



### TURBINES NOW ALLOWED TO HARNESS WIND ENERGY

Currituck's Board of Commissioners adopted an amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance on January 22 that allows wind turbines as a permitted or special use within the County.

The new amendment defines three types of Wind Energy Facilities which may be permitted: Small System, Large System and Utility Scale.



Each system must meet a categorical set of minimum lot size, maximum height and setback requirements, as well as certain installation and design specifications. Small Scale systems will require administrative approval from the County, while Large System and Utility Scale projects will need approval from the Board of Commissioners.

A Small Scale system is a single wind turbine designed to supplement other electricity sources of an existing building, and intends for the power generated to be used primarily for on-site consumption. This type will require a minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet and have a maximum wind turbine height of 120 feet.

Large Systems consist of one or more wind turbines and associated control or conversion equipment, with a rated capacity of not more than 999 KW. A minimum lot size for Large Systems will be five acres, and wind turbines will not exceed 250 feet in height.

A Utility Scale facility will include more than one turbine, tower and associated conversion equipment, with a rated capacity greater than 1 MW. These facilities will require a minimum lot size of 25 acres, and will have a maximum height of 500 square feet. Applicants pursuing a Utility Scale facility must complete an Environmental Impact Study.

For each category, specific setback requirements are included in the amendment to address proximity to occupied buildings, adjacent property, property lines, public/private right-of-ways, Highway 158, Highway 168 and NC 12.



### CHILD ADVOCACY GROUPS LOOK OUT FOR YOUTH

A belief that all children have the right to be safe is the driving force behind two Currituck County programs working to improve everyday life for local children.

The Community Child Protection Team and the Child Fatality Prevention Team consist of many local officials and agencies that join forces to address child protection needs within Currituck County. *(Continued Page 6)*



Department of Social Services Social Workers, front row (L-R): Cynthia Jarvis, Judith Ayers, Carolyn Eason, Patty Halstead; back row (L-R): Lisa MacFee, Stephanie Bradley, Vickie Moore, Roma Brown, Lacey Kallestad, Connie Potter, Jo Felton.

### DONATION TO EMS AIMED TOWARDS FURRY FRIENDS

It may be a rare situation, but if a family pet needs oxygen resuscitation during an emergency, Currituck's EMS can answer the call.

Currituck County Emergency Medical Services recently received special equipment aimed towards pet resuscitation. Two SurgiVet Animal Oxygen Resuscitation kits were donated in early January by the Animal Lovers Assistance League.

"I think this is a wonderful program, and I'm honored they would do this for Currituck County," said Michael Carter, Currituck County EMS-Fire Chief.

The resuscitation kits will most often be deployed during structure-fire emergencies, when family pets might suffer from smoke inhalation. Though saving human lives and structures are always the primary goals of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, certain opportunities to lessen a family's trauma by saving a beloved pet might occur, Carter said.

The new equipment offers Currituck EMS another resource to support the county's Volunteer Fire Departments.

"This is an added function to help the County work with the Volunteer Fire Departments and help the community in another way," said Carter, who added that he has observed resuscitation of pets with human resuscitator equipment.

The kits feature a number of masks, of varying sizes and shapes, which are specially designed for animals. Most normal types of pets, such as dogs, cats or guinea pigs, will be easily fit with the oxygen masks.



Currituck EMS Captain Lee Morris demonstrates the use of the county's new Pet Resuscitator equipment on Cally, a Currituck beagle.



### NEW FACILITY HOUSES BOARD OF ELECTIONS



Currituck County's Board of Elections is the latest county department to move into a new home.

On February 11, the Elections staff opened a new facility located at the Governmental Center Complex on Caratoke Highway. With the May primary election fast approaching, the move was a much-needed improvement for the Board of Elections, which had previously shared building space with the Parks and Recreation Department.

*(Continued Page 4)*

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

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

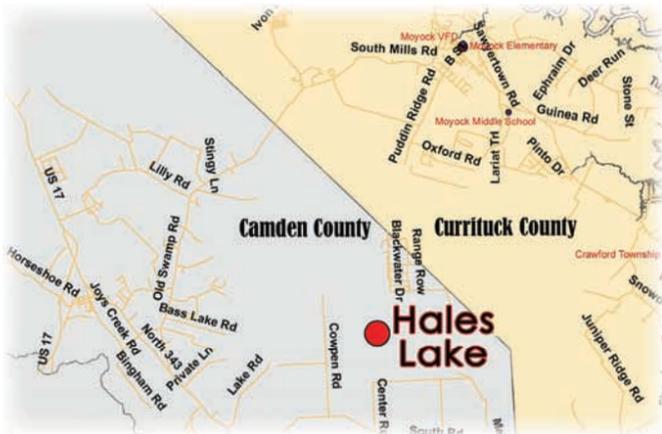


## REVISED OLF LIST INCLUDES SITE ON CURRITUCK'S BORDER

A site on the Navy's new list of alternatives for an Outlying Landing Field would have a major effect on Currituck County if built.

The Navy revealed a new list of possible sites for an Outlying Landing Field on Tuesday, January 22 that includes a location centered in the Hales Lake area of Camden County. If constructed, the site would overlap into Currituck County.

This site is among five locations identified by the Navy as having "operational, environmental and population characteristics that make them viable site alternatives for further analysis," according to an official statement released by the Navy.



Of the five sites, three are located in Virginia and two are in North Carolina. In addition to Hales Lake, the Navy's new list includes: the Sandbanks site in Gates County, NC; Cabin Point site in Va.; Dory site in Va.; and Mason site in Va.

