



# FOCUS ON CURRITUCK



A report to the community by Currituck County Government

Summer 2011

## TORNADO STRIKE OFFERS GLIMPSE OF NATURE'S FORCE

### April storm a destructive reminder to prepare for hurricane season

It rated as only a "weak" tornado by the National Weather Service (NWS), but the twister that touched down in Lower Currituck on the night of April 16 damaged a number of structures and destroyed one family's home.

Overall, the tornado damaged four homes, four businesses and countless items of personal property. Debris scattered by the storm caused the shutdown of Highway 158 for several hours. Currituck was fortunate that only one minor injury was reported.



This particular tornado strike was a surprise to many. A tornado watch issued earlier that day had already expired and a more serious tornado warning was not posted for Currituck County.

This proves that, despite advances in forecasting and early warning systems, nature remains unpredictable. Severe storms can happen anywhere, at anytime, with devastating results.

#### ALL COUNTY CITIZENS SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE 2011 HURRICANE SEASON

Though Currituck has been spared from major hurricanes in recent years, it only takes one significant storm to threaten lives and property.

The **2011 Currituck County Hurricane Safety Guide** is now available. You may view this guide online at [www.CurrituckGovernment.com](http://www.CurrituckGovernment.com). Under the Citizens' tab, click on 'Hurricane Center' to find the safety guide and more preparedness information.

To receive a Hurricane Safety Guide in the mail, or to discuss any facet of preparation, contact the Emergency Management office at 232-2115.

## Celebrate Independence Day in Currituck

Currituck County has planned a festive Independence Day Celebration for July 4. Currituck Heritage Park will open to public parking at 5:00 p.m. for what promises to be an exciting evening of family activities, music and fireworks on the shores of the Currituck Sound.



The list of activities includes two live music bands, watermelon eating contest, cornhole tournament

and fireworks show. As always, a wide variety of fun activities will keep children entertained. A new feature of this year's event will be a marionette show. Food and dessert vendors will also be located on site.

Important facts to remember:

- No alcohol permitted inside park during event,
- Whalehead boat ramp is closed for the entire day on July 4,
- Parking is limited inside park and not allowed on side of NC 12,
- Fireworks will begin at 9 p.m.



For complete event information, contact the Tourism Department at 435-2947.

## Update to sign ordinance adopted by BOC

In the spring of 2010, the Board of Commissioners directed the Planning staff to assemble a committee of citizens, business owners, advisory board members and county staff to review and recommend changes to the county's sign ordinance. The committee met three times. A smaller group of Outer Banks representatives met an additional three times.

The sign regulations reviewed were adopted in 1989. A major revision to the Outer Banks sign regulations was adopted in 2007, which resulted in separate ordinances for the mainland and Outer Banks. In addition to substantive revisions to each sign ordinance, the committee recommended that all sign regulations be recombined into a single chapter in the Unified Development Ordinance. The committee also recommended more consistency between the Mainland and Outer Banks, including the use of standard terms and permitting requirements. These changes resulted in a more user-friendly document.

The significant changes include:

- Addition of professional appearance standards.
- Changes in dimensional standards.
- Addition of landscaping requirements.

A complete copy of the sign regulations as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 4, 2011 can be seen at <http://co.currituck.nc.us/pdf/Unified-Development-Ordinance/chapter-7-signs-rev-4-18-11.pdf>.

## "Buy Local Currituck" campaign kicks off

Looking for that one-of-kind birthday gift for your mom? Want to savor some true, pit-cooked Carolina barbeque? Or perhaps you're in need of a new hammer and don't want to drive 30 miles to purchase one. Then why not shop at a local store or eat at a local restaurant?

That's the message being delivered to county residents through a Buy Local Currituck campaign.



The purpose of the initiative is to build awareness of the importance of purchasing goods and services within Currituck County. By enjoying what local businesses have to offer, citizens can not only strengthen the local economy but they can experience and taste what can only be found in Currituck.

