

Focus on Currituck

A Report to the Community

Spring 2009

LOOK INSIDE

"GOING GREEN"

Find out how you can make a year-long commitment to making wise choices and learn more about being eco-friendly.

BOWDEN HONORED

Former Commissioner Ernie Bowden receives North Carolina's highest civilian honor.

DROPPING IN

Parks and Recreation takes a look at adding two skate parks in Currituck County.

HELPING CHILDREN

Currituck foster children need the community's aid.

SPRING CLEANING

See what two departments do during their "off-seasons".

ANIMAL CONTROL

Rabid animals is a serious threat, and all residents should take caution.

SAVE THE DATE

Events from Cooperative Extension, Recreation and the Currituck Library.

COUNTY PROJECTS TAKING SHAPE

A number of public construction projects in Currituck County are either nearing completion or making progress towards final goals. These include the mainland water plant, Moyock Library, Currituck Regional Airport hangars and the Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Station.

The new Reverse Osmosis system at the mainland water plant, located in Maple, will provide clean drinking water for Currituck residents for many years to come. Nearby, the new airplane hangars represent one phase of the county's long-term goal for expanding the Currituck Airport facilities. These hangars will provide much-needed additional space for private airplanes and commercial business customers.

Construction of the Moyock Library is moving forward. Once complete, the library will serve one

of Currituck's most populous areas. Finally, Knotts Island will benefit greatly from a state-of-the-art fire station, an improvement that was sorely needed from its previous facility.



An overhead view of the mainland water plant in Maple, located across from the Currituck Sheriff's Office and Detention Center.

To see photos of each project, turn to page 4

EMS EXPANDS FLEET

NEW AMBULANCES IMPROVE SERVICE



Emergency Medical Services rolls out five new additions to its ambulance fleet this spring. These vehicles provide improved capability for paramedics, resulting in a higher level of services for Currituck residents and vacationers.

The five 2009 Freightliner Business class ambulances are larger than current models, and new emission standards make the ambulances better for the environment. County residents will easily notice the vehicles, which are painted with a bright red and white color scheme and adorned with Reflexite, a highly visible reflective striping.

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OCCUPANCY TAX

WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT'S SPENT

Currituck County is fortunate to draw a significant level of revenue each year from occupancy tax. However, there are many misperceptions surrounding this funding source.

Occupancy tax collection is authorized by the N.C. General Assembly, which enables local legislation to levy a room occupancy tax and tourism development tax. Three separate acts of legislation resulted in the current 6% levy on the gross receipts from the rental of any room, lodging or accommodation in Currituck.

Currituck is restricted in how it allocates the funds gained by occupancy tax. These restrictions are defined for each of the three acts of legislation passed by the county.

First, an original 3% of the occupancy tax is restricted for *tourism related expenditures*. This is used to increase the use of lodging, meeting, recreational and convention facilities by attracting vacationers and business travelers. This also includes tourism related capital expenditures and beach nourishment.

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TAKING THE **INITIATIVE**

CURRITUCK COUNTY IS **GOING GREEN**

Currituck County celebrated the beginning of a comprehensive approach to becoming better stewards of the environment at the "Going Green" Kickoff Event, hosted by the Cooperative Extension on Jan. 31.

The event included educational exhibits, commercial vendors, demonstrations, lectures, and childrens' activities. More than 200 attendees visited with 32 vendors to discuss services, goods and resources that are friendly to the environment.

During the day, 101 citizens signed the Going Green Pledge, making a commitment to improve their eco-friendly practices throughout this year. The Going Green Quiz was taken by 90 visitors, which tested their knowledge of environmental issues. In addition, 60 homeowners and 10 farmers signed contracts to implement demonstrations and collect data that will be used for educational purposes. Demonstration projects include water conservation, energy conservation, recycling and pesticide recycling.



Farmers sign contracts to implement demonstrations and collect data.

THINK YOU'RE **ECO-FRIENDLY?** **TAKE THE PLEDGE**

Currituck County residents are encouraged to make a year-long commitment towards environmentally friendly behavior by taking the [Going Green Pledge](#).