Previously, the Navy had been considering a total of 22 sites in North Carolina and Virginia.

With each of the new site alternatives, the Navy will initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts of construction and operation of an Outlying Landing Field. The field would support Field Carrier Landing Practice training for aircraft based at Naval Air Station Oceana and Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

This EIS analysis is expected to take approximately 30 months to complete.

The Navy will hold public meetings on the new Environmental Impact Statements in the spring of 2008. There will be opportunities for public input at these meetings.

## Pete's Economic Quick Tips



*Peter Bishop,  
Economic Development Director*

In a word ... **CARPPOOL!** Save valuable gas money for yourself and co-workers/friends by sharing rides. Planning your weekday commutes with one or more co-workers can help everyone fight the high costs of gas and ease the wear-and-tear on your vehicles. Plus, carpooling with friends on weekend shopping trips and errands helps optimize gasoline consumption.

Also, be aware during this tax season and double-check for possible deductions on tax returns. Be sure to file tax returns on time and include information about any donations you have made. The federal government provides accurate information to guide the tax-return process at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## INTERNATIONAL FIRM RECOGNIZES CURRITUCK'S HEALTHY FINANCES

An internationally recognized provider of financial market analysis recently announced an upgrade of its credit rating for Currituck County.

Standard and Poor, an independent firm that is home to the S&P 500 benchmark index, raised its credit rating on Currituck County from a A+ to a AA-. This improved rating follows a reevaluation to reflect financing of the Mainland Water System.

This improved rate offers several benefits to Currituck County, such as allowing Currituck to borrow money at a lower rate, Economic Development Director Peter Bishop said.

The rating shows that Currituck has a solid financial philosophy and strong fiscal management, Bishop added. Standard and Poor's report also helps portray the County as an attractive business partner for large and small firms considering Currituck as a location.

"The recent bond upgrade from Standard and Poor gives further proof that Currituck County is a 'Sound Investment'," Bishop said.

Standard and Poor recognized Currituck for several financial accomplishments, such as closing out the past five fiscal years with operating budget surpluses and substantially increasing the county's property tax base.

Additional factors, including a strong residential tax base, diverse revenue stream, high fund balance reserves and a prosperous tourism industry contribute to Currituck's high rating. Standard and Poor also praised Currituck County's manageable debt burden and focus on a pay-as-you-go capital financing plan.

A majority of Currituck's revenues come through property taxes, sales tax, occupancy tax and real estate transfers. Major employers within the county include Currituck County Schools, local government, Sentara Nursing Center and Food Lion LLC.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD STRIVES FOR PROPER GROWTH

Currituck County's Economic Development Advisory Board enjoyed a rebirth in January.

After a lengthy absence of more than a year, the Advisory Board was reformed by the Board of Commissioners and held its first public meeting on January 24, in the Historic Courthouse.



Members of the Economic Development Advisory Board include: Kevin Burwell, Bob Collins, Matthew Converse, Brian Innes, Tameron Kugler, Fannie Newbern and H.D. Newbern. Ex-officio members are Commissioner Barry Nelms and David Palmer, representative of the Chamber of Commerce.

Currituck's Economic Development Advisory Board is working closely with Economic Development Director Peter Bishop and the Board of Commissioners to develop a strategic vision and guide economic growth in Currituck County. The Advisory Board will

also help identify proper methods for attracting new industry to Currituck County, while encouraging agricultural development and tourism.

The Advisory Board is also helping to incorporate the findings of a long-term Economic Development Vision Plan study performed by officials from the University of North Carolina. Hired in 2006, the UNC Center for Competitive Economies completed an analysis of economic development potential in Currituck, which will be used as a reference in directing the county's commercial growth.

# 9-1-1 CENTER, SPOTLIGHT, CRIME LINE

## HABLA ESPANOL? CURRITUCK'S 9-1-1 CENTER DOES NOW, AMIGOS.

Spanish-speaking residents in Currituck County now face one less barrier to communication with the hiring of a Spanish-language telecommunicator in the Currituck 9-1-1 Communications Center.

Inessa Steiner joined the 9-1-1 staff in December and is learning the finer points of emergency communications. Her addition will help improve 9-1-1 service by having a telecommunicator who can communicate directly with callers requiring Spanish, rather than having to connect a third person through a translation service.



For years, Currituck 9-1-1 has fielded non-English language calls using Language Line Services, a translation service based in California. In these instances, the Currituck telecommunicator would have to use up precious emergency response time to connect the third person, and the ensuing conversation translation would add to the call length.

Having Steiner in house will help reduce the time necessary to gather critical information and help Currituck emergency response personnel reach the incident scene quicker.

"Our goal is to relay to the Hispanic community our efforts to minimize communication barriers when they need emergency services," said Liz Hodgis, Communications Center Supervisor. "Using our

own interpreters will reduce the overall call processing time, thus providing the caller with a more timely response to the services needed."

Steiner previously served in the military, an experience that will serve her well during the sometimes stressful nature of emergency calls.

Hodgis also hopes the presence of Steiner, and others in the future, will help eliminate any hesitancy Spanish-speaking residents may have regarding contacting the county.

### WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

- When law enforcement, fire, and medical response is needed
- When you see fire or smoke
- When life and or property are in danger
- When a crime is being committed
- When an ambulance is necessary
- Anytime you wish to obtain an expedient response from law enforcement, fire, or rescue (examples: medical emergencies, domestic disputes, assaults, breaking and entering, animal bites, fights, structure fires, vehicle fires, and any life or property threatening situation)

If you are in doubt as to whether a situation is an emergency, call 9-1-1. It's better to be safe and let the call taker determine if you need emergency assistance.

## NEED TO PROVIDE ANONYMOUS CRIME SOLVING INFORMATION?

**Call the Sheriff's Office Crime Line: 457-0383**

This 24-hour confidential answering machine is available for citizens to provide information to help solve crimes.



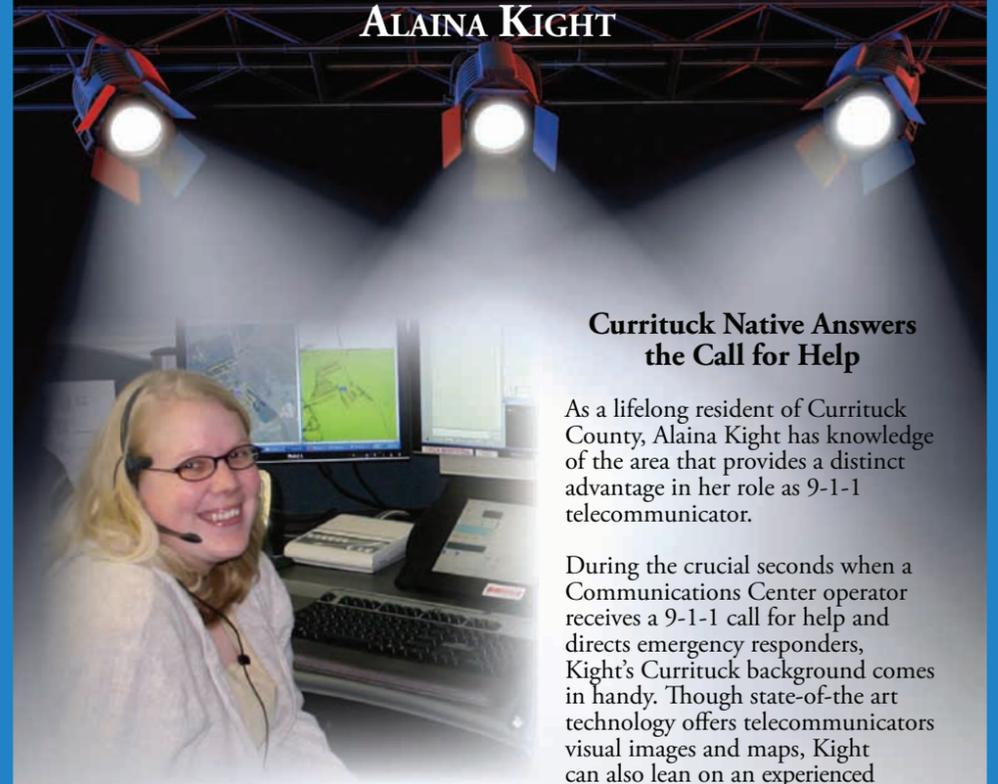
### PREPARING TO PROTECT YOU!

James Mims (left, Currituck County Fire Marshal) conducted fire extinguisher training on January 16 on the grounds of the Historic Courthouse. Fire Department recruits must learn proper extinguisher techniques as part of their official training.



## A SPOTLIGHT ON ... 9-1-1

### ALAINA KIGHT



### Currituck Native Answers the Call for Help

As a lifelong resident of Currituck County, Alaina Kight has knowledge of the area that provides a distinct advantage in her role as 9-1-1 telecommunicator.

During the crucial seconds when a Communications Center operator receives a 9-1-1 call for help and directs emergency responders, Kight's Currituck background comes in handy. Though state-of-the-art technology offers telecommunicators visual images and maps, Kight can also lean on an experienced understanding of the county.

Her Currituck upbringing and level demeanor allow Kight to perform well during the stress of emergency calls, which frequently connect a 9-1-1 telecommunicator with a hysterical resident or visitor.

"I love my job because I enjoy helping people in my community get the emergency help they need," Kight said. "As a team, the Communications Center strives very hard to provide the public with the best assistance we can."

Her performance has drawn the praise of Communications Supervisor Liz Hodgis.

"Alaina has an exceptional ability to remain calm during crisis situations," Hodgis said. "She is highly skilled in handling multiple tasks under pressure. She never misses a beat."

Since joining the Communications Center in 2006, Kight has excelled in the multi-tasking nature of the telecommunicator position. During a call, an operator might have to simultaneously gather information from the caller, dispatch emergency resources, provide directions for responders, and guide the caller through initial medical treatment. By maintaining her own composure, Kight is also adept at helping calm and reassure emergency callers.

"She sets the bar high for fellow dispatchers," said Ruth Barefoot, Communications Training Officer.

A telecommunicator must also master a myriad array of technology. Becoming adept at using the multiple computer-based applications needed during an emergency call can make a significant difference in a telecommunicator's capability.

It can be hectic and tense, but Kight enjoys the end result of her efforts. Though relatively new in her position, Kight plans to turn her job as 9-1-1 telecommunicator into a long-term career.

"Every day is different. I like coming to work and not knowing what challenges are to come about," Kight said. "People within the community depend on us."

### 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](mailto: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 P.M.

