

# Focus on Currituck

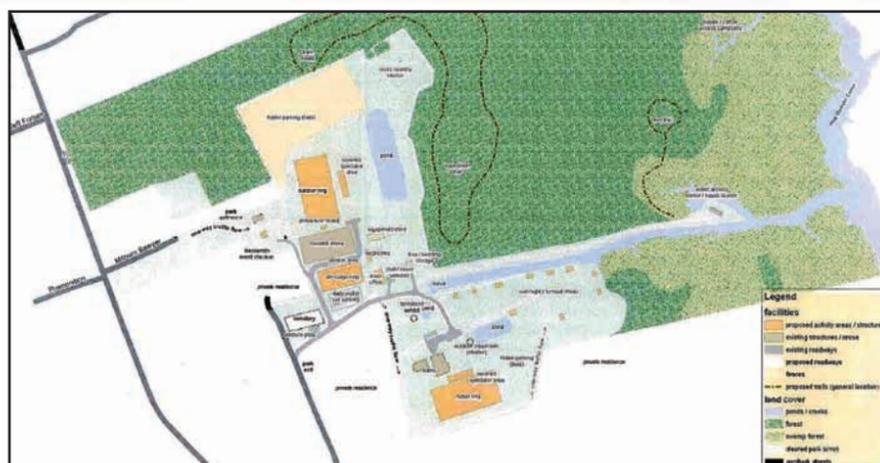
A Report to the Community  
by Currituck County Government

## COUNTY DEVELOPING RURAL CENTER

VARIETY OF PROGRAMS WILL BE OFFERED

Currituck County is developing a new facility that will offer a variety of outdoor activities and educational programs. A proposed plan for the 4-H Rural Life Center, located off of Spot Road, includes a large indoor equestrian arena, outdoor show rings, spectator seating, Currituck Sound access for kayaking, historical exhibits, trails, a stocked fishing pond, and acres of space for group activities.

The facility and programs will be directed by the 4-H program of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service. The county hopes to have the center open to the public this fall, in time for the 100th anniversary of 4-H. For more information, contact Cooperative Extension at 232-2261.



For an enlarged view of the proposed site plan, visit [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com)



## MAPLE WATER PLANT CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

SEN. BURR, REP. OWENS JOIN CEREMONY

Two special guests helped Currituck County celebrate the grand opening of the new reverse osmosis plant, located in Maple. United States Senator Richard Burr and N.C. Representative Bill Owens joined county commissioners, staff, project developers and local citizens during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 12, 2009.

The new facility provides for improved water service to customers and delivers a higher-quality water product than county residents previously enjoyed. This project's ability to expand also ensures that Currituck will be able to meet future water needs of both residents and businesses as the county continues to grow.



Sen. Burr addresses the crowd during the Grand Opening celebration.

Also, the Maple water plant enhances public safety. The new system allows for more water available through fire hydrants, providing fire service members a greater ability to suppress fires. More water flowing through the hydrants allows more fire service members to be dedicated to suppression and rescue efforts, rather than transporting water to incident scenes. This may help lower the ISO ratings for fire departments, and in turn lower insurance costs for property owners.

## SAWYER RETIRES FROM COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

HALL OF FAME HONOR CAPS CAREER



Rodney Sawyer

Rodney Sawyer, Director of the Currituck County Center for the N.C. Cooperative Extension for the past 25 years, retires this fall after a distinguished career of outstanding service to his home county.

With more than 30 years experience in the Cooperative Extension Service, Sawyer has had a hand in many 'firsts' in Currituck. But with his tenure drawing to a close, Sawyer is working to help bring more achievement to the Extension before his final day on Sept. 30, 2009. In typical fashion, Sawyer is involved in a number of tasks, such as the development of the new 4-H Rural Life Center, the Going Green initiative, and a book publishing project to detail the historic architecture in Currituck County. Also on his final to-do list is helping ensure the continued growth of Cooperative Extension as new leadership takes over.

"Making the transition is the hardest thing," Sawyer said. "The hardest part for me is, I don't know if I can walk away from all of this. I'll still be active in the community through volunteering."

Sawyer's dedication to Cooperative Extension is well-known locally, and was recently recognized across the state. In July, he was inducted into the N.C. 4-H Hall of Fame. Sawyer is the youngest member of the Hall's 100-person inaugural class of inductees.

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### Look Inside For These Topics & More

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## FINANCE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES HONOR

### ANNUAL REPORT ACHIEVES EXCELLENCE

Currituck County's Finance Department received the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for the most recent fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2008.

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Currituck County by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The county's comprehensive annual report was compiled by the Finance Department, under the leadership of Finance Director Sandra Hill.

Currituck County's annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 is available online at [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com), along with the current 2009 - 2010 Annual Budget. Additional information regarding the Government Finance Officers Association and the awards program can be found at [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org).

## DEPUTIES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

### DUO BRAVED ELEMENTS TO RESCUE SUSPECT



Currituck County Deputy Garland Akers and Deputy Brian Dudley received Meritorious Awards during the July 20, 2009 Board of Commissioners meeting. Sheriff Susan Johnson described the deputies' heroic actions in a March incident in which both men had to rescue a suspect from very cold water during a winter storm. Board of Commissioners Chairman Owen Etheridge joined Sheriff Johnson and Lieutenant Jason Banks in presenting the awards.

### **Sawyer** *continued from page 1*

Sawyer's interest in Cooperative Extension began as a child participating in 4-H activities and grew into a career. He'll retire as the first agent to spend an entire tenure in Currituck, and has seen many programs evolve over time to best fit the needs of the community.