Citizens who are more interested in becoming energy efficient should take part in this initiative. This program will help citizens commit to green actions and decision making in various aspects of their daily routines. Throughout the year, participants will receive educational information on a variety of eco-friendly topics, as well as significant discounts towards an energy audit to evaluate the energy efficiency of homes.

This new campaign officially began Jan. 31, at the "Going Green" Kickoff event hosted by the Cooperative Extension. Information is available on many important topics, such as recycling, wind energy, solar energy, energy conservation, rain harvesting, and green cleaning products.

To find out how you can sign the Going Green Pledge, contact the Cooperative Extension at 232-2261.

Cooperative Extension officials will conduct programs throughout the year to address concerns raised by citizens during the Kickoff Event and provide further education on environmental preservation. An Environmental Steering Committee is developing a strategic plan for long-term implementations and brand Currituck as a green county. To become a part of this effort, contact Rodney Sawyer at Cooperative Extension, at 232-2261.



The Cooperative Extension staff displays its "green" spirit at the Jan. 31 Kickoff Event.

TEAM CURRITUCK PURSUES **"GREEN" GRANT**

A group led by Currituck County has been selected as a finalist by the North Carolina Green Business Fund competitive grant program for the 2009 Solicitation Cycle.

The Currituck Team has put forth a proposal to create a wind demonstration project at a Currituck County school facility. This proposal would incorporate community and school learning projects. It would partner with a local alternative energy company to install a wind turbine at the selected school.

"Currituck County is well-suited for wind energy, and there's been a lot of interest in developing a project," said Peter Bishop, Currituck County Economic Development Director. "The project team viewed this as an excellent opportunity to promote green energy, education, private investment, and leadership. Everyone is very supportive of the proposal."

The maximum grant awarded in the 2009 Solicitation cycle is \$100,000. Final submissions for the grant program will be made by June.

Joining Currituck County as project partners are Currituck County Schools, East Coast Wind Power and the Currituck County Center for Cooperative Extension.



Economic Development Director Peter Bishop was on hand at the Jan. 31 Going Green Kickoff to discuss environmentally-friendly growth and green initiatives.

Bishop was one of several county staff members to attend the event and provide information on "Going Green." He will also play a key role as Team Currituck seeks to obtain grant funding from the North Carolina Green Business Fund.

NEW FACES
IN COUNTY OFFICES

Sherry Lynn
Cooperative Extension



"It's very exciting, no two days are alike. It's nice to help people, and it's great to be a part of such a wonderful organization." - Sherry Lynn

Kim Eppley and Erin Gillen
Communications Center



"I enjoy the fast-paced environment and knowing I have the necessary skills to help someone in need. I really enjoy the camaraderie shared between dispatch and the agencies we serve." - Kim Eppley

"I never realized what a diverse system of dedicated individuals was working behind the scenes to make our county a better place. I am honored to be a part of this system." - Erin Gillen

Alisa Ward
Human Resources



"I feel blessed to be given the opportunity to invest my talents with Currituck County." - Alisa Ward

Currituck County is faced with the possibility of having an Outlying Landing Field (OLF) for Navy jets constructed in the Hales Lake area, on Currituck's border with Camden County. An OLF would essentially be a practice landing strip for Navy pilots to conduct touch-and-go landing and simulate landings on an aircraft carrier at sea.

The Navy has identified five sites as the possible location for its new OLF. Three of these sites lie in Virginia, while two are in North Carolina. A final decision by the Navy on if and where to build the OLF is expected to be recorded in 2010.

This proposed training facility is a cause of significant concern to Currituck County officials. The Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on Oct. 15, 2007 to oppose construction of an OLF in north-eastern N.C., and remains actively opposed to the Navy selecting the Hales Lake site alternative.

Currituck County has been working in partnership with Camden County to garner legislative support and bring public attention to the Navy's proposal. The county believes an OLF in Hales Lake would be detrimental to Currituck for a number of reasons.