Earlier this year, Currituck Commissioners approved the development of the program as a way to help local businesses stay in business during these tough economic times. The campaign is organized by the county's Tourism and Economic Development departments, along with assistance from the Currituck Chamber of Commerce.

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## Planner recognized with state award

Congratulations to Holly White of the Currituck Planning Department for being named the top Floodplain Administrator in North Carolina.

Holly received the "Coordinator's Award" from the N.C. Division of Emergency Management during the April 13-15 joint conference of the N.C. Association of Floodplain Managers and the South Carolina Association of Hazard Mitigation.

As the Floodplain Administrator in Currituck County, Holly helps ensure that all development adheres to county-adopted ordinances. In turn, this allows Currituck's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, which enables property owners to secure federally-backed flood insurance.

This is very important to property owners in the county, as Currituck's coastal location and low-lying areas make flooding a threat. Flooding can result from

storms, inadequate or overloaded drainage systems and other causes.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps contain official delineation of flood insurance zones and base flood elevation lines. These lines show the location of the expected whole-foot water surface elevation within the 100-year flood zone.

The Currituck Planning Department can provide property owners information on several topics related to flooding and flood insurance. These include elevation requirements and history of flooding in your area. Staff can also provide advice on flood protection measures, plans to retrofit your home and what permits will be required for any additions, new construction or alterations on your property.

For more information, contact the Currituck Planning Department at 232-3055.

## Currituck celebrates National EMS Week

The Department of Fire-Emergency Medical Services had the privilege of celebrating National EMS Week from May 16 - 21 with increased efforts to interact with citizens in the community.

During this time, EMS staff took time to recognize accomplishments of some of its extraordinary members. EMS' annual banquet was held on May 17, where members and guests enjoyed a time to

reflect on the past year and all the department's many successes.

Staff members also attempted to give back to the community that supports EMS crews on a daily basis. Ambulances were staged in several locations, doing standbys at local community hot spots and gathering points. Here, crews offered free blood pressure checks and distributed Fire and EMS Safety coloring books.

EMS crews also encouraged citizens to utilize the "File of Life" medical information system. This is a simple format which details medical history, special medical needs, allergies, etc., and is located via magnet on a kitchen refrigerator.

Currituck EMS participates in the File of Life program, which has obvious benefits to emergency responders. Responders can quickly learn important medical information about a patient and relay that information to a hospital, if necessary.

The EMS staff also participates in other community programs, such as Meals on Wheels delivery, CPR education, ride-along programs and Relay for Life.

For more information on any EMS program or to learn how to volunteer with the department, contact the EMS office at 232-7746.



Above, EMS Chief Robert Glover receives a special gift from the Fire-EMS staff during the department awards ceremony.

## That new face in the Inspections office is ...



Glenda Tipton, who joined the Currituck County staff on April 25, 2011.

Based in the Inspections office at the Historic Courthouse complex,

Glenda now serves the public as a Permit Officer. In this role, she provides inspection and permit

information to citizens. Her many duties include processing building permit applications, scheduling building inspections, researching records and helping citizens complete permit applications.

A longtime county resident, Glenda first moved to Currituck at age 3. She resides in Grandy and was previously employed with Eastern Carolina Cardiovascular medical office in Elizabeth City.

## KIRKPATRICK TAKES REINS AT RURAL CENTER

Currituck County Cooperative Extension welcomed Timothy Kirkpatrick as the newest member of their staff on May 9, 2011. Tim serves as a 4-H program assistant and director of the Rural Center.

Tim brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. He has 14 years of horsemanship and equestrian event management supervisory experience. He served ten years as horsemanship director for Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake, Virginia. Tim also received a certificate from Alpha Omega Horsemanship Center as a riding instructor and is an ordained minister.



"Tim's experience in the equine industry and professionalism with the public make him an ideal fit for this job," said Cameron Lowe, Cooperative Extension Director.

Tim is responsible for overseeing the Rural Center staff and operations. His responsibilities include providing leadership to a county-wide horse educational and recreational program through distribution of educational materials, special events, classes and clinics. These efforts will target 4-H horse program members and volunteers.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with young people and adults for horse education," Kirkpatrick said. "The opportunity to use horses and the center as an educational tool is very exciting."