"It astounds me what's been accomplished," Sawyer said. "We had to delve into many things we were not experts on, but had to become experts on."

Upon retirement, Sawyer will spend more time with his large extended family throughout Currituck and with his private show-horse training business.

"I'm looking forward to having peace of mind, but it has been a marvelous career," he said. "I just will miss everybody."

*I've worked with Rodney for over 30 years. We began our careers working together as 4-H agents recruiting youth, training volunteers, teaching leadership skills to our youth as well as opening Camp Coleman each year for summer youth programming during those early years. We would mow grass, kill snakes, clean toilets and all the 'not so fun' chores needed to open our youth camp for the summer. Rodney is well known for his motivational presentations all over the state, professionalism and outstanding leadership skills. He has devoted his life to the people of Currituck County out of his love for this area. He will be missed, but we're confident he will continue to be involved in making Currituck the best place to live. - Georgia Kight, Extension Agent Family and Consumer Sciences*

*Rodney has not only been the best boss imaginable, but a good friend! His love for the entire staff and his sense of humor made for the greatest work environment anyone could ask for. His dedication, leadership skills and love of people will be missed very much!*

*- Ellen Owens, Extension Agent 4-H Youth Development*

*Even though it has only been a short time, I feel truly blessed to have worked with him. Rodney is an incredible motivator and leader. He will be greatly missed!*

*- Sherry Lynn, Administrative Secretary*

## NEW FACES

### **Jennie Newbern** Planning Dept.



Jennie recently joined the Planning staff as a Code Enforcement Officer. She will work primarily in the Currituck Outer Banks area. Jennie will help property owners and businesses comply with the county's ordinances and work with the community on solutions to any violations.

Jennie is a native of Currituck County, and she holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from North Carolina State University.

### **Brad Schuler** Planning Dept.



Brad has also joined the staff of the Planning Department.

As a Planner I,

Brad will help present information to the Board of Adjustments, review applications for building permits and site plans to ensure compliance with regulations, and assist in the review of applications for subdivisions, among many other duties.

Prior to coming to Currituck, Brad served as a Planner in the Union County Planning Dept., in Monroe, N.C. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from East Carolina University.

"I'm excited about the opportunity that Currituck County has given me to help protect the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens for present and future generations," he said.

### **Angie Slade** Water Dept.



Angie recently joined the staff of the Water Department.

She will serve the county residents as a Customer Service Clerk in the offices of the new reverse osmosis water plant, in Maple.

Angie helps assist customers in all areas, such as opening new accounts, processing bill payments, discontinuing service, and other office duties.

Although she grew up in Dare County, Angie lives in Currituck and recently was a Lead Teacher for 3-year olds at Kingdom Kids Learning Center.

"I am excited to be serving the citizens of Currituck here at the new water plant," she said.

## CORRIDOR BEAUTIFICATION FIRST IMPRESSIONS FROM THE SWEEP TEAM

The Currituck County Corridor Sweep Team is wrapping up site visits designed to inform and educate the public on signage along the Caratoke Highway corridor. The site visits have provided an excellent opportunity to reconnect with our hard-working local businesses, discuss signage options and provide guidance and support.

The sweep team identified three specific problem areas to address directly to residents and businesses:

### Items in the Right-of-Way

Signage and outdoor display items located in the NCDOT right-of-way are a recurring problem. Not only are the items prohibited by state and local laws, they also present traffic safety hazards and create clutter and unsightly roadside signage. In North Carolina, it is illegal to have any form of signage, display, storage or other material in the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) maintained right-of-way. Approved plastic or wood-anchored mailboxes are one such exception.

If you have a sign, vehicle, item for sale or other object in the right-of-way, please remove it. Failure to remove such objects could elicit a citation from Currituck County.

### Identifying a Right-of-Way

A right-of-way is a strip of land that is granted, through an easement or other function, for access, utilities and transportation features like roads and railroads. Right-of-ways are reserved for maintenance and expansion purposes of these features. All state-maintained highways and roads in Currituck County are public right-of-ways.



Example of a right-of-way.

### Where a Right-of-Way is Located

This is not as simple as it seems, the right-of-way is usually more than just the roadway. Often, the legal right-of-way extends off the pavement and includes adjacent swales, ditches and underground utilities on either side of the road. Chances are, if you have frontage on a roadway, the right-of-way includes what you may consider part of your property.

### How to find out Where the Right-of-Way Starts or Ends

The best way to know the extent of a right-of-way near your property is to look at a recorded survey, plat or deed. If no map is provided in these documents, check the Currituck County interactive mapping system on [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com) under the front-page link "Maps."

In this map program, you can look up your parcel and determine lot line locations for any right-of-way.

**QUICK TIP:** A good rule of thumb for identifying where the right-of-way begins without a map is to look for the utility poles lining the roadway (as seen in the left photo). Generally, anything between the poles and the roadway itself is part of the right-of-way. This is not an exact rule, so please use a survey or map for exact locations.

### Signage on Light Posts, Utility Poles or Trees

A second recurring issue encountered during the site visits is the proliferation of signage attached to light posts, telephone poles and trees. Typically, these signs are found at retail establishments such as gas stations or convenience stores promoting items like sodas, tobacco, milk, etc. Another common case is a yard sale sign. According to the UDO, these are illegal and must be removed.

Corridor Sweep officials have found it is often the specific products' vendors and distributors who erect, maintain and update the signage on these poles – not the property owner or tenant. Thus, because the owner or tenant did not put them up, they may not feel responsible for the signs. Unfortunately, this is not the case: both the property owner and tenant can be held responsible for violations occurring at the property, regardless of who erected the signage.