As proposed by the Navy, an OLF would require approximately 25,000 to 30,000 acres of land. A core area of 2,000 acres at the center would include an 8,000 foot landing strip, control tower and support buildings. It would have 24/7 capability, and often simulate night landings.

This construction would take a significant amount of land and possibility away from the county. The Navy could impose developmental restrictions within the 30,000 acres, thereby affecting the county's ability to develop. The OLF site would result in the loss of farmland and associated farming jobs.

The county is also concerned for the amount of noise pollution and safety risks posed by the jets' continuous flights. Navy officials have estimated that 31,600 flight operations per year would involve the OLF. This high number of flights may disturb residents' quality of life, disrupt learning environments in county schools, and harm Currituck's reputation among tourists as a tranquil, oceanside paradise.

The Currituck Board of Commissioners urges all residents to learn more about this important issue. Information can be found at www.currituckgovernment.com, and on the Navy's project website, at www.olfeis.com.



BOWDEN HONORED BY STATE
WITH LONG LEAF PINE

Ernie Bowden, a lifelong Currituck County resident and former County Commissioner, was awarded North Carolina's highest civilian honor during the Feb. 2 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Bowden received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, granted by former Governor Mike Easley and recently-elected Governor Bev Perdue. The award was presented on behalf of Governor Perdue by Currituck County Clerk of Court, Sheila R. Tyler.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award was established in 1965, and is presented to individuals who have displayed extraordinary service to the state. This service may include contributions to local



communities and service to state and local organizations. Bowden served on the Board of Commissioners for a total of 24 years. He retired from public service on Dec. 1, 2008.