The public may visit the Rural Center in Powells Point. For program information, contact the Cooperative Extension at 232-2262.

## OWENS PUTS AWARD TO GOOD USE

Congratulations to Ellen Owens, 4-H Agent with the Cooperative Extension, who has been awarded the Victoria Jean Cope NC 4-H Professional Development Award for 2010. The award was presented at the Northeast District Extension Conference held in Plymouth on April 12.

Ellen is in her 15th year with Cooperative Extension. She provides leadership to the 4-H and Youth Development program.

Ellen will utilize the funds awarded towards obtaining a Masters Degree. She was recently accepted into a program at NC State University to pursue a degree in Family Youth Development.

"I was honored to be the recipient of this award. I am very thankful to the Cope family for their generous contributions," Owens said.

# Great Hurricane Blowout: Helping others get ready

Here we go! The 2011 hurricane season is underway, quite literally, whether we're ready or not. There's a great new movement in hurricane education called the Great Hurricane Blowout. It makes preparedness a lot of fun and includes the following activities:

## Pledge a Kit

- You can build a hurricane emergency kit using the shopping list on the program's website or,
- You can gather your neighbors, church family or any group or organization and have a Kit Party! The website has some suggestions on how to make your party fun while building kits for those in our community who can't build their own kit.
- Then, send your pictures to Currituck Emergency Management with information about your party and how many kits were donated.

## Dine in the Dark

- Come up with creative recipes that are "power free."
- Submit your recipe to the "Great Hurricane Blowout" for the chance of winning a great prize.
- Then, send your recipe to Currituck Emergency Management so we can share with everyone.

You'll find more information and fun contests when you visit the "Great Hurricane Blowout" website. If Currituck Emergency Management can help you plan an event, give us a call at 232-2115.



## LEPC enhances county readiness

A group that helps Currituck County prepare for any potential disaster is our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). This group of county employees, volunteers, state agencies, citizens and business owners works together to update plans, discuss potential hazards and learn about resources both locally and regionally.

Last year the LEPC began the tedious task of updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The group expanded during this time to include selected county offices that have direct responsibility to mitigate hazards within Currituck. The plan was sent to the N.C. Emergency Management office, which gave the plan a preliminary look before forwarding it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The LEPC was pleased to receive notification from

FEMA stating the document met all criteria for an effective Hazard Mitigation Plan. According to FEMA regulations, not having a FEMA approved plan would make our county ineligible for long term disaster recovery funds.

This plan has a list of goals the county would like to achieve in the five years between mandatory updates. As we look at the LEPC's activities for the next year, we will visit these goals to stay vigilant that our county is progressing in hazard awareness, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. We will also have special presentations from local and regional resources and start working on fine tuning our LEPC annex in the Emergency Operations Plan.

It will certainly be another busy year. Thank you so much to those who give their time to this committee!

## EMS reminds all to practice water safety

With summer nearly in full swing, we need to take a few moments as a community and review important water safety tips which can help ensure a fun and safe season for everyone.

The following safety tips are found on the American Red Cross website and provide an excellent guideline for water safety.



- Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around natural bodies of water including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination, affects swimming and diving skills and reduces one's ability to stay warm.
- Actively supervise children when near the water—even if lifeguards are present. If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and first aid kit.
- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone.

A letter to all county staff, emergency responders, partner agencies and volunteers who participated in the search and recovery of Billie Jo Harris on the Currituck Sound from Feb. 28 - March 15:

*We would like to thank everyone who helped in the recovery of Billie Jo Harris. Thank God for a great, old-fashioned community we have surrounding us in Currituck's Moyock area. Tulls Bay Colony came together like we never would have imagined. The help we received from everyone in our community and the entire Currituck area can never be repaid.*

*We would especially like to thank Currituck Sheriff Susan Johnson. She and her department went above and beyond the call of duty on this case. Had we not known better, we would have thought it was one of Susan's own family members missing.*

*Susan told us personally, "It may take a while, but I will find her and give your family the*