The best way to ensure compliance with the UDO is to remove any sign that fits this description. Also, owners and tenants should instruct vendors immediately to stop putting up additional signs on poles or trees. Remember, violations and fines are sent to the property owner and tenant.



Example of an illegal pole sign.

### 'For Sale', 'For Rent', and Yard Sale Signage

The third recurring case of illegal signage relates to signs advertising items for sale, rent or for a resident or community yard sale. These signs must be placed, outside the right-of-way, on the same property that is advertised for sale or for rent: not at an intersection, nearby property, light pole or mailbox. For example, a 'house for sale' sign must be out of the right-of-way and on the land of the property that is for sale. The same standard is applied for 'for rent' or yard sale signs.

Any property or business owner having difficulty communicating with a vendor or a tenant and anyone with questions about signage may contact the Currituck County Corridor Sweep Team at 252-232-6027.

## RECYCLING UPDATE

### NEW LANDFILL BANS COMING INTO EFFECT

A number of new regulations imposed by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources regarding which items are eligible for disposal into landfills has resulted in additional recycling opportunities for county residents.

As of October 2009, landfills will not accept motor vehicle oil filters, recyclable rigid plastic containers, or wooden pallets. Currituck County will accept the motor vehicle oil filters and recyclable rigid plastic containers at each of the county's eight Recycling Centers. Wooden pallets are accepted as yard waste at the Transfer Station off Airport Road, and will be recycled through a private contractor.

These items add to a substantial list of products recycled by Currituck County. Recyclable items include used oil, yard trash, white goods, anti-freeze, aluminum cans, whole scrap tires, lead acid batteries, beverage containers, and oyster shells. In January 2010, the Barco Recycling Center will begin accepting discarded computer equipment and televisions.

Currituck County has made great strides in recycling efforts, thanks in large part to the efforts of its residents. Currently, Currituck ranks 19th of all 100 counties in North Carolina in recycling tonnage per capita. County staff encourages all residents and visitors to continue to take advantage of the recycling opportunities available in Currituck.

For locations and hours of operation for the eight Recycling Centers in Currituck, visit [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com) or call 232-2504.

### "GREEN TIPS"

#### 10 LOW-COST SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR BUSINESSES

1. Create a Green Team & Empower Employees
2. Turn off the juice when not in use - Reduce utility bills by turning off lights and electronics when not in use.
3. Use LED Exit signs - energy efficient signs that operate 24/7 will lower electricity usage and require less maintenance.
4. Contact local waste reduction resources to help organize your recycling program. Visit [www.p2pays.org](http://www.p2pays.org).
5. Reuse materials or implement reusable alternatives to reduce waste. Eliminate the use of single-use plastic water bottles.
6. Make use of local vendors and suppliers.
7. Use post-consumer recycled paper.
8. Use energy efficient lighting. This includes sunlight and compact fluorescent light bulbs.
9. Install aerators in sinks to conserve water.
10. Make a Formal Company Commitment to Sustainability.

For more information, visit [www.p2pays.org](http://www.p2pays.org)

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### SEEKING CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

The county is undertaking several planning projects for which volunteers are needed to establish citizen advisory committees. The goal of any planning process is to create a long-term vision for an area or topic, and often results in the creation of policies or ordinances. It is critical that citizens be involved, as this typically affects residents for many years. *A few of the projects underway this fall include:*

#### Unified Development Ordinance Rewrite

The county has not comprehensively updated its zoning and subdivision ordinances since 1989. With the recent adoption of a Land Use Plan, an update of the regulatory ordinances is the next step in shaping the future of Currituck County. Nearly every citizen is directly affected by zoning and subdivision regulations, so public involvement in this effort is critically important.

#### Mid-County Bridge Small Area Plan

As the State of North Carolina continues its preparation for the Mid-County Bridge, it is important to create a vision for each terminus. This planning process will help answer questions surrounding the impacts this multi-million dollar project will have on our local economy and culture. Local foresight and preparation are critical as it is rare that a community must prepare for such a significant piece of infrastructure.

#### Comprehensive Transportation Plan

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan establishes needed road improvements and prioritizes them for funding by the State. In addition to conventional road widening projects and improvements, the plan also recognizes alternative transportation projects such as multi-use paths, bike lanes and sidewalks.

If you are interested in participating in any of these projects, please contact the Planning Department at (252) 232-3055. To view the **Maple-Barco Small Area Plan**, approved by the Board of Commissioners, visit the Planning section of the county website at [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com).

## FIRE & EMS

### TRAINING FOR THE MASSES

To highlight continuing efforts to increase continuing education to our staff and public safety partners, CCFEMS recently completed a program in mass casualty incident (MCI) management with the use of the Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START) process and the SMART Triage Coding system. This program is a mandated program by the N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services (NCOEMS).

The goal of MCI management is to do the greatest good for the greatest number and to manage scarce resources. Life safety of the victim and personnel are always the first priority.

The SMART Triage product was provided by grant funding by NCOEMS. This system is complete with MCI bags, patient accountability boards and SMART possessions and tracking system. Through the use of this identification and tracking system, responders are better prepared to utilize an organized approach to dealing with a large number of injured or ill patients.

In addition, the Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department, in partnership with Currituck EMS, completed a three-month Leadership Training Program provided by the National Fire Academy. Through several interactive sessions, participants became knowledgeable in learning such topics as delegating, leadership styles, motivating members, creativity, development levels of members and corrective action processes.

Currituck Fire & EMS continues to learn and improve while providing emergency services to the community. This continued dedication and professionalism increases knowledge and experience, which allows us to better serve the residents, businesses, and visitors of Currituck County.



