

Focus on Currituck

A Report to the Community



Winter 2008

SHERIFF'S OFFICE WARNS PUBLIC TO GUARD AGAINST FRAUD

As the holiday season approaches, many scam artists are busy with attempts to bilk ordinary citizens out of their savings. The Currituck Sheriff's Office sees a great deal of attempted fraud on a regular basis and warns county residents to become aware of these schemes.

Lieutenant Matt Beickert, Supervisor of the Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Division, says one of the more prevalent scams is the check scam, or Nigerian Money Offer, which occurs in different variations. Usually, a victim receives a letter or email from a person claiming to have a large sum of money and asking for help in transferring the sum from one account to another. This person offers to share the money with the victim for help retrieving the money, which involves asking the victim for their own account number so the money can be transferred. After receiving this number, the scam artist then takes money from the victim's account.



Another variation occurs when a victim receives a check and is asked to cash the check and send a portion to the offender. However, these checks are counterfeit and the victim is held responsible.

Certain cases involve individuals being told they have won a lottery or contest, and are instructed to send a "processing fee" in order to receive their winnings. Individuals also receive notices of winning that require a return phone call. These are really area code scams. A person calls the number, goes through a series of prompts and is charged an incredibly high rate for each minute.

Some people also fall victim to Internet scams. A common one is a victim making an online purchase of an expensive item and then never receiving the product. The money is sent to a Western Union or well-known bank and then rerouted to several different locations, usually ending up out of the country.

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BOARD NOW SEATS SEVEN MEMBERS

The November 4, 2008 election was not just an historic occasion for America's Presidential race, but also for Currituck County. Change of a different sort occurred locally, as this election signaled a growth in membership of the Currituck County Board of Commissioners. For the first time, this Board expanded to seven members who now serve on the county's governing body.



Aydlett



Etheridge



Gregory

Currituck County's Board of Commissioners:
Alphabetical order

- Vance Aydlett, Jr. (R), District 1
- Owen Etheridge (R), District 4
- Gene Gregory (D), At-Large
- Barry Nelms (D), District 3
- Paul O'Neal (R), At-Large
- John Rorer (R), District 2
- Janet Taylor (D), District 5



Taylor



Rorer



Nelms



O'Neal

AIRPORT CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL GROWTH TREND

Long gone are the days when modified race cars used the Currituck Airport's runway as an unsanctioned dragstrip. Rather than cheering for 1950's era hot rods, airport visitors today are boarding and departing first-class business jets flying into and out of Currituck County.

As Currituck has grown, so has the county's airport. The facility is becoming one of the more well-known regional airports in the state. Currituck was recently one of 11 community airports included in a new program designed by N.C. Flyports to promote an On Demand Air

Taxi Service. This is regulated and certified by the Federal Aviation Administration and funded through a small community air service grant.

N.C. Flyports allows travelers to schedule flights using smaller airports, without having to coordinate through large commercial airlines. As one of the partners in this network, Currituck will surely continue its upward trend of business flights.

"Commercial air traffic has gone up tremendously in recent years," said Airport Manager Wayne Leary. "It will continue to grow quite a bit."

Leary said many tourists, business officials and hunting parties use Currituck as a travel point to

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LONGTIME PUBLIC SERVANT RETIRES FROM EM STAFF



Currituck County heads into 2009 without one its most valuable and loyal public officials. Stanley Griggs, who filled a variety of roles in Currituck for more than 40 years, retires as the Director of Emergency Management on December 31, 2008.

During the past four decades, Griggs has worn many hats in the public service arena. He served one term as County Commissioner from 1978 - 1982, and he was the first Director of Emergency Services when that department was created in 1988.

Griggs' public service career began by joining the Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department in 1961, of which he is still a member. He then joined the now-defunct Lower Currituck Rescue Squad as an EMT, and served as Rescue Squad Captain until Emergency Medical Services were absorbed by county government.

Griggs served a short stint in Dare County as Director of Emergency Medical Services, from 1989 - 1991, before returning as an EMS medic in Currituck. In 1998, he was promoted to his current role, in which he oversees the Emergency Management Department and the Communications Center.

"I've enjoyed my time working for the county. Hopefully we have been an asset," Griggs said. "You eventually figure out when it's time, and now it's time."