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP MARCH 19



Currituck County Emergency Management will host a hurricane preparedness workshop on Wednesday, March 19 at Corolla Light Sports Center in Corolla. Information to be shared will include predictions of the 2008 hurricane season, evacuation and re-entry procedures for the Currituck Outer Banks, post-storm procedures, and more.

The meeting is open to realtors, property managers, business owners, and representatives of homeowners' associations. Copies of the 2008 Hurricane Guide will be available for distribution to renters during the upcoming hurricane season.

For additional information or to register, call the Currituck County Public Information Department at 232-0719.



## TIPS TO AVOID IDENTITY THEFT FROM THE CURRITUCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**DO NOT GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION** via phone, mail or Internet unless you've initiated the contact or are certain you know the recipient. Identity thieves are clever and have posed as representatives of banks, Internet service providers, and government agencies to get people to reveal identifying information, such as Social Security Numbers, maiden names and account numbers.

**CONFIRM YOU'RE DEALING WITH A LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATION** before sharing any personal information. Check an organization's website by typing its URL in the address line, rather than by cutting and pasting. Many companies post scam alerts on their sites when their name has been used improperly. Also, call customer service using the number listed on your account statement or in the telephone book.

**USE STRONG PASSWORDS.** Create a combination of letters (upper and lower case), numbers, and symbols. For example, the phrase "I love Felix; he's a good cat," would become the password 1LFHA6c.

**DO NOT USE** automatic log-in features that save your user name and password, and always log off when you're finished.

**PROTECT YOUR MAIL** by putting outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at the post office and promptly remove mail from your mailbox.

**SHRED OR DESTROY** charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, checks and bank statements, expired credit or charge cards that you're discarding, as well as credit offers received in the mail.

**OPT OUT** of receiving unsolicited credit offers based on your credit report. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT. Note that you will be asked for your Social Security Number to do this.

**CARRY ONLY WHAT YOU ACTUALLY NEED** for identification and credit/debit transactions.

**PROTECT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER;** do not give it out unless absolutely necessary.

**WHEN ORDERING CHECKS,** pick them up at the bank instead of having them mailed.



## PROJECT LIFESAVER HELPS SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROTECT WANDERERS

Albemarle Area Project Lifesaver is an innovative program that is aiding victims of Alzheimer's disease, Dementia, and other related disorders such as Down Syndrome and Autism. Started by Currituck Sheriff Susan Johnson in 2006, this program is specifically designed for individuals who have a tendency to "wander" away from home.

Project Lifesaver relies on radio tracking technology and specially trained search and rescue teams. Program clients wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify law enforcement that the person is missing, a search

and rescue team responds to the wanderer's last known location and starts searching with a mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes using this system. This quick response and shorter search times can make a life or death difference in "bringing loved ones home."

Applications are available at the Sheriff's office or online at [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com). For more information on Project Lifesaver, contact the Currituck County Sheriff's Office at 453-8204.



## ELECTIONS MOVES INTO NEW HOME

*Continued from Page 1*

Many benefits will be derived from the new building, which has more than twice the amount of workspace than the Election Department's previous location. In addition to creating a better work environment, the general public will enjoy many improvements during the voting process.

Voters will notice an easier one-stop voting process. The additional space will provide room for more voting booths, which will in turn reduce the public's waiting time to vote.



A lobby in the building will contain a public-use computer for voter research, along with an additional area devoted to campaign finance. In addition, a conference room will allow ample space for precinct officials to conduct individual and group training.

"Our new building has more than doubled the space," said Kitty Etheridge, Board of Elections Director. "We hope the citizens of Currituck will share our excitement and stop by our new facility."

Board of Elections office hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One-Stop Voting begins Thursday, April 17 for the May Primary.

May Primary Election is Tuesday, May 6. Polls will open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Board of Elections will be open one Saturday: May 3, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Remember, the deadline to register to vote or change your party affiliation is Wednesday, April 16.*



## SENIOR CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 24TH ANNUAL SENIOR GAMES

Currituck seniors will participate in the 24th Annual Albemarle Senior Games in Elizabeth City on April 14, 15 and 22; and May 1 and 25, 2008.

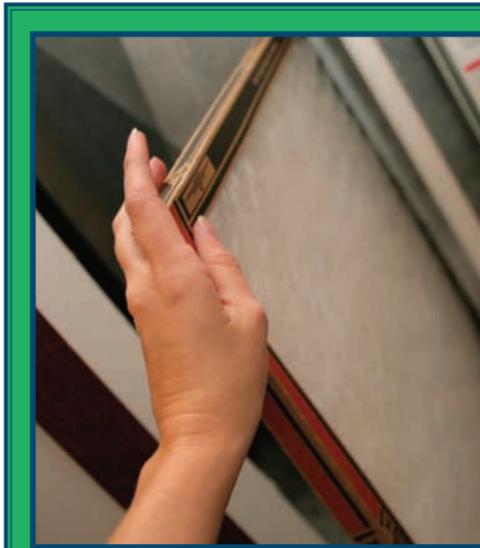
Events will include: Track and Field, Bocce, Shot Put, Discus, Football and Softball Throw, Croquet, Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, Basketball Shooting, Tennis, Golf, Badminton, Table Tennis and Bowling.

### MAY TRIP TO THE "BIG EASY"

The Currituck Senior Center is planning a spring trip to the Gulf Coast region, from May 17 -25, 2008. Trip-goers will travel to Biloxi, Miss. and New Orleans, La., enjoying nine days and eight nights of good company, fun and entertainment.