A CLOSER LOOK **CURRITUCK COUNTY CONSTRUCTION**

MAINLAND WATER PLANT

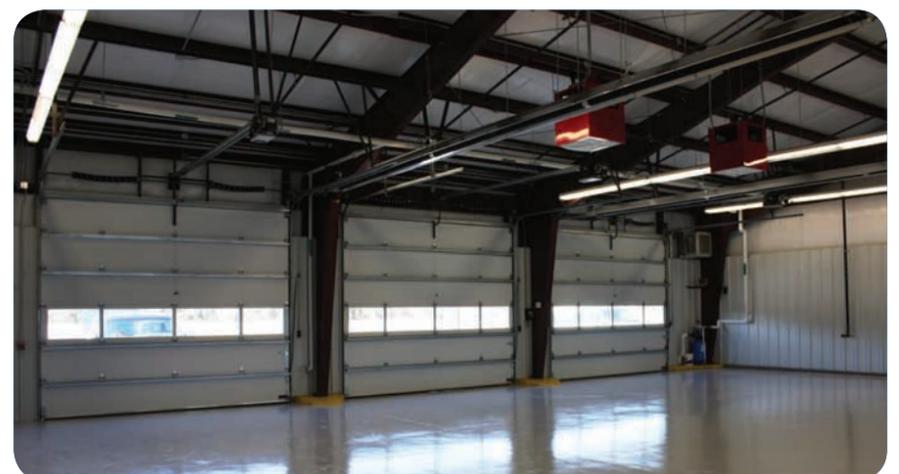


MOYOCK LIBRARY



CURRITUCK AIRPORT **HANGAR**

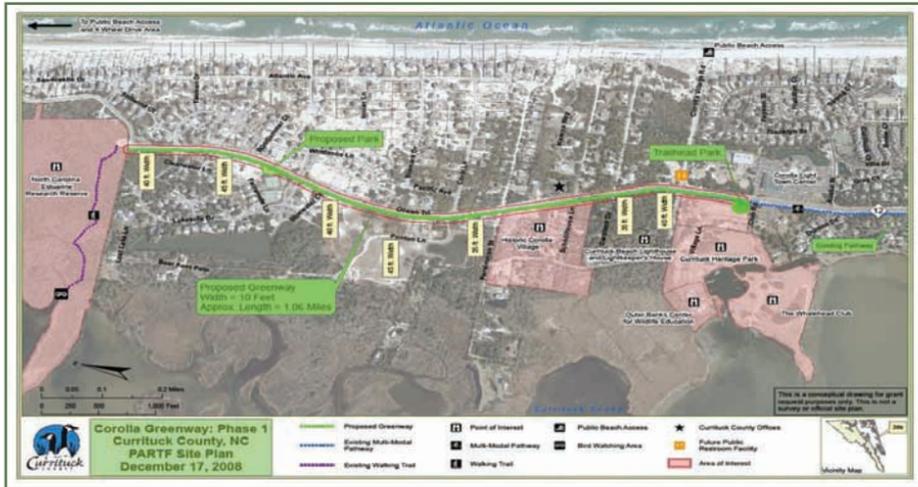
KNOTTS ISLAND **FIRE STATION**



PLANNING STAFF PROPOSAL COROLLA GREENWAY

Currituck County is attempting to secure grant funding for construction of the Corolla Greenway, a 1.06 multi-use path that would wind through the Corolla community. If constructed, the path would stretch from Currituck Heritage Park to a location near the Currituck Banks Coastal Reserve.

Funding would come through a \$500,000 matching grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The Corolla Greenway would be ideally suited for walking, jogging, and cycling. A small park would also be built near the path's midpoint.



OCCUPANCY TAX from page 1

A second portion raises 1%. Of this, 2/3 must be spent on travel and tourism promotion and 1/3 on tourism related expenditures. *Tourism promotion* includes advertising or marketing an area, publishing and distributing pamphlets and other materials, and conducting market research. Finally, a third portion of 2% is allocated in a similar fashion, with 2/3 used to promote travel and tourism and 1/3 used for tourism related expenditures. The Tourism Development Authority, which consists of the Board of Commissioners, is responsible for allocating these funds.

The spending of occupancy tax differs greatly from the spending of other resources. For example, sales tax may be used for any activity for which a local government may spend money. So while Currituck is indeed fortunate to collect a large occupancy tax, it may not use this revenue stream to fund all needs of the county.

Tourism Promotion 2/3 of allocation

Including:

Advertising
Promotional efforts
Salaries
T.A.B. expenses
Travel
Training and
Education

Tourism Related Expenditures 1/3 of allocation

Including:

Wild Horse Fund
Additional EMS in
Corolla
Historic preservation
Lifeguards
OBX access ramps
Recreation facilities
Sheriff Deputies
Signs
SOBWater System
Whalehead Club

DROPPING IN NEW SKATE PARKS ON RADAR

County Parks and Recreation officials are exploring a proposal to construct two new skate parks in Currituck. Currently, there is one skate park in the county, at Maple Park (pictured).



According to plans, one skate park would be built in Knotts Island, and a second at Sound Park, in Powells Point.

Parks and Recreation staff members held two Public Input meetings in February, to discuss the proposed parks with citizens in each area. For more, contact Parks & Rec at 232-3007.



WELCOME CENTER LANDSCAPING MAKEOVER

Vacationers arriving in Currituck County along Highway 168 this year will be greeted by an improved landscaping design at the Moyock Welcome Center.



The fresh look of the Welcome Center property should be completed during the spring and ready for the summer tourism season. This project will brighten areas of the property outside the building, and enhance the attractiveness of the parking lot and grounds.

To view the updated landscaping and to learn more about tourism in Currituck, visit the Welcome Center in Moyock, or go to the Tourism website, www.cometoourbeach.com.



HANDY HOMER

"Remember that time when you were out on that deck wondering why there wasn't a place to plug in your radio? (You had to sing to yourself and hope the neighbors didn't hear.) Well, the National Electrical Code (NEC) has solved the problem. Now, when you build a deck 20 s.f. or more you are required to install a GFCI receptacle, approved for wet locations. When those nice folks in the Inspections Department tell you it's required, remember it's not their rule and you'll be glad when you can hear those tunes.

I'm on your side!"

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HELP A FOSTER CHILD

Currituck's Department of Social Services is soliciting donations for foster children. This agency provides basic room, board and clothing for the foster children in its custody; but many times, there are needs that go unmet.