Griggs said he looks forward to spending more time with family, which includes his wife of 51 years, Joyce, a daughter and two granddaughters who live nearby and a son who resides in Apex, N.C.

Griggs' experience and calm leadership style fostered respect across county departments and elected offices. Many are glad this Currituck native will still be close by.

"We've all benefited from Stanley's vast knowledge and willingness to teach others. The office will not be the same without him here everyday, but we know he will remain a phone call away," said EM Deputy Coordinator Mary Beth Newns.

EXTENSION BIDS SECRETARY A HAPPY RETIREMENT



Visitors to the Cooperative Extension will have to get used to seeing a new face in the administrative office. After 30 years with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, including the past 27 as Administrative Secretary, MarySue Wright-Baker retired on October 31, 2008.

"There are so many mixed feelings about leaving. It's hard," Wright-Baker said. "It has been a great career. They are my family and it's going to be tough."

Throughout the years, Wright-Baker has seen many changes at Extension. She remembers when the office had to survive without computers and she's witnessed the growth of the Extension staff. One of her favorite moments was the opening of the new Extension facility in Barco.

Though she'll have more time to spend on home projects with her husband, Wayne Baker, and be able to prepare for the 2010 wedding of her daughter, Livia, Wright-Baker said she will definitely miss the co-workers she was alongside for so many years.

"This is the best place in the world anybody could ever work because it's a very family-oriented staff," she said.

Her contributions will be missed, said Extension Director Rodney Sawyer, who worked with Wright-Baker throughout her career.

"MarySue's service was truly magnificent! Her commitment to excellence was an indispensable resource for our agency and the clientele we serve," Sawyer said.

FIRE - EMS WELCOMES DEPUTY CHIEF GLOVER

Rob Glover, the new Deputy Chief for Fire - Emergency Medical Services, brings a wealth of valuable experience to Currituck County.



In his new position with Fire - EMS, Glover will lean on his 33-year career in emergency services. Most recently, Glover served as a Brigade Chief for the City of Virginia Beach EMS. He spent a total of 27 years in Virginia Beach during two stints, which were wrapped around a time as Director of Public Safety in Accomack County, Virginia.

Now that he is in Currituck, Chief Glover is excited to join a staff that has made great strides in recent months.

"This is a progressive department with tremendous potential," Glover said. "I hope I can help bring open communication and team building at all levels, and help continue the passion that folks have here to do an excellent job."

One factor that attracted Glover to Currituck is the combination of career EMS personnel and volunteer fire department members. He sees this as a positive relationship that will continue to grow and benefit both partners.

This arrangement meshes well with Glover's background. He has spent much of his career helping coordinate operations for career and volunteer personnel, as well as conducting training programs.

"I come to work every day with a smile because I'm excited to be a part of this community," Glover said.

9-1-1 TELECOMMUNICATOR NAMED NC'S BEST IN 2008

Currituck County enjoys excellent 9-1-1 communications service from an experienced and well-trained staff of call takers and dispatchers. This group includes one individual who has been recognized as the top telecommunicator in North Carolina for her work during the past year.



The North Carolina National Emergency Number Association honored Currituck County's Alaina Kight with the 2008 Telecommunicator of

the Year Award. Kight was presented the award at the NCNENA conference in Sunset Beach.

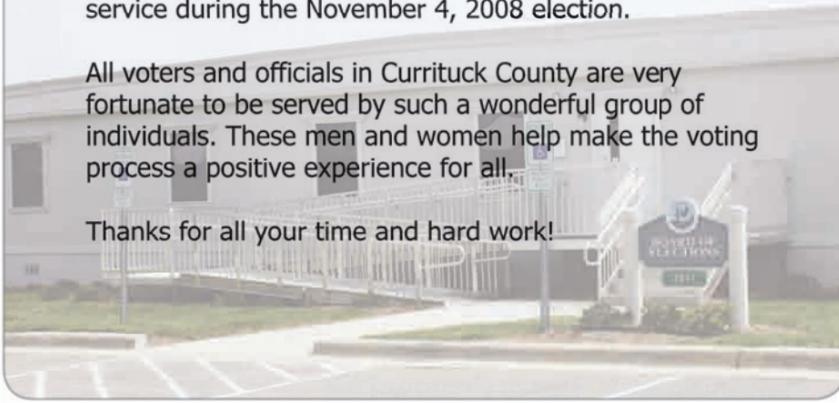
This award honors the telecommunicator who has shown dedication and excellence in the performance of their duties. Kight began working in the Communications Center in 2006, and since that time has proven herself worthy of this award, said Liz Hodgis, Currituck Communications Supervisor.