A single trip package will cost \$635 and will include double occupancy hotel rooms, a guided tour of New Orleans, four consecutive nights on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and 14 meals, including eight breakfasts and six dinners.

Anyone interested in either event should contact Diane Bray, Currituck Senior Center Coordinator, at 232-3505.



## GREEN TIP: CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTER REGULARLY

Check your filter every month, especially during heavy use months in the winter and summer. If the filter looks dirty after a month, change it. At a minimum, change the filter every 3 months. A dirty filter will make the system work harder to keep you warm or cool — wasting energy. A clean filter will prevent dust and dirt from building up in the system which can lead to expensive maintenance and/or early system failure. For more tips, go to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

# LIBRARY, WATER, TOURISM

## FUNDRAISING DRIVE TO DEVELOP BABYGARTEN PROGRAM

Currituck Librarian Vicky Hagemeister is leading a fundraising drive to start an early literacy program for county children.



Babygarten is a nationwide program that focuses on children from birth to age 2 and their caregivers. It attempts to instill a love for stories and helps children learn phonics through the use of repetitive rhyming sounds. The program also works with children's caregivers to develop the most effective techniques of reading to children one-on-one.

Prior to coming to Currituck in 2007, Hagemeister worked with the Babygarten program at the Norfolk Library, where the program was very popular, she said.

"The earlier children are exposed to reading, the easier it is to develop skills to become a fluent reader," Hagemeister said. "Through this program, we hope they will be motivated to learn to read."

Anyone wishing to support the Babygarten fundraising drive should contact the Currituck Library at 453-8345.



## LIBRARY'S GENEALOGY RESEARCH EXPANDS THROUGH GIFT

Genealogy researchers at the Currituck County Library can enjoy additional search tools following a generous donation from the Albemarle Genealogy Society.

Currituck County Librarian Vicky Hagemeister received a gift of \$2,314.28 on January 10, 2008 from Lois Meekins, an Albemarle Genealogy Society member.

Through the donation, the Currituck Library added seven reference books for the Library's genealogy collection and two new computers to be used solely for genealogy research at the main Library located in Barco.

The computers feature two popular Internet genealogy research sites: Heritage Quest and Ancestry.com. The seven reference books add three new titles to the library's genealogy collection, including: "The Family Tree Problem Solver," "The Handy Book for Genealogists" and "Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources."

In addition, the Currituck County Library plans to offer genealogy classes to teach visitors how to use the Genealogy Collection. Contact the Currituck Library for more information at 453-8345.



## ONCE UPON A TIME ...

### STORY TIME

March 04 : Roar  
11 : Elephant Dreams  
18 : Here Comes Peter

April 01 : The Curious Mouse  
08 : Little Hands Art  
15 : Rainbows  
22 : Little Miss Spider  
29 : Once Upon a Time

May 13 : Pooh's Honey Tree

### TODDLER TIME

March 03 & 06 : Roar  
10 & 13 : Elephant Dreams  
17 & 20 : Here Comes Peter  
24 & 27 : No Toddler Time Today  
31 : The Curious Mouse

April 03 : The Curious Mouse  
07 & 10 : Little Hands Art  
14 & 17 : Rainbows  
21 & 24 : Little Miss Spider  
28 : Once Upon a Time

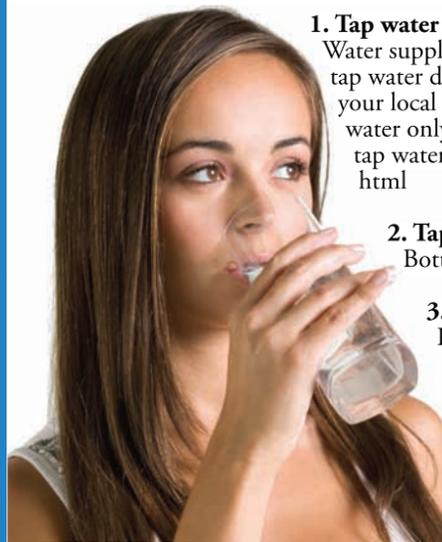
May 01 : Once Upon a Time  
05 & 08 : Pooh's Honey Tree  
12 & 15 : What's Under the Ocean

Activities run from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and are held at the main library in Barco.



## TIPS FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT

### 4 REASONS TO CHOOSE TAP WATER OVER BOTTLED WATER



#### 1. Tap water is tested daily.

Water suppliers are required by the Safe Drinking Act to test tap water daily and provide an annual report on the quality of your local water. By comparison, the FDA examines bottled water only weekly. View information on North Carolina's tap water at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html>

#### 2. Tap water is a bargain.

Bottled water costs about 500 times more than tap.

#### 3. Tap water is a tooth saver.

It contains more fluoride, which helps prevent tooth decay.

#### 4. Tap water is often tasty.

Run tap water through a filter to remove most tastes and odors. An average home filter costs \$9 and produces the equivalent of 300 large bottles of water.

If that's not enough reasons, consider that 60 million plastic bottles a day are tossed into U.S. landfills, where they can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. Producing those bottles burns through 1.5 million barrels of crude oil annually – enough fuel to keep 100,000 cars running for one year. (Statistics courtesy of Yahoo!)



## WELCOME CENTER TO OPEN IN MOYOCK

Promoting Currituck County's businesses and attractions to visitors will get a bit easier when a new welcome center opens this spring. The Board of Commissioners is set to purchase the Courtesy Ford building in Moyock, located adjacent to Border Station.