These include prom dresses, field trips, class rings, senior pictures, school functions, and many other things in the life of a child. Some examples of donations that have been made by various churches, individuals, and organizations include: homemade quilts that are given to children when they enter foster care, underwear, money for Christmas gifts, "first night supplies," school supplies, and books. Remember, each child has unique needs.

Community organizations and churches may set up funds for foster children. When a child has an unmet need, DSS could call upon this fund to request assistance. Some regional churches sponsor children through the "One Church, One Child" program.

Currituck has approximately 25-30 children in Social Services' custody. All money donated will go into a trust account earmarked for foster children donations, and every penny spent will be documented. To help, call DSS at 232-3083.



DSS staff members Amy Felton, Judith Ayers, Carolyn Eason, Cynthia Jarvis and Vickie Moore display quilts donated to foster children by various churches.

EM THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM



Mary Beth News

Currituck County has enjoyed minimal hurricane activity during the past few years. So, you wonder, "What is the Emergency Management Office doing between Hurricanes?"

Hurricanes are not the only interesting weather we experience. Many types of severe storms can blow in, from tornadoes, thunderstorms, winter storms, and nor'easters. Each requires planning, storm tracking, preparing, documenting, and advising.

When the skies are clear, EM is updating response plans, and exercising tactics with local first responders, neighboring counties, and state and federal partners. We also continue to build our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and have taken this committee a step further to encompass the Citizens Corps Council.

This council governs the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Currituck currently has two CERT's and can provide training for more citizens. Any neighborhood or church group can be trained in disaster preparedness, fire safety, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue techniques. Call the Emergency Management Office, 232-2115, for more details.

CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

RISKS OF SLEEPING WITH YOUR BABY

An infant can be hurt or suffocated during co-sleeping with an adult by any of the following:

- An adult rolls on top of the baby,
- Baby gets caught between the mattress and headboard or footboard of the bed,
- Baby gets trapped between the bed and the wall or other furniture,
- Baby falls off the bed onto a hard floor or piles of laundry, etc.,
- Baby suffocates in soft bedding, pillows, or on water mattresses.

Studies show there may be more risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) for those infants that co-sleep. SIDS is the sudden and unexplained death of an infant under 1 year old. Most studies even agree that SIDS risk is greater if the infant sleeps with a person who is a smoker.

NEVER place pillows, comforters, quilts or other fluffy blankets on top, around or under your baby, especially unsupervised. Always place babies on their back to sleep to reduce the risk of SIDS.

For more information, contact the Currituck Child Fatality Prevention team or the Dept. of Social Services at 232-3083.

APRIL PREVENT CHILD ABUSE MONTH

April is the "Prevent Child Abuse Month" across America. People everywhere can show support for putting an end to child abuse by wearing blue ribbons and becoming active in programs sponsored by the Dept. of Social Services.

Anyone with a concern related to the possible abuse, neglect or dependency of a child can make a Child Protective Services Report. Call DSS, 232-3083, and speak to a social worker about these concerns. After normal business hours, contact Communications at 232-2216. For emergencies, call 911.

ELECTIONS SPRING CLEANING

The Board of Elections office is doing its "spring cleaning." During odd-numbered years, county boards of elections must complete



Kitty Etheridge

list maintenance. This is an effort to remove names of ineligible voters and update addresses and data of persons remaining on the official list. Residents can help by notifying the Elections office when moving within the county or if any voter information is incorrect. When moving to another county, voter registration does not move with you. Voters must re-register in the new county and cancel your registration in the former county.

In April, Currituck will host the N.C. Directors of Elections Association and the Board Members Association of North Carolina state convention. Approximately 400 directors, board members, state staff, and guests will visit.

Also, Deputy Director Rachel Boyce passed the state certification exam and is now a Certified Elections Administrator. Director Mary (Kitty) Etheridge received her Certified Elections Registration Administrator renewal through Auburn University and the Election Center.