## ELECTRONIC BILL PAYING OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR WATER & TAX BILLS

#### Water and Sewer Customers

**Electronic Draft from your checking account:** This is a free service that will draft your checking account on the due date each month. An application to enroll in this service is available online at: [www.co.currituck.nc.us/electronic-fund-transfer.cfm](http://www.co.currituck.nc.us/electronic-fund-transfer.cfm).

**Pay online by Credit Card:** This is a free service to pay your water bill with Mastercard or VISA. This service is available under the online services on the county website, [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com).

#### Tax Customers

**Pay online by Credit Card:** This option allows customers to pay outstanding tax bills online at [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com) with Discover, Mastercard or VISA. There is a service fee applied when you use this option for tax payments.

**Pay by Phone:** 1-800-272-9829 will connect tax customers to Official Payments, which will process American Express, Discover, Mastercard, VISA and E-checks over the phone. Customers will need to give them our jurisdiction code, which is 4308, and their account number. There is a service fee applied when you use this option for tax payments.

#### Both Water/Sewer and Tax Customers

**E-check:** This option allows you to pay one-time payments from your

checking account. This service is also available under the online services from the County website, [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com). A \$3.00 service fee is charged and will automatically be added to your payment.

Currituck County also receives checks from various bill-pay systems initiated by our customers through their bank. Some bill-pay systems do not actually mail the payment on the payment date requested by the customer. This causes the payment to be late and the customer is assessed interest. To avoid such fees, customers should choose a payment date that is several days prior to the due date.

• If you use a bill pay service, please confirm that the mailing addresses have our current information. This is a new address for the water utilities.

**TAX**  
Currituck County Tax Department  
PO Box 9  
Currituck, North Carolina 27929

**WATER AND SEWER**  
Currituck County Water Department or  
Ocean Sands Water and Sewer or  
Southern Outer Banks Water  
444 Maple Road  
Maple, North Carolina 27956

**Vendors:** You can also take advantage of electronic payments by completing vendor direct deposit form, which is available online at [www.co.currituck.nc.us/online-survey.cfm](http://www.co.currituck.nc.us/online-survey.cfm) or by calling Finance at 252-232-2381. There is no charge for this option and payments will be transmitted by ACH. Funds will be in your bank the day other checks are mailed.



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### MEMBERS SWORN IN FOR NEW TERM

Currituck County's Board of Elections members completed the Oath of Office during a swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, July 30, 2009. Assistant Clerk of Court Debbie Basnight administered the oath to the newly appointed board, which elected Chris Hooper as Chairman and Annette Argandoña as Secretary. Barbara Snowden will serve as the third member. Each is beginning a second consecutive two-year term on the Board of Elections.

*From L-R: Debbie Basnight, Chris Hooper, Barbara Snowden, Annette Argandona*

# TRAVEL AND TOURISM

## MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

What is Social Networking? While this may be old news for some of us, online social networking describes websites that function as online communities of internet users.

Many of the visitors to social networks share common interests such as hobbies, age or politics. The Department of Travel and Tourism has made a strong push this year to promote and utilize a variety of social media websites. These sites include Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Youtube, Flickr and Wordpress Blogging. These sites allow for personal interaction between staff and visitors to highlight upcoming events, answer questions about the area, and share stories, photos and videos.

A main focus over the last several months has been the Currituck County

Facebook page. The page has attracted more than 1,200 fans, and that number continues to grow each day. The Facebook page hosts a monthly photo contest and offers the winner Currituck Outer Banks memorabilia.

The goal is to foster existing visitor relationships and to attract new visitors to the county. Public response to this effort so far has been great, and excitement seems to be building about the area and the many opportunities offered to both residents and vacationers.

Anyone interested in becoming a fan, friend or just following the tweets of Currituck County online can visit the Department of Travel and Tourism website, [www.cometourbeach.com](http://www.cometourbeach.com), and look for the social media icons in the middle of the page. Just click on one to get started.



## SOCIAL SERVICES ADULT SERVICES STAFF HELPS MANY IN NEED

The Department of Social Services offers many services for elderly and disabled adults, child care, and employment aid. Its staff provides support services for all social work programs in the agency.

One such program is **Adult Services**, which aims to improve the quality of life and the safety of clients, with in-home services, respite for caregivers, adult protective services, guardianship services, placement assistance, and coordination of available resources that address the individual needs of our clients.

**Kim Soltow** has worked in DSS as an Adult Services social worker for 11 years. Along with providing services in all areas of adult services, Kim is also the resident expert at sniffing out facts in adult protective services exploitation cases. **Toni Hawthorn** has been with DSS for 13 years. She has an exceptional mix of previous experience that has led to her being an outstanding social worker for the elderly and disabled citizens of Currituck.

Child Care Subsidy is a service that benefits tremendously children and their caregivers. Assistance with the child care costs is available to parents who are working, looking for work, or going to school, if they fall

within the income guidelines. Social Worker **Phyllis Wright** coordinates these services for our citizens and has touched most social work programs during her 25 years with DSS.

**Nancy Rouson** serves DSS as an Employment Services Social Worker. The primary goal of employment services is to pinpoint barriers to self-sufficiency and build on strengths with employment skills and education.

**Regina Seymore** and **Shannon Cooper** provide invaluable support services for clients. Regina helps provide transportation for children, families, the elderly and disabled to the doctors and other necessary appointments, supervising visitations, and sharing observations from these contacts with the case managers. Shannon helps provide services within the home to teach budgeting, nutrition, parenting, or to assist with household management and provide respite for caregivers.

This dedicated group is part of an exceptional staff at DSS that works to improve lives for many county residents. For more information on programs available through the Department of Social Services, call 232-3083.

