tree dry out.

Dispose of your tree at a recycling center or have it hauled away by a pick-up service.

If using an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Holiday Lights:

Inspect lights for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive wear before putting them up.

Do not overload electrical circuits. Do not link more than three light strands unless directions say it is safe. Connect strings to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

Check lights and wires periodically; they should not be warm to the touch.

Do not leave Holiday lights on unattended.



Holiday Decorations:

Use only nonflammable decorations and place them away from heat vents and fireplaces.

Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace. It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup in your home that could cause a dangerous explosion.

Always have working smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries. Also, know how to call for help and practice your family's home escape plan.

Safety tips recommended by the United States Fire Administration.

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

FOCUS ON CURRITUCK
DECEMBER 2007

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #37
Nags Head, NC
27959

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.