Rachel Boyce

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

CLEANING OUT DITCHES

Spring cleaning of yard and garden debris is more often than not culprits for a clogged drainage ditch. Landowners overlook the fact that placing yard debris in a drainage ditch may cause a drainage problem for landowners upstream.

Currituck County has an ordinance prohibiting dirt and debris from being placed in a ditch. (The ordinance states "obstruction of drainage ways - the placement of rubbish, trash, yard debris, grass clippings, leaves, limbs, branches, soil, or junk impeding the flow of water and/or causing or threatening to cause the obstruction of drainage ways.")

Be mindful of your neighbors and keep those ditches clean! If you suspect someone has placed debris in a ditch, call Currituck Soil & Water at 232-3360 or Stacey Smith, Code Enforcement Officer, at 232-3055.



Manly M. West, Albemarle SWCD Supervisor for Currituck, was recently re-elected to a three-year term on the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



Mike Doxey, Currituck Soil and Water Technician, was honored for his term as chairman.



Harvey Roberts, Currituck District Supervisor, received his 20-year Service Award.



Tommy Grandy, Currituck District Supervisor, received his 20-year Service Award.

HEADING OUT SENIORS TREKKING TO BRANSON

Currituck senior citizens with an ear for country music may be interested in a special trip being arranged by the Currituck Senior Center.

The center is planning a trip to Branson, Missouri for November 14 - 22, 2009. This trip will cost \$785.00 per person. During their time in Branson, trip-goers

will enjoy seven fabulous shows. The registration fee also covers a total of 14 meals, including eight breakfasts and six dinners.

For more information, contact Currituck Senior Center Coordinator Diane Bray at 232-3505. A deadline for registration has been established for April 17, 2009.

EMS EXPANDS FLEET *from page 1*

Inside the module, improvements include a more efficient design and storage for gear and equipment, LED emergency lighting and an electronically-locked narcotics locker for medicines used during treatment by EMS technicians.

The EMS fleet now totals 14 ambulances, along with five supervisor vehicles to respond to countywide emergencies. During the spring and summer months, 10 trucks are staffed full-time, with the other four on standby. The new ambulances will be based at departments throughout Currituck County.

Each truck is equipped with Advanced Life Support systems, and manned by trained emergency medical technicians.



EVENTS SAVE THE DATE

Cooperative Extension 232-2261

- March 7: Shooting for the Stars Child Care Conference
- March 12: Living Well
- March 16: Maintaining Your HVAC System
- March 17: Craft Club
- April 14: 4-H Electric Workshop, ages 11 up
- April 17: 4-H 2nd Annual Public Speaking Contest, ages 5 up
- April 18: Playground Safety Training
- April 20: Green Home Cleaning
- April 25: Canning and Preserving Food
- April 28-29: Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show and Sale
- May 12-13: Area Craft Workshop

Parks and Recreation 232-3007

- May 15: Deadline for Adult Softball Registration. Cost is \$200 per team

Animal Control 453-8682

- April 18: Free Rabies Clinic, Sound Park, Harbinger, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Library 453-8345

- See page 8

ANIMAL CONTROL

PROTECT AGAINST RABIES

Currituck Animal Control, a division of the Currituck Sheriff's Office, wants all county residents to be safe from the threat of rabies. It is possible to transmit this disease from animals to humans, which can result in serious health concerns for the infected person.

Keeping dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies will help protect them and the humans around them. Other tips to protect against rabies include:

- Reduce availability of 'free' pet food in your neighborhood,
- Make communities aware of risks involved with free feeding,
- Promote vigilant trash disposal.

By county ordinance, no one may keep or feed any animal not belonging to them unless notifying animal control within 72 hours. This is to protect the safety of pets and people throughout Currituck.

For more information, contact Animal Control at 453-8682.

CURRITUCK LIBRARY MORE THAN A GOOD BOOK

NEW BRANCH WEBSITES ONLINE

Each branch of the Currituck County Public Library has a new website now available to Internet users. The websites for the Currituck County Library in Barco and the Corolla Branch Library can be accessed via the East Albemarle Regional Library site, at www.youseemore.com/earl.