"She's caught on quickly and applied the knowledge obtained during her training to perform her duties skillfully," Hodgis said. "This is an esteemed award that most telecommunicators desire to achieve, and few do, during their careers."

The Currituck **Board of Elections** would like to thank all precinct officials and workers for their outstanding service during the November 4, 2008 election.

All voters and officials in Currituck County are very fortunate to be served by such a wonderful group of individuals. These men and women help make the voting process a positive experience for all.

Thanks for all your time and hard work!



WOODY NAMED TO UNC CSI FOUNDATION BOARD

Currituck Planning Director Ben Woody was recently nominated to serve on the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute Foundation Board. Woody will serve a three-year term, beginning in January 2009.

The mission of the UNC Coastal Studies Institute is to undertake research, offer educational opportunities, provide community outreach programs and enhance communication among those concerned with the unique history, culture and environment of the maritime counties of North Carolina. The Institute's research focuses on four main areas: Estuarine Ecology and Human Health, Estuarine and Coastal Processes, Coastal Sustainability, and Maritime History.



In addition, the main purpose of the Foundation Board is to aid, support and promote teaching, research, and service in the various educational and scientific, scholarly, professional, artistic and creative endeavors of the UNC Coastal Studies Institute. The Board is also responsible for fundraising for the benefit of the Institute.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... DAVID CHUNN



David Chunn, an operator at the Southern Outer Banks Water System Reverse Osmosis Plant, was honored with the 2008 C-Well Operator of the Year Award by the North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association. Chunn was recognized for his ability and technical expertise in the operation of a water treatment facility.

Chunn is the third person from the Water Department to garner an Operator of the Year Award from the NCWOA. Benjie Carawan received the 2007 A-Well Operator of the Year Award and prior to that, Pat Irwin received the 1998 A-Well Operator of the Year Award.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... LUCY CARDWELL

Lucy Cardwell, a GIS Specialist in the Department of Information Technology Services, received the "Senior Mapper" Certification during the North Carolina Property Mappers Association 2008 Senior Mapping Class. Cardwell scored the highest grade on the certification test and, as a result, received the Academic Achievement Award.



The NCPMA delivers the Academic Achievement Award each year to the person with the highest level of academic excellence in both the Regular Mapping Class and the Senior Mapping Class. The NCPMA has sponsored the annual Mapping School for the past 28 years.

COLORING CURRITUCK GREEN - RECYCLING NEWS

Beginning at the start of the new year, Currituck County - and the environment - will benefit from many improvements to the county's Recycling Program.

By January 1, 2009, each of Currituck's eight Recycling Centers will feature new multi-item compactors. These machines will collect all household and office recyclable items except for glass. This will save county residents time previously spent on sorting materials.

These collected materials will be recycled by TFC Recycling in Chesapeake, Va., under an agreement that is one of several new beneficial arrangements for Currituck. As part of the deal, TFC will pay Currituck a per-ton rate for recyclable material.

"Recycling has become a valuable commodity for the county," said Brenda McQueen of the Public Works Department.

As part of another contract, glass items will be collected in a separate container and taken for recycling to Elizabeth City Glass. The company also accepts ceramic tiles, and its recycled material is eventually made into creations such as lawn and garden artwork.

Simultaneously, a new solid waste collection and disposal contract with Waste Management has been agreed upon. McQueen said the increase in recycling should lower the number of hauls needed by Waste Management.

The primary goal of the county's approach is to decrease the amount of material sent to landfills and increase the amount of recycled goods. This strategy will not only create a new revenue stream for county coffers, but more importantly will help Currituck play a larger role in protecting the environment.

These improvements are much needed. In the 2007-08 fiscal year, Currituck ranked 27th out of North Carolina's 100 counties in recycling tonage per capita. Currituck disposed of approximately 26,300 tons, while recycling only 1,713 tons.