## CURRITUCK KIDS

### SUCCESS IS A MUST!

Currituck Kids is a community based organization formed in 2008 to support the needs of school aged children in Currituck County. Funds are granted to the Department of Social Services and Currituck County Schools to address needs identified by staff working with children.

Through these agencies, children receive assistance with necessities like shoes, clothing, toiletries, or support for one time special events. A goal of Currituck Kids is to help make sure that kids have what they need to be successful in all phases of life.

Currituck Kids works in partnership with the North Carolina Community Foundation and hopes to collaborate with other charitable organizations in our community to provide support that compliments their mission. There will be special fundraisers held throughout the year. Look for the logo and join in.

Tax deductible contributions may be made out to "NCCF: Currituck Kids Fund" and mailed to: The Harbinger Ctr., Ste 4, Point Harbor, NC 27964. For more information about how you can help Currituck Kids, email questions to [currituckkids@yahoo.com](mailto:currituckkids@yahoo.com).



## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

### CIP & LIEAP

The **Crisis Intervention Program (CIP)** helps low-income households in a heating or cooling-related emergency. CIP will help pay heating/cooling bills to prevent these utilities from being cut off due to a temporary inability to make payment, and can help with reconnect fees. CIP can also pay for specific items such as utility deposits (water bills not included), repairing a broken heater or replacing a broken window. There is not a specific application period for CIP. If funding is available, applications are taken Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; and Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Note: After 12:00 p.m. on Fridays, we evaluate the situation to see if there is an immediate need).

The **Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)** gives low-income households a one-time payment to help pay their heating bills. The application period is from November 2 - 13, 2009. In February 2010, all eligible households receive a check in the mail to help pay heating-related expenses. Entire households that receive food stamp benefits may be automatically eligible to receive an energy check, without an application. Those households receive a notice in the mail. Others are required to apply. An elderly or disabled person who wishes to apply may call DSS at 232-3083, or may send a representative in to apply for him/her.

Just a reminder: You can also be evaluated for eligibility for the Solid Waste Fee Waiver when you apply for LIEAP. No separate applications will be taken. You must apply for LIEAP in order to be evaluated for waiver.

# PLANNING DEPARTMENT 2009 COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM OUTREACH PROJECT

A property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area if it is located in the AE or VE zones. The flood depths for these SFHAs have been determined and represent the flooding that may occur with a 100-year storm event.

Floodplains serve many useful purposes, and those that are preserved in their natural or nearly natural state provide a wide range of benefits. For example, floodplains hold, filter, convey and disperse floodwaters. Currituck strives to reach a balance between these fragile environments and responsible development. The Currituck County Unified Development Ordinance, North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), and other governmental regulations help maintain the County's valuable natural resources. Dumping in streams is illegal and should be reported to 252-232-6027.

## Did You Know?

In a high-risk area, your home has a 26% chance of being damaged by floodwaters during the course of a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 4% chance of fire. History has proven that flooding in the United States has caused more damage than any other type of natural disaster. Any property located within a SFHA that is subject to a federally funded loan or mortgage is required to carry insurance against rising waters (flood insurance). Standard property owner insurance policies do not provide for coverage of losses due to flooding. Additionally, even if your home, other structures or your entire property is not within a SFHA, it is strongly recommended that this valuable coverage be considered since storms of greater intensity than the 100-year event are possible in any given year.

Flood insurance guarantees compensation for flood damages because the federal government backs the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It compensates all covered losses, even when Federal Disaster Aid is not available. Flood insurance covers structural and mechanical damage that resulted from flooding, as well as flood debris cleanup and floor surfaces (like tile and carpeting). You can purchase additional coverage to insure most of your personal property.

A \$100,000 flood insurance premium is about \$400 per year. There is a 30-day waiting period before your coverage goes into effect. Since Currituck participates in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program, a 10% discount on policy cost is available to property owners in the County. The following table lists the maximum coverages for flood insurance available to property owners.

- **Building Coverage:** Single Family Dwelling \$250,000; Apartment Building \$250,000; Condominium Association \$250,000 x # of units or replacement cost, whichever is less; Non-residential \$500,000; Small business \$500,000.
- **Contents Coverage:** Residential \$100,000; Non-residential \$500,000

The National Flood Insurance Program is available in your community! Contact your insurance company today or visit: [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

## Important Concerns for Homeowners

A development permit must be obtained before commencing any development activities. This includes any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. Obtaining a current elevation certificate properly prepared by a registered land surveyor on the approved FEMA certificate form may be required as part of the building permitting process. Copies of all elevation certificates are available for review in the Planning Department.

For a free flood-zone determination, contact the Planning Department with your address or property identification number (PIN). There are also detailed floodplain boundary maps on file at the Planning Department and the Currituck County Library.

New buildings in the floodplain must be protected from flood damage. The County ordinances require that new buildings must be elevated above the base or "100-year" flood elevation. Before you begin construction or add on to your existing building, contact the Planning Department at 252-232-3055. Qualified staff can help you build a safe project that complies with local floodplain policies.

The community may levy a fine and/or obtain a court order to have the owner correct the construction if built without a permit or if not built according to the approved plans. For information on floodplain development or to report illegal floodplain development, contact your local permit office 252-232-6028.

## Flood Prevention Tips: Check to Make Sure

**Critical items are located at least 12" above potential flood waters.** Panel Boards, electric fuses or circuit breakers, electric outlets, switches, light sockets, baseboard heaters and wiring, washer and dryer, furnace and water heaters, outside air conditioning compressors, heat pumps or package units can be placed on masonry or pressure-treated lumber.