Visitors simply click on the yellow box for either Corolla or Currituck to find information about library services, classes and programs. These websites provide resources for life long learners, genealogy, homework assignments, parenting, and small business personnel.

Avid readers should be certain to check out the Title Wave page, which contains lists of new books, audiobooks and DVDs coming to Currituck County. This page also provides links to additional information on many books and authors.

COME MAKE A TREASURE

TRASH TO TREASURE

Saturday, March 28

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

School-age students bring a trash item to recycle into a treasure!

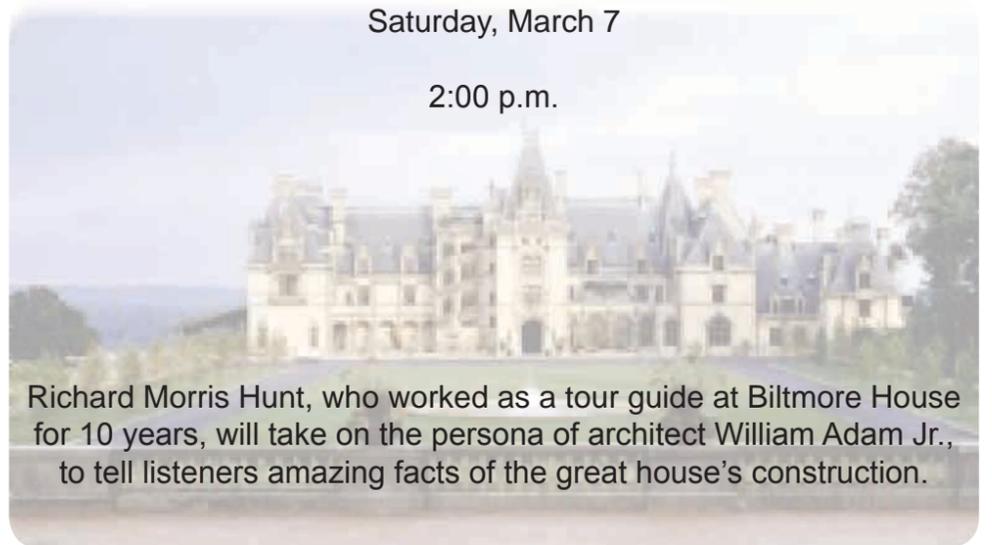
Your masterpieces can be put on display at the Library.
Call 453-8345 for more information.

DISCOVER THE GILDED AGE

Come hear the inside story of the construction of the grand Biltmore House, located in Asheville, N.C.

Saturday, March 7

2:00 p.m.



Richard Morris Hunt, who worked as a tour guide at Biltmore House for 10 years, will take on the persona of architect William Adam Jr., to tell listeners amazing facts of the great house's construction.

BABYGARTEN SPRING SESSIONS

Learn the important role all parents and caregivers play in the early literacy of their children, and use these techniques to teach your child. Classes are free and interactive.

April 1, 8, 22

May 6, 13

Learn and recite rhymes, sing songs, learn fingerplays, read books, play, and make a take-home craft.

PUBLIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

Currituck County Government online
www.CurrituckGovernment.com

Currituck County Travel & Tourism
www.ComeToOurBeach.com

"eGoose" bi-monthly email newsletter
Sign up on CurrituckGovernment.com

Mediacom Ch. 18, Charter Ch. 19

Public Information office: 252-232-0719
County Manager's office: 252-232-2075

CURRITUCK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Board of Commissioners

Owen Etheridge, Chairman

Paul O'Neal, Vice-Chairman

Vance Aydlett, Jr.

Gene A. Gregory

Barry Nelms

John D. Rorer

Janet L. Taylor

Regular BOC meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, in the Historic Courthouse at 7:00 p.m. Each meeting is aired live on tv and the county website. You may also find archived videos of meetings on the website.

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

FOCUS ON CURRITUCK SPRING 2009

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

POSTAL PATRON

Currituck County is committed to equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in all programs and services, and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, disability, or veteran status.