According to McQueen, everyone needs to do their part. All county government offices have a recycling container, and various special recycling programs are available, such as the herbicide and pesticide recycling at Cooperative Extension. In the past year, Currituck has added fluorescent bulb and dry cell battery recycling, as well as oil filters. The Recycling Centers will also sport new signage, with a fresh clean look and emphasis on the environment.

BEING GREEN -- WHAT CAN YOU RECYCLE?

Beginning January 1, 2009, these items can go into the new Recycling Compactors:

- Plastic bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans
- Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Catalogs
- Mail
- Office paper
- Paperboard boxes
- Phone books



Glass will go into a separate container and does not have to be separated by color.

Additional items accepted: Fluorescent bulbs, dry cell batteries, yard waste, white goods (appliances), vehicle anti-freeze, vehicle lead acid batteries, motor oil, oil filters, tires. Construction waste only accepted at Maple Transfer Station.

Items NOT recyclable: plastic bags, styrofoam, film

For more Recycling info, check out: wastenot.org and p2pays.org



Handy Homer says:

"Construction is serious business, so be sure to hire professionals. A good job adds value; a bad job brings heartache."

"Hi, I'm Handy Homer. I bet you're wondering what a funny looking guy like me is doing in the Focus. Well, let me tell you.

The folks over there at the Building Inspector's office have noticed that our fine citizens here in Currituck County are just full of questions about building permits, codes, construction, and inspections. I, Handy Homer, being the expert that I am, have been recruited to answer those questions and give good advice and helpful hints.

Over time, I hope you will consider me a friend. When you see me, you'll know I have information, good advice, or helpful directions.

Remember... Handy Homer is on your side. Good Bye for now!"

If you have any questions about permits or inspections, e-mail Handy at handy.homer@co.currituck.nc.us, or call the Inspections Dept. at 232-3378.

COMMISSIONERS ADOPT DEVELOPMENT REVIEW CHANGES

New aspects of Currituck's Development Review Process include the establishment of a manual and simpler submission requirements.

The Board of Commissioners adopted several changes in November to improve the Development Review Process. In Currituck, this process provides a means to coordinate developmental impacts with the provision of services. This framework allows reasonable oversight by county staff and officials when considering and approving development proposals. It also ensures development is consistent with the Unified Development Ordinance and adopted plans.

Primary changes to the Development Review Process include:

- Establishment of a Development Review Process Manual, which is intended to consolidate each component of the review process into a single, user-friendly document. Including review processes, submittal procedures, and design requirements in a manual will allow the development review process to remain fluid and reflective of current trends.
- Submission requirements and administrative review procedures have been simplified. Development applications have been updated.
- Integrating technology to increase efficiency and ease of communication. The electronic or digital submission of development proposals or plans is now required. Digital copies (pdf) of plans will be posted on the county's website to provide greater community access to local development proposals.
- Abbreviated approval processes, allowing for more opportunities for administrative approvals. This will allow staff more time and resources to dedicate to additional planning efforts, such as developing long-range plans. This will be done in such a manner that does not impact the overall integrity of the review process.

For further information, contact the Planning Dept. at 232-3055.

Fraud, continued

The Currituck Sheriff's Office has also seen frequent reports of identity theft, which can be very costly to the victim. Identities can be stolen in several different ways.

One growing method is that a person receives a call from someone claiming to be with the victim's credit card company. This person says they want to update information or convince the victim that they are trying to help prevent identity theft when asking for personal information. They usually attempt to learn the three-digit security code on the back of the victim's credit card.

According to Lt. Beickert, individuals should never give that number to anyone who contacts you. It is required at times, but should only be given to reputable agencies or businesses that you contact first.

Here are some important tips to help you avoid any type of scam or fraud, especially during the Holiday Season:

- Guard your personal information
- Pay attention to your bills
- Check your credit rating occasionally
- Watch your mailbox and never leave mail in it longer than necessary

If you feel you may have been the victim of an attempted scam, or have any questions regarding fraud, please contact the Currituck County Sheriff's Office at 453-8204.