**Fuel tanks are anchored securely.** Fuel tanks can tip over or float in a flood, causing a spill or fire. Make sure vents and fill-line openings are above projected flood levels.

**Your sewer system has a backflow valve.** A backflow valve can prevent flood waters from entering the sewage system.

For more information on these tips and permitting information prior to installation, talk to a professional homebuilder, contractor or building supply retailer, or call the Planning Dept. at 252-232-3055. Information can also be found at [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com).

## Property Protection Measures: Things you can do

Many houses existing today were built when little was known about floods and other hazardous events or how buildings should be protected. A significant number of existing homes continue to be susceptible to repetitive flood losses. Recent improvements in construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flood damage. The Federal Insurance Administration has published a manual that describes various techniques that can be used to permanently flood proof an existing building. This process is also known as "retrofitting". Retrofitting is making changes to an existing building to protect it from flooding or other hazards, such as high winds and earthquakes.

## Temporary and Emergency Measures

- Moving furniture and equipment to upper floors
- Sandbagging to hold back rising waters
- Building temporary levees.

## Permanent Measures & Examples of Retrofitting

- Elevating the structure
- Dry Floodproofing
- Wet Floodproofing
- Relocation

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has published. The Design Manual for Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Structures. This presents a series of permanent retrofitting measures that can be incorporated into an existing house to reduce or eliminate the potential of future flooding. Copies may be ordered free of charge by writing: *FEMA Distribution Center, 8241-A Sandy Court, P. O. Box 2012, Jessup, MD 20794 ATTN: Publications*; or call 1-800-480-2520; [www.fema.gov/business/nfip/address.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/address.shtm). In addition, both the Planning and Inspections Departments can discuss retrofitting techniques for your property by calling 252-232-3055.

## Be Prepared - Take Steps To Protect Property & Life

- Learn the probability of flooding in your area.
- Make a complete inventory of your property. Take pictures and describe inventory. Store these and other documents in a waterproof container or safe deposit box.
- Make sure insurance policy is up to date and fits your needs.
- Know warning signals and what to do if warnings are issued.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers in a prominent location.
- Learn first aid & evacuation routes.

## During the Flood

- Do not walk through flowing water. In standing water, use a pole to determine depth.
- Do not drive through flooded areas or around road barriers.
- Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and drains.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.
- Turn off all electrical circuits at the panel or disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Look before you step. After a flood, the ground may be covered with debris.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

## Stayed Informed During Flood Events

### Radio Stations

WXEZ 94.1 WERX 102.5  
WRSF 105.7 WKJX 96.7  
WCMS 94.5  
WVOD 99.1  
WGAI-AM 560  
WCXL-FM 104.1

### Television Stations

WAVY-TV (10)  
WTKR-TV (3)  
WVEC-TV (13)  
WITN-TV (7)  
WSKY-TV (4)

Local cable television: Mediacom Ch. 18; Charter Ch. 19

NOAA weather radio: Cape Hatteras 162.475 MHz; Norfolk, Virginia, 162.550 MHz.

Emergency Management (EM) maintains direct contact with the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center, and relays updates of threatening weather to government, media, hospitals, etc. EM can override the local cable broadcast system to provide storm and flood information. For more information on Flood Warnings, please call Emergency Management at 252-232-2115.

Find Family Emergency Evacuation Plans at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)

## Local Flood Sources

Dominant sources of flooding in Currituck County are storm surge generated in the Atlantic Ocean by tropical storms and hurricanes. In addition, high winds can produce large swells in the Currituck Sound and North River. The wave action associated with storm surge can be much more damaging than the higher water level. Not all storms will produce extremely high tides. Northeasters were found to have a significant impact on the storm surge elevations determined for Currituck, particularly in the Outer Banks area.

Storms such as Hurricane Isabel (2003) and Tropical Storm Ernesto (2006), have produced severe floods, as well as extensive structural damage. Ernesto produced over seven inches of rainfall over four days, resulting in three to four feet of standing water.

## Substantial Improvement Requirements

No new building should be constructed and no substantial improvements of an existing building should take place within any floodplain unless the lowest floor of the building or improvement is flood-proofed or elevated to or above the base flood level. "Substantial Improvement" means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a building the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the market value of the structure either before the improvement or repair is started or, if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. "Substantial Improvement" occurs when the first alteration on any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

"Substantial Damage" means damage of any origin sustained by a building whereby the cost of restoring the building to its before-damage condition would equal or exceed fifty percent (50%) of the market value of the building before the damage occurred.

## Drainage System Maintenance

Drainage ditches, streams, channels, and canals must be kept free of debris that can cause them to lose carrying capacity. Debris from dumping, vegetation and sedimentation can build up in a drainage system and cause flooding. Dumping of debris in drainage systems is unlawful in Currituck County. Keep drainage ditches on your property clear and functional, and report dumping in any ditch, stream, channel, or canal to the Soil and Water Conservation Office at 252.232.3360.

## Learn, Prepare, Prevent & Recover

Learn more by visiting [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov), sponsored by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the N.C. Emergency Management website, [www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org).

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

## Maintaining Your HVAC System

Cooperative Extension will conduct a "Maintaining Your HVAC System" presentation on Tuesday, September 22. Two free sessions will be held, at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Call to pre-register at 252-232-2261.

## Dining with Diabetes Series

Cooperative Extension will host a three-week Dining With Diabetes series on Wednesdays, October 14, 21 & 28 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$15, and there will be educational presentations and food demonstrations each week.

Participants will learn to prepare meals that are healthy, easy to prepare and taste good. Recipes will be demonstrated and participants will have the opportunity to taste each one. Participants will also learn information on nutrition, meal planning, exercise and understanding diabetes-related medical tests.