The center, which is being purchased with occupancy (lodging) tax revenues, will include state-of-the-art technology and visual displays that will showcase County attractions, activities, shops, restaurants, and more. Travel & Tourism Department staff will provide information and directions to visitors. In addition, the center will house the offices of the Travel & Tourism Department.

County tourism-related businesses are encouraged to provide brochures for the center. To submit materials, or to obtain more information, call the Travel & Tourism Department at 232-2708.



Commissioners Barry Nelms and Gene Gregory mark the site of the future Moyock Library during a Feb. 1 sign posting. The library project is part of a planned complex that will eventually include a Fire-EMS station and the renovated Kight House. Residents can find the site on Tulls Creek Road, in Moyock.

# CHILD ADVOCACY GROUPS, ATVs, PARKS AND RECREATION, EMS

## CHILD ADVOCACY GROUPS

*Continued from Page 1*

Since 1992, people from several backgrounds, including Department of Social Services, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services, Mental Health, Currituck Schools, Judicial system and individual volunteers have come together to make Currituck County a better and safer place for children.

According to Stephanie Bradley, Currituck Social Services Social Work Supervisor III and Chair of the Community Child Protection Team (CCPT), more children die in North Carolina from a result of neglect than abuse. Both are widespread problems, however.

"Neglect and abuse are not economically driven, it occurs in wealthy homes as well as homes below the poverty level," Bradley said. "This team makes recommendations to state level and county leaders on how we can be more effective in the prevention of child maltreatment."

CCPT members work to decrease gaps in areas of need for children and families in cases of neglect and abuse by matching local community services to a family's needs. This is done to aid child protection and educate families in the hope of preventing future problems.

General community factors are also examined to help identify trends in cases of neglect or abuse. Three main areas related to the neglect and abuse of local children are the lack of affordable housing, lack of domestic violence resources and a need for improved substance abuse treatment, according to Bradley.

The CCPT works with state and local leaders to develop more avenues of aid for families affected by these negative factors. Information gathered by the team is also relayed to the Social Services staff, to better help the social workers who work closely with particular families to help improve their situations.

"Our sole goal is to come together through different disciplines and make these recommendations to leadership," Bradley said.

The Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) also takes a preventative approach to protecting children by examining issues surrounding all deaths of local children. CFPT members analyze large amounts of data in an attempt to examine common causes and risks associated with child deaths.

This information can then be used to educate families on risk areas. By identifying common risks and trends, and then making the public aware, the CFPT helps to prevent future child fatalities from the same causes.

CFPT analysis contains data from all child fatalities, including accidents. Examples of identifying trends include determining risky areas for driving, ATV safety, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome factors, teaching mothers not to sleep with their babies and educating parents on the risk of adult drug addictions.

Detective Vic Lasher of the Currituck Sheriff's Office serves as Chair of the CFPT.

"The goal of the local CFPT team is multi-faceted," Lasher said. "We are tasked with reviewing child fatalities that occur within Currituck County to identify anything that could have helped to prevent the fatality."

Bradley stressed that both teams operate under a strict code of confidentiality, and she hopes that families will be receptive to help rather than worry about having their children taken away from them.

"People do not need to be reluctant to get help," Bradley said.

Anyone seeking more information about the Community Child Protection Team may contact Stephanie Bradley at 232-3083. For information on the Child Fatality Prevention Team, contact Detective Lasher at 453-2670.

## ATV MEASURE DEFINES NUISANCE

As of January 7, 2008, all-terrain vehicle operators in Currituck County must operate their vehicles in a manner that is not deemed a nuisance to others.

The Board of Commissioners adopted an amendment to Chapter 9 the Currituck County Code of Ordinances to include certain ATV usage with other items declared as nuisances. Certain types of ATV operation that may disturb property or other residents' quality of life are outlined in the amendment.

The amendment states that an ATV may be a nuisance if operated in a reckless manner, in a manner that creates excessive noise, in a manner that spreads dust or on a track or course located on property used for residential purposes. In addition, ATVs used by any person in a manner that damages any tree, wood, garden, crops, vegetables, plants, lands, springs or other matter belonging to another individual will be in violation of the nuisance ordinance.



## PARKS AND RECREATION

The 2008 EAC Basketball All-Star Tournament will be held March 8 and 9 in Elizabeth City. For further details, contact Brian Willoughby with CCPRD, @ 232-3007.

The Special Olympics Basketball State Tournament will be held March 7 - 9 in Winston-Salem, NC. For more information, contact Brian Willoughby.

The Currituck Athletic Association is currently accepting Baseball, Softball, and T-ball registrations. Sign-ups will be held at Knapp Elementary from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The deadline for sign-ups is March 1. There will be a \$10 late fee after March 1.

Currituck County Parks & Recreation is currently accepting registrations for the Challenger British Soccer Camp. Registration is open to participants, ages 3- 16. The camp will be held at Moyock Elementary School the week of July 21 - 25, 2008. You may register in person at Currituck County Parks & Recreation or on line at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com). A \$10 late fee applies for payments received after March 11. Online registrations qualify for a free soccer jersey. The free jersey deadline is June 6.



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAM BOLSTERED BY RURITAN CLUB

Currituck County's Parks and Recreation Department received a special New Year's boost to its Special Olympics program with a donation from a local community group.

The Moyock Ruritan Club presented Recreation Director Jason Weeks with a check in the amount of \$1,650.15 on Thursday, January 3. Making the presentation was Ruritan Club member Vic Ramsey (below, left).