Airport Growth, continued

the county and surrounding Outer Banks region. The quality of Currituck's 5,500 ft. runway makes it a better option for commercial business jets than other local airports, he added.

The airport's growth will continue, as future plans may include a parallel taxiway, new corporate hangar and second terminal building. A fuel service offering has been added, and the airport purchased a new mower to keep the grounds' appearance attractive to visitors.



The N.C. Division of Aviation has identified and outlined a five-year period of growth and possible projects for the Currituck Airport. This state-level department receives grant funding from the FAA to distribute to projects throughout North Carolina. These may include Currituck among future endeavors.

As the facilities continue to grow and improve, and Currituck's public awareness keeps rising, the Currituck Airport should flourish with corporate and private air travel within the region and state. This will certainly generate a boost to county businesses and tourism, while providing county residents with an excellent travel option.



For more information, contact the Currituck Airport at 453-8032. On the Internet, visit www.fly2obx.com and www.ncflyports.com.

PARKS & RECREATION

Youth Basketball onsite registration is Saturday, December 6. Registration will be held at the Currituck County Parks and Recreation office, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Anyone registering after December 6 will have to pay a \$5.00 late fee per child and will only be allowed to register if there are openings on a team. Practices will start in January.

Special Olympics Basketball Practice will be conducted from December to March. Practices will be held in the Knapp Elementary Gym, Saturdays from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. For additional information, contact Brian at Parks and Recreation, 232-3007.

Historic Albemarle Area Basketball Series will be held at River Road Middle School, in Elizabeth City, on January 10, 2009.

Eastern Basketball Qualifier will be held in Greenville, N.C., on February 2, 2009.

Stretching/Toning and Yoga Classes will be offered in January 2009. The class will be instructed by Nancy Curtis, of Designing Your Health. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Please let Nancy know what evenings/time would be best, and the type of exercise that would be of interest to you. The cost will be \$25.00 per four (4) week session. The classes will be held twice a week at the Currituck County Extension facility, located next to Central Elementary School in Barco. Please e-mail your feedback to ncurtis@mchsi.com or phone her at 232-3269.

Contact Currituck Parks & Recreation, 232-3007, for any questions regarding sports, activities or volunteer coaching opportunities.

Visit Currituck's newest park at Carova Beach!



Carova Beach park is accessible by land and water, via the Currituck Sound. This facility features a 500 ft. wooden boardwalk and bulkhead, large shelter, smaller picnic shelters, barbecue grills, horseshoe pits, a volleyball court and restrooms.

Plan your next family outing to beautiful Carova Beach Park.

PLANNING DEPT. FLOOD INSURANCE REMINDER "Learn, Prepare, Prevent and Recover"

The need for flood insurance in any community is determined by the location of the property. Although insurance is not required in all cases, it is suggested. The National Flood Insurance Act, as amended in 1993, requires that flood insurance be purchased "by property owners who are being assisted by Federal programs or by Federally supervised, regulated or insured agencies or institutions in the acquisition, or improvement of, land or facilities located or to be located in identified areas as having special flood hazards." Homeowner insurance policies exclude flood damage. Learn your flood risk by visiting floodsmart.gov, sponsored by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Flood insurance is only offered through the federally mandated National Flood Insurance Program. Citizens with the NFIP Community Rating System receive a 15% discount on premiums due to Currituck

WINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Whether you're a summer person dreading the blustery winter weather or winter person invigorated by the frigid temperatures, it's time to prepare for the cold season.

Wind Chill combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from a person's body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Wind chill is a calculation of how cold it feels when the effects of wind speed and temperature are combined. A strong wind combined with a temperature of just below freezing can have the same effect as a still air temperature about 35 degrees colder.

Update your winter car emergency kit

- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Several blankets, sleeping bags
- Extra newspapers for insulation
- Plastic bags (for sanitation)
- Matches
- Extra set of mittens, socks, and a wool cap
- Rain gear and extra clothes
- Small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels
- Small shovel, small tools (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Booster cables, tire chains or traction mats
- Cards, games, and puzzles
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag
- Canned fruit and nuts
- Nonelectric can opener
- Bottled water

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends having on hand:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Sand to improve traction
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment

Dress for the occasion! ReadyNC.org says to wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing. You'll be warmer and you can easily remove layers to remain comfortable.