Participants must pre-register by mailing the registration fee payable to Currituck County and mailing to NC Cooperative Extension, 120 Community Way, Barco, NC 27917 with Dining with Diabetes in the memo. For more information on the upcoming Dining with Diabetes program, contact Georgia Kight at the Currituck Extension Center at 252-232-2261 or email [georgia\\_kight@ncsu.edu](mailto:georgia_kight@ncsu.edu).

## Cook Smart Eat Smart Series

Cooperative Extension will host a four-week cooking school on Mondays, November 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. each week. A \$30 fee will cover all materials. Learn how to prepare simple, healthy and delicious food for you and your family. Cook Smart, Eat Smart keeps it simple: simple healthy preparation techniques, simple ingredients and simple equipment.

Each session contains several basic cooking techniques and other topics related to eating and preparing meals at home. It also provides tips for stretching your food dollar while still eating healthy.

Participants must pre-register to attend by mailing a check payable to Currituck County and mailing it to NC Cooperative Extension, 120 Community Way, Barco, NC 27917 with Cook Smart Eat Smart listed in the memo. For more information contact Georgia Kight or Sheila Gregory at the Currituck Extension Center at 252-232-2261 or email [georgia\\_kight@ncsu.edu](mailto:georgia_kight@ncsu.edu).

## Yoga Class

Parks & Recreation will offer a Yoga Class beginning on September 1. The class will include eight sessions and meet Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Center. A \$25 fee is required, and participants will need an exercise mat, yoga strap and blocks. Register at Parks & Rec or on the county's website at [www.CurrituckGovernment.com](http://www.CurrituckGovernment.com). Register by Sept. 1. Call 232-3007 for more information.

## Albemarle Youth Football League

Weigh-ins will be held on September 12 at the Gates County Community Center in Gates County. Call Parks & Recreation, 232-3007, for more information.

## Flag Football & Cheering

Registration will be held on October 3, at the Parks & Recreation office from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Call 232-3007 for info and directions.

## EAC Soccer All-Stars

Will be held on November 14 in Washington County. Call Parks & Recreation, 232-3007, for more information.

## EAC Volleyball All-Stars

Will be held on November 14 in Williamston. Call Parks & Recreation, 232-3007, for more information.

## Albemarle Youth Football League Super Bowl

Games will be held on November 21 at Currituck County High School. Call Parks & Recreation, 232-3007, for more information.

## Youth Basketball

Registration will be held on December 5 at the Currituck Parks & Recreation office. Call 232-3007 for info and directions.

## Senior Center Trip to Savannah and Charleston, S.C.

The Currituck Senior Center will host a fabulous 4-day/3-night trip to Savannah and Charleston, S.C. from March 23 - 26, 2010. Participants will enjoy three nights of accommodations, three breakfasts at hotel, and three dinners. The dinners will include one at Lady & Son's Restaurant and one a famous Charleston seafood restaurant. Call Diane Bray, 232-3505, for more information.

## Fire Prevention

National Fire Prevention Week is October 4 - 10, 2009. You can find a large amount of fire safety information at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). The week focuses on burn awareness and prevention and provides common tips for families to prevent burns from fire or other sources.

Families can also protect their homes with a home fire sprinkler system. Visit [HomeFireSprinkler.org](http://HomeFireSprinkler.org) for a virtual demonstration of residential fire sprinkler systems.

Join one of Currituck County's Volunteer Fire Departments to help ensure fire safety for your neighborhood. Each department can provide training and information to help you play a role in making Currituck a safer community. Visit [CurrituckGovernment.com](http://CurrituckGovernment.com) for a complete list of Volunteer Fire Departments throughout the county.

## CCFAFA Benefit Golf Tournament

Support the Currituck County Foster and Adoptive Family Association and help provide essential needs for local foster children. The 2nd Annual Victory Chevrolet/E.R. Midgett Insurance/CCFAFA Benefit Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, September 18 at Mill Run Golf Course in Moyock. The golf will begin at 12:00 noon, and will include Hole-in-One prizes of \$20,000 cash or a Harley Davidson Sportster, sponsored by Outer Banks Harley Davidson.

For information on supporting the CCFAFA, contact Fay Lindsey in the Department of Social Services at 232-3083.

## Aging With Gusto Extravaganza

Cooperative Extension will host an "Aging With Gusto" Extravaganza on Thursday, October 8 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This is open to people of all ages to learn new health trends, financial education, and other topics. A \$10 fee covers materials, refreshments, and lunch. Call 252-232-2261 for registration brochure.

## September Genealogy Classes

The Currituck Library will host the following Genealogy classes:

- Genealogy Basics - Friday, September 18, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
  - Genealogy & Your Computer - Tuesday, September 22, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
  - Genealogy at the Courthouse - Friday, September 25, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Call the Currituck Library, 453-8345, to register.

## September Computer Classes

The Currituck Library will host the following computer classes:

- Intro to Windows - Monday, September 14, 9:30 a.m.
  - Microsoft Publisher 1 & 2 - Tuesday, September 15, 9:30 a.m.
  - Digital Camera - Wednesday, September 16, 9:30 a.m.
  - Computer Basics for Beginners - Monday, September 21, 9:30 a.m.
  - Microsoft Word Level 1 - Tuesday, September 22, 9:30 a.m.
  - Microsoft Word Level 2 - Tuesday, September 22, 11:00 a.m.
  - Microsoft Word Level 3 - Thursday, September 24, 9:30 a.m.
  - Microsoft Word Level 4 - Thursday, September 24, 11:00 a.m.
  - One-on-One Introduction to Library Catalog - During regular Library hours
- Call the Currituck Library, 453-8345, to register.