This donation will help provide equipment, uniforms, meals and housing for Currituck's Special Olympics athletes. In February, the Currituck County Special Olympics program will participate in the State Basketball Tournament held in Winston-Salem, NC.

Currituck's Parks and Recreation Department has directed the county's Special Olympics program for the past three years and currently participates in basketball and bowling, with expectations

to expand into other activities. Anyone interested in volunteering or participating should contact the department at 232-3007.

## A FRESH LOOK FOR CURRITUCK EMS



*Currituck County Emergency Medical Services vehicles sport a new design, which illustrates its intent to be "Positive, Progressive and Professional in Service."*

# WEBSITE, PROPERTY TAX, EXTENSION

## WEBSITE UPGRADES: MORE USER-FRIENDLY

Recent visitors to Currituck County's online home page may have noticed a sleeker design, easier navigation and improved functionality.



Following months of research and design work, the award-winning county government website, currituckgovernment.com, has received a fresh look and upgraded services. The new version made its Internet debut on January 22.

Online visitors to the site will immediately notice a re-designed home page featuring expanded news and announcement sections, quick links and events viewer. With the re-design, users can conduct quicker searches and reach pages of interest more directly than on the website's previous version.

"Our goal is to make it a more user-friendly resource for the people of Currituck County," said Debra Embrey, Electronic Media Coordinator of the Currituck County Department of Public Information/Travel and Tourism.

The re-design also allows county officials to update the site more easily and quickly. This factor will prove especially beneficial to county residents during emergency situations, such as hurricanes.

In addition to current improvements, the website will continue to evolve. Future upgrades will feature video streaming, a larger selection of online forms and the ability to complete and submit documents online to various county departments.

Previously, currituckgovernment.com received a first place award through the 2007 North Carolina Association of Government Information Officers awards program.



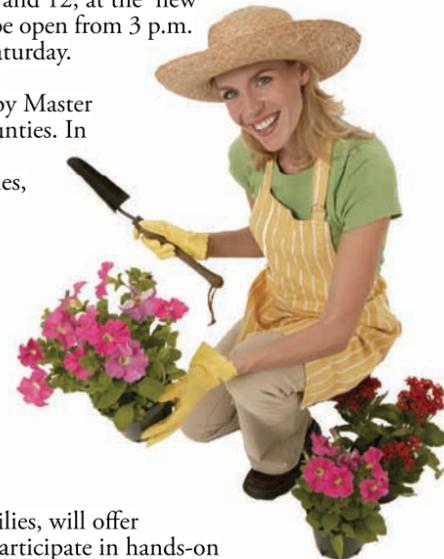
## CURRITUCK FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW APRIL 11 AND 12

Currituck Master Gardeners are hosting "Going Native," a two-day Flower and Garden Show to be held Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, at the new Cooperative Extension Facility. The show will be open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

This year's show will feature gardens designed by Master Gardeners from Currituck and Pasquotank counties. In addition, a wide variety of plants for sale will include hanging baskets, annuals, herbs, daylilies, azaleas and hydrangeas. Vendors will offer an extensive array of garden and household items, from garden furniture to garden art and birdfeeders.

Seminars and workshops will present techniques on various horticultural topics, such as designing their gardens, managing garden pests, and growing annuals. Master Gardener volunteers will also be available to answer questions.

The Secret Garden, a special attraction for families, will offer activities for visitors of all ages. Children can participate in hands-on projects and explore mystery critters in the garden, browse garden literature, or relax amid the greenery. Door prizes will be awarded and raffles will be held.



## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

### EVENTS

**Arbor Day Tree Give-Away:** Saturday, March 15, beginning at 9 a.m., while supplies last. Varieties include River Birch, Crepe Myrtle and Live Oak. Locations are Moyock Post Office, Grandy Drug Care and Ace Hardware in Corolla.

**"Shooting for the Stars" Child Care Conference:** Saturday, March 15 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Currituck Extension Center. The keynote speaker will be Kimberly Johnson, author of eight children's books, trainer and motivational speaker. Child Care providers will receive 5.5 contact hour credits.

**Food Safety and Allergies Training:** Thursday March 20, 6:30 p.m. at the Currituck Extension Center. Open to child care providers and interested individuals. Call 232-2261 to pre-register.

**NE NC Daffodil Show:** Saturday, March 22, open to public from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Currituck Extension Facility. Awards ceremony will be held at 2 p.m.

**Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Training:** Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Currituck Extension Center. Child care providers and parents will learn about infant safe sleep practices and SIDS risk reduction. Call 232-2261 to pre-register.

**Area Craft Workshop:** May 13 and 14 at the Vernon James Center. Call for a list of craft workshops and registration information, 232-2261.