- Wear a hat; most body heat is lost through the top of the head.
- Mittens are warmer than gloves.
- Cover your mouth with scarves to protect lungs from directly inhaling the extremely cold air.

For more tips visit: www.readync.org or www.fema.gov.

If you don't have Internet access or simply have winter related questions, call Emergency Management at 232-2115.

County's effort to grow and expand flood prevention in accordance with NFIP standards. This includes a digital mapping system and community outreach projects.

Property located in Flood Zone A, AE or VE on the Flood Insurance Rate Map is subject to regulations. Prior to any development, contact the Planning Dept. to determine which permits may be required. Flood Insurance Rate Maps resulted from the Flood Insurance Study. The maps contain official delineation of flood insurance zones and base flood elevation lines, which show the location of the expected whole-foot water surface elevation within the 100-year flood zone. Each zone in Currituck has a specific flood potential determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Call the Currituck Planning Dept. at 232-3055 to learn if your property is located in a flood zone or to obtain information on elevation requirements. This flood preparedness information was printed as part of Currituck County's commitment to the National Flood Insurance Program - Community Rating System - Community Outreach Project.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Sign Up Now for the Holiday Challenge

With shorter days and less time to squeeze in all the extra errands and gift shopping, it's no wonder the holidays bring extra stress and for many this results in overeating and weight gain. By not losing the extra weight after the holiday season, those pounds begin to add up each year.

Fortunately, Eat Smart Move More NC is gearing up for the Third Annual Eat Smart, Move More - Maintain, don't gain! Holiday Challenge.

The Challenge will run from Nov. 24 - Dec. 31 (the week of Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve), with the goal being that North Carolinians maintain their current weight during the holiday season. The Holiday Challenge is open to everyone, including those with a few pounds to lose, those who have already lost weight and are looking to keep it off, as well as those already at a healthy weight.

To sign up for the Eat Smart, Move More Maintain, don't gain! Holiday Challenge, go to www.MyEatSmartMoveMore.com. It's free to



sign up and to participate. All you need is an email address to receive the weekly newsletters with tips and recipes. Registration is now open, so don't miss out on this beneficial program.

If you participated in the Challenge last year and want to participate again you will need to re-register at www.MyEatSmartMoveMore.com.

The 2007 Holiday Challenge was a success, with 84 percent of participants maintaining their weight throughout the season. In addition, nearly 70 percent of participants lost weight!

This holiday season, combat stress and add to the success. Join and promote the Holiday Challenge!

"Go Green" Environmental & Energy Fair

Saturday, January 17, 2009

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Center will help Currituck residents learn ways they can "Go Green" and become more environmentally friendly. An all day fair will be held at the NC Cooperative Extension Center, located at 120 Community Way in Barco on Saturday, January 17, 2009.

This event will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. It will include exhibits, demonstrations and educational presentations scheduled throughout the day. Participants can learn about Energy Conservation, Rain Harvesting, Simple Green Cleaning, Recycling, Household Hazardous Wastes and more. There will also be fun activities scheduled for children. For more information, call the Currituck Cooperative Extension Center at 252-232-2261.

Come See the New Botanical Garden & More

Currituck's Master Gardeners are developing a new Botanical Garden at the Extension Service facility for use as a teaching and demonstration tool. It will include an arboretum and will feature displays of perennials, vegetables, fruit trees and turf. The adjacent greenhouse provides a unique venue for hands-on educational programs. Also planned is a special needs accessible gardening exhibit.

The next Master Gardener volunteer training class begins January 20, 2009. Participants in the Master Gardener Volunteer Program must complete the training course, pass an examination and volunteer through the local Extension Service.

For more information, call 252-232-2262.



E-Conservation: Save Energy and Save Money

County residents have a great opportunity to save energy and money with a low-cost home energy audit offered through Cooperative Extension's E-Conservation Program.

This is an ongoing collaborative project between N.C. Cooperative Extension, N.C. State University and the State Energy Office. Its mission is to help homeowners reduce residential heating usage and the associated costs.