## Babygarten Early Literacy Program

The Currituck Library will host the Babygarten Early Literacy Program classes on the following dates:

- September 16, 23, 30
- October 7, 14, 21

Each class will be held from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Caregivers and children will learn and recite rhymes, fingerplays, sing songs, read books, make crafts, and more. Parents will learn about their role in children's early literacy. Call the Currituck Library, 453-8345, for more information.

## Story Time & Toddler Time

The Currituck Library will host Story Time from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- September 15, 22, 29
- October 6, 13, 20, 27
- November 3, 10, 17, 24
- December 1, 8, 15, 22

The Currituck Library will host Toddler Time from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- September 17, 24
- October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- November 5, 12, 19
- December 3, 10, 17

Call the Currituck Library, 453-8345, for more information.

## Excursion Day at the Whalehead Club

The Whalehead Club in Corolla will host Excursion Day on Sunday, October 4 from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Excursion Day will be fun for the entire family, with a variety of events. For more information, contact the Whalehead Club at 453-9040, or visit [www.whalehead.org](http://www.whalehead.org) for a complete listing of events.

## Currituck - Dare Fall Family Festival

The Interfaith Community Outreach program (ICO) will host the Currituck-Dare Fall Family Festival on Saturday, September 12, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Jarvisburg Church of Christ.

This special event for all ages will feature a county fair styled festival. Food, cotton candy, funnel cakes, games, music, bake sale, silent auction, gas card raffle, and much more will be included. A book and yard sale, along with a breakfast bake sale, begins at 7:00 a.m.

ICO is a volunteer organization working with faith congregations to help local individuals and families with emergency assistance. For more information, visit [www.interfaithoutreach.com](http://www.interfaithoutreach.com) or call 453-2506, or 480-0070.

## Knapp High School Reunion

A special reunion is being planned to honor all citizens who attended J.P. Knapp High School from 1960 - 1979. This event will be held October 8 - 10, 2010 in Currituck County.

Visit the reunion website at [www.Knapp50.com](http://www.Knapp50.com) to find news about the reunion activities, order tickets, and contact old classmates. This website will be the main source of information regarding this special reunion. Anyone with family or friends who attended Knapp is encouraged to visit this website and contact the event organizers.

Visit [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com) for updated news, announcements and special notices.



## Moyock Library

October Grand Opening Planned

Currituck County expects to open its third branch of the public library in October. The Moyock Library, located on Tulls Creek Road, is nearing completion and will include many of the same programs and activities available at the Currituck Library's branches in Barco and Corolla. The Moyock Library will also include an exhibit and activity space maintained by the Currituck Arts Council. For more information on the library's expected programs and offerings, call the Currituck Library at 453-8345.

## Inspections Department

Building Tutorial Now Online

The Inspections Department offers residents and developers an interactive, easy-to-use online resource to help answer all questions concerning residential building projects. The Residential Building Tutorial is now on the county's website, [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com). This interactive tutorial will help answer all questions regarding permits and building before you start your next project. For more information, call Inspections at 232-3378.



### Handy Homer says

"If you are going to buy a carport, building or plans from a magazine or internet keep in mind that Currituck County is in a high wind zone. Our wind zone is 120 mph. Structures must be built to withstand a 120 mph wind. We don't want you to blow away!"



## All-Star Baseball Team Wins State Championship

Currituck's 13 & Under All-Star baseball team enjoyed an outstanding summer of success on the diamonds. In July, the team won the District 7 Babe Ruth Championship. The squad then followed that title by claiming the Eastern North Carolina State Championship.

Currituck then advanced to the Southeast Regional Tournament, held July 30 - Aug. 2 in Pulaski, Tenn. Currituck won its first two games before being knocked out of the double-elimination tournament.

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners presented the team and coaches with a proclamation on August 17 to recognize their many accomplishments this year. Congratulations to all players and coaches on a tremendous season!

## Board of Elections

Looking Ahead To 2010

Though the next elections in Currituck will not take place until 2010, the Board of Elections is making preparations now. Precinct officials were recently appointed, in August. Each precinct has three officials serving a two-year term, and many volunteers are needed to help the elections continue to run smoothly. Election workers play an important role in the democratic process. Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer election assistant should call the Board of Elections office at 232-2525.

The following offices will be up for election in 2010: Clerk of Superior Court; Sheriff; Board of Commissioners At Large 1, District 3 and District 5 seats; and Board of Education At Large, Crawford and Poplar Branch seats.

Candidate filing opens February 8, 2010 at 12:00 noon and closes February 26, 2010 at 12:00 noon. Information regarding filing, fees, campaign finance, and other topics can be found at [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com). Also, make sure you are registered to vote! Call 232-2525 for information.

### Board of Commissioners

Owen Etheridge, Chairman	Paul O'Neal, Vice-Chairman
Vance Aydlett, Jr.	Gene Gregory
Barry Nelms	John Rorer
Janet Taylor	

Contact the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners at 232-2075  
Find meeting schedules and agendas at [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com)

### Public Information Resources for Citizens

- Currituck County Government Website, [www.currituckgovernment.com](http://www.currituckgovernment.com)
- "eGoose" bi-monthly free email newsletter, sign up online
- Mediacom Ch. 18, Charter Ch. 19
- Public Information officer: 252-232-0719
- County Manager's office: 252-232-2075

Focus on Currituck is designed and produced by the Public Information officer.  
For comments, questions, or additional copies call 232-0719.

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

# FOCUS ON CURRITUCK

FALL 2009

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