### NEWSLETTERS

Free educational newsletters are available from the NC Cooperative Extension:

- Successful Families – Quarterly newsletter for busy families
- Child Care News – Designed for Child Care providers; offers training opportunities
- Garden News – Monthly newsletter to home gardeners
- Currituck Connection – Monthly newsletter to farmers
- Currituck Cloverleaf – designed for youth 5-19, their parents and 4-H volunteers

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

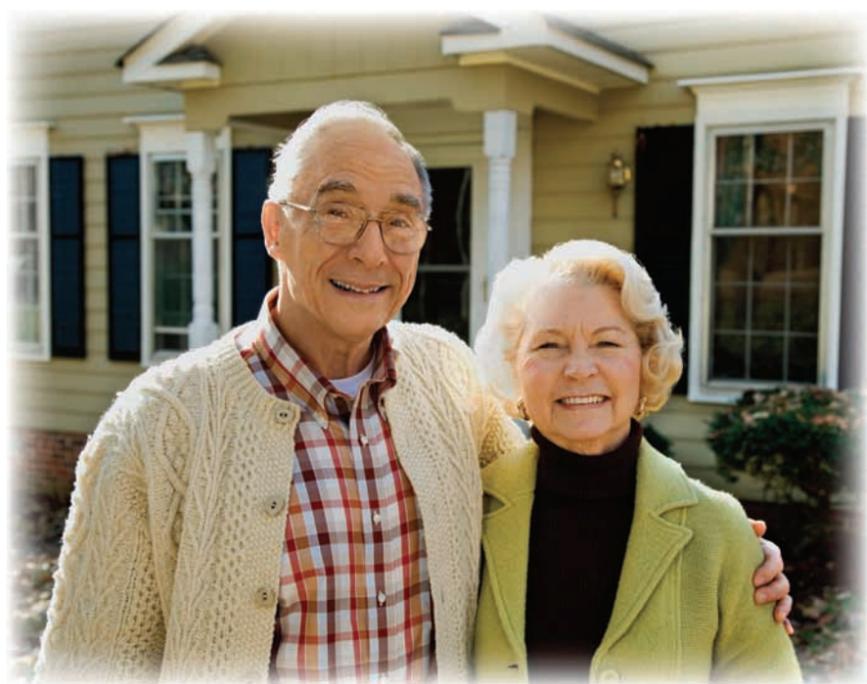
May 9, 2008 is Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. Provider Appreciation Day offers a unique opportunity to recognize and commend the dedication, commitment and compassion these professionals demonstrate every day. Do your part and thank a child care provider for the hours they devote to our most precious resource – our children.



**Families need to get fit –** Physical activity improves health by reducing the risk of obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, certain cancers and osteoporosis. Experts recommend 30 minutes of physical activity a day for adults and 60 minutes of physical activity a day for children. Call a Family & Consumer Science agent for information on how you can get your family fit. Free information is available from the extension center on nutrition, weight management, menu planning, healthy snacks, fitness activities and log sheets.

## PROPERTY TAX RELIEF DEADLINE: JUNE 1ST

Tax relief is available for certain qualified homeowners that are at least 65 years old or are Permanently Disabled. In order to qualify, the homeowner must meet all three of the following conditions:



1. Is a Currituck County Resident; and,
2. Income for 2007 was \$25,000 or less; and,
3. Be at least 65 years old, or totally and permanently disabled

For more information or an application please call the Currituck County Tax Department at 232-3005 or go online to [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com).

# SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS, EXTENSION FACILITY



March 1 – Whalehead Club Moonlight Ghost Tour, 7:00 p.m., at the Whalehead Club, Currituck Heritage Park, Corolla.

March 8 – Currituck County Arts Council 9th Annual Art Extravaganza, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Currituck County High School.



March 8 – Hang Out at the Library Teen Program, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Currituck Library. Teens will enjoy a karaoke machine, an open mike for reading poetry and singing, and board and electronic games.

March 13 – N.C. Bariatric Surgical Support Group meeting, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Currituck Senior Center

March 15 - Arbor Day Tree Give-Away, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Moyock Post Office, Grandy Drug Care, and Ace Hardware in Corolla - while supplies last.

March 15 – “Shooting for the Stars” Child Care Conference, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Currituck Extension Center.

March 17 – Currituck Beach Lighthouse re-opens for season, 9:00 a.m., Currituck Heritage Park, Corolla

March 19 – Currituck County Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for realtors, property managers and business owners, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Corolla Light Resort. Call 232-0719 to register.

March 20 - Food Safety and Allergies Training, 6:30 p.m. at the Currituck Extension Center. Call 232-2261 to pre-register.

March 21 – County offices closed for Good Friday.

March 22 – Northeastern North Carolina Daffodil Show, 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Currituck County Cooperative Extension Facility.

April 10 - N.C. Bariatric Surgical Support Group meeting, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Currituck Senior Center.

April 11 and 12 – 11th Annual Currituck Flower and Garden Show, at Currituck County Cooperative Extension Facility, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.

April 12 – Duct Tape Designs Teen Program, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Currituck Library.

April 17 – One-Stop Voting begins at the Currituck Board of Elections

April 23 - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Training at 6:30 p.m. at the Currituck Extension Center. Call 232-2261 to pre-register.

May 6 – Primary Election; contact Board of Elections for voting sites.

May 8 - N.C. Bariatric Surgical Support Group meeting, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Currituck Senior Center.

May 13 and 14 - Area Craft Workshop at the Vernon James Center. Call for a list of craft workshops and registration information, 232-2261.

May 17 – Enduring History Celebration, at Historic Jarvisburg Colored School

May 26 – County offices closed for Memorial Day.



## A LOOK INSIDE THE NEW COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FACILITY



The Currituck County Center of the N.C. Cooperative Extension features classrooms, lecture space, modern offices and a spacious auditorium. Located in Barco, adjacent to Central Elementary School, the Extension facility will help staff lead successful programs, engage more public visitors, and provide an attractive venue for large group meetings.



These pictures offer a glimpse inside the new facility. To see more, visit the Currituck Center of N.C. Cooperative Extension in Barco.



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

**FOCUS ON CURRITUCK**  
MARCH 2008

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**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.