Energy Assessments evaluate a home's air leaks, insulation and the heating/air conditioning system. Professional building science specialists will conduct a two - to - four hour inspection of your home, including a blower door test to check for house holes and energy leaks. At the conclusion of each home assessment, homeowners will receive a written evaluation and recommendations on ways to improve the home's energy efficiency.

These audits are valued at \$500, but will only cost homeowners \$100 through this special program.

Audits will be limited to the first 10 homeowners who call to pre-register for this service. Some restrictions and requirements may apply, with necessary paperwork. To reserve your audit, contact Georgia Kight at 252-232-2261, or email georgia_kight@ncsu.edu.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Captioned Telephone

On January 8, 2009, the Currituck Senior Center will host a presentation on "The Captioned Telephone" at 11:00 a.m. This session is intended for individuals of all ages who are hard of hearing or deaf.

The Captioned Telephone works like a regular telephone, with one important addition: It displays every word the caller says throughout the conversation. CapTel users can listen to caller and read the captions in the bright display window.

Let's Make a Deal

The Currituck Senior Center will host a game show, "Let's Make a Deal" on Friday, January 16, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

For information on either of these two special events, please contact the Senior Center, at 232-3505.

HOLIDAY HOME DECORATIONS - FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- Selecting a Tree for the Holiday - Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- Caring for Your Tree - Do not place your tree close to fireplaces or heat vents. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Disposing of Your Tree - Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Menorah and Kinara Safety

Make sure that you use a sturdy, fire-safe menorah or kinara. Place the menorah/kinara on a steady table and make sure all combustibles are at least three feet from the candles' flame. Avoid placing the menorah/kinara in small, closed areas, such as closets or between bookshelves. Keep the candles away from anything flammable. Avoid putting your menorah/kinara in windows or near doorways. If they catch fire, your exit could be blocked. Check the candles often to make sure they haven't burned down too low. Never leave lit candles unattended.

Holiday Lights

- Maintain Your Holiday Lights - Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only UL-approved lighting.
- Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets - Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires ... they should not be warm to the touch.
- Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended

Holiday Decorations

Protect your home from a holiday decoration fire by following these four simple steps:

- Use only nonflammable decorations
- Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace
- Consider artificial Christmas trees
- Keep all decorations away from heat sources

Candle Care

- Avoid using lit candles
- Never put lit candles on a tree
- Never leave candles unattended

CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE IN CURRITUCK

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HELP!!

Make a contribution and help provide Christmas to needy Currituck children.
Donate gift cards for toys or groceries.

To help, contact Kathy Romm in the
Currituck County Department of Social Services
252-232-3083

HELP OTHERS HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

WHALEHEAD CLUB & HERITAGE PARK GEAR UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

2nd Annual Tree Lighting Celebration

On Saturday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m., visitors will see the giant cedar tree in Currituck Heritage Park and the Currituck Beach Lighthouse simultaneously illuminated. Gather on the north lawn to enjoy free hot chocolate and sing carols with the Currituck County High School Choral Ensemble. Following the lighting ceremony, the Whalehead Club will offer complimentary docent-led holiday tours to show off the decorations inspired by the 1920's etchings of Edward Collings Knight, Jr. Alternatively, take a romantic horse-drawn carriage ride, snuggled under a fluffy blanket, through historic Corolla Village.

Holiday Piano Concert

On Saturday, December 13, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., holiday festivities continue in the Library of the Whalehead Club with a Holiday Piano Concert featuring the fabulous voices of the Currituck County High School Choral Ensemble singing holiday favorites. During the second half of the concert, guests will be entertained by the amazing talents of local pianist, Sally Copeland Wright. Listen to Mrs. Knight's custom-made Steinway Grand Piano positively come alive as Sally's classically-trained fingers dance across the 105 year-old ivory keys. Tickets for the concert are \$35 per person and include a dessert reception during the intermission.



Currituck Heritage Park Winter Educational Series

Tuesday, December 16, 10:00 a.m., the Knapp Legacy in Currituck Illustrated Program will be held at the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education. Joseph P. Knapp, publisher and philanthropist, was one of the most notable figures in Currituck history. Come discover his efforts in wildlife conservation and his co-founding of the Ducks Unlimited conservation group. His contributions to education and schools have forever impacted residents of Currituck County and throughout North Carolina. Cider and cookies will be served. Call 252-453-0221 for reservations.

Winter Piano Concert

On Monday, December 29, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sondra Meinhardt and friends will perform classics from the 1920s era as well as holiday favorites. Be mesmerized by the century-old Steinway Grand Piano being played by local artists who will draw out the melodies from the polished mahogany. Tickets are \$35 per person or four for \$100 and include a dessert reception during the intermission.

For more information on events, contact the Whalehead Club in Corolla at 252-453-9040.

CURRITUCK LIBRARY

A New Look: Currituck Library's Barco branch has a fresh layout, thanks to the work of the Library staff and Public Works Department members. This project began nearly a year ago and now provides a new arrangement within the library. The library now features:

- An adult fiction collection with two seating areas;
- A larger children's area, with play area and toys;
- An area for teens with six Internet computers and seating;
- A display for new adult books, DVDs and audio books;
- A Genealogy research area with two Internet computers.



What-Do-I-Read-Next Book Club: This interesting book club is moving to the third Wednesday of each month, meeting at 2:00 p.m. Participants have a great time sharing their favorite books and making lists of new books to read. Join the fun!

BabyGarten: Meets Wednesdays, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. The winter session dates will be January 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11, 18. Parents and caregivers learn and recite rhymes, fingerplays, sing songs, read books, make toys and play with children to promote early literacy.

Scallywag's Scavenger Hunt: Rescheduled for January 24, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Will include stories, songs, face painting, games and scavenger hunt. Dress as your favorite pirate! Call the Library to pre-register at 453-8345.

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The official e-Newsletter of Currituck County Government.
Updates & news sent directly to your email Inbox.
Register online at www.currituckgovernment.com.

CURRITUCK LIBRARY

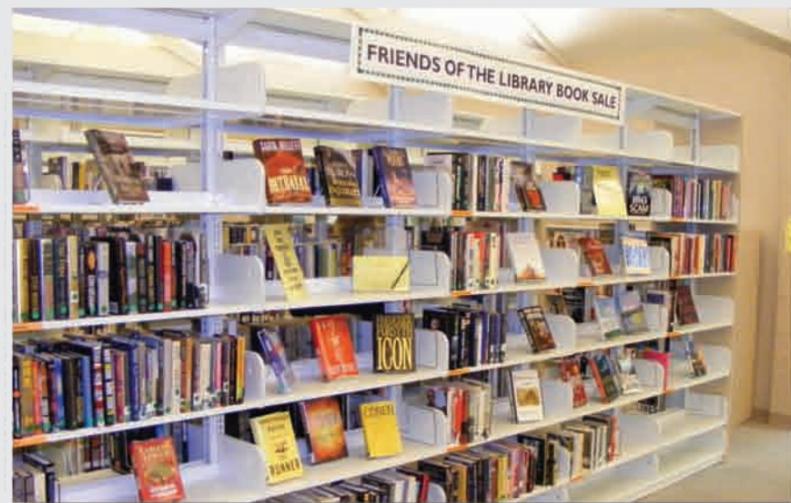
Story Time: Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., ages 3-5 years

- January 20 - Panda Bear Panda Bear
- January 27 - Frosty
- February 3 - Groundhogs
- February 10 - What is Red?
- February 17 - 5 Senses
- February 24 - The Little Red Hen

Toddler Time: Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., ages 18 months - 2 years

- January 22 - Baby Bear Baby Bear
- January 29 - Frosty
- February 5 - Groundhogs
- February 12 - What is Red?
- February 19 - The Sense of Touch
- February 26 - Sounds All Around Us

Friends of the Library Book Sales: Both branches of the Currituck Library, in Barco and Corolla, now include space for on-going Friends of the Library Book Sales. Featuring shelving donated by Olin Fitch, Corolla's book sales are located in the hallway between the library and meeting room. In Barco, the sale books are in the front, facing the Internet computers. Hardback books sell for \$1.00 each and paperback books sell for \$.25. All money collected from the book sales supports the library's programs and collections.



County Government Offices - Holiday Schedule

County offices will be closed on the following dates:
November 27-28, 2008: Thanksgiving
December 24-26, 2008: Christmas
January 1, 2009: New Year's Day
January 19, 2009: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

County of Currituck
P.O. Box 39
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