*closure they desperately need and want." We can't even personally say how many days she was there with her department, to us it seemed they were getting no more sleep than we were.*

*We really don't even know how to express our gratitude to Susan. As soon as they located Billie Jo, Susan called just as she had promised. That meant we were able to be there to say our last goodbyes.*

*Currituck could not ask for a better Sheriff or a more dedicated department of officers. They are a great bunch of people that are hard to come by.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one who helped in this case, including the many volunteers. Thanks to all who helped bring Billie Jo in so she could be laid to rest properly.*

*Thank you,  
The family of Billie Jo Harris*

## Pine Island recognized as a Firewise community

Pine Island worked with Aaron Gay, Currituck County Ranger and the Corolla Fire Department to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment and develop a plan to address safety concerns. As a result, Pine Island is recognized by the National Firewise Communities Program.

"Pine Island residents are being proactive and addressing this threat before any property is damaged," said Gay.

Pine Island is the third community on the Outer Banks and one of 21 in North Carolina to be recognized as Firewise Communities/USA.

Pine Island met a rigorous set of requirements. The community completed the following activities:

- Formed a Firewise Task Force consisting of community members and the property manager;
- Met with Aaron Gay, Currituck County Ranger, over the initial planning phase to understand and qualify for consideration as a Firewise community;
- Conducted numerous meetings of the Firewise Task Force to discuss implementation and execution methods;
- Participated in an on site community assessment of a sample of the properties which included the state Forestry representative, local Fire Department personnel and EMS and safety personnel;
- Initiated the development of a Firewise plan for Pine Island;
- Held a Firewise day at the community annual property owners meeting in October 2010.

The Firewise program is a nationwide initiative to honor communities for protecting people and properties from the risk of fire. To learn more, visit [www.firewise.org/usa](http://www.firewise.org/usa).

## STORMWATER DRAINAGE FAQs

Q: My ditch needs cleaning out. Who is responsible?

A: If the ditch is in the NC Department of Transportation right of way, the state will clean out the ditch and driveway pipe when requested. If the ditch is on private property, it is the landowners benefiting from the ditches that are responsible.

Q: Does Currituck County maintain ditches?

A: No, Currituck County does not collect taxes and budget for ditch improvements because it's unauthorized by state laws to do so. N.C. Law does grant counties the authority to create special taxed service districts. Some areas of the county have had severe flooding to the point where the citizens have asked for some type of help. A stormwater service district can be established, additional taxes are collected and drainage improvements are made in that particular district.

Q: Are landowners responsible for maintaining ditches on their property?

A: No, if ditches are grown up or clogged, it is the responsibility of all the landowners whose property drains through those ditches to contribute to the maintenance of the ditch.

Q: If a landowner refuses to allow someone to clean out a ditch, what is the recourse?

A: It is strictly a civil matter between those parties involved and the county is not a party in that matter.

Q: If someone intentionally or unintentionally blocks a ditch what is the recourse?

A: Currituck County does have an ordinance that prohibits the placement of obstacles in a ditch. This includes grass clippings, leaves, limbs, branches, dirt or anything that will impede the flow of water. This is also a state law but considered a civil matter between the parties.

Q: I am not in a flood zone but my yard floods sometimes. Why is that?

A: Flood zones are determined by federal and state agencies and only recognize areas related to tidal flooding associated with rivers, streams, sounds and oceans. These areas are generally below 5.5 feet in elevation for a 100 year storm. Flooding occurs in all parts of Currituck regardless of the elevation, due to its flat terrain and poor soil type and is not recognized by flood zones. In the north and west areas of Currituck, soils have more fine sands, silt and clays which prevent infiltration into the ground. Some areas in the county flood because of depressed areas and a high groundwater table. Being at sea level, we experience a high ground water table during periods of extended rainfall.

Q: Why do we flood sometimes more than others?

A: Flooding is a direct relation to the amount and timespan of rainfall. An inch per hour is considered high and usually will cause problems. But how long rain lasts is always the key factor.

Q: We have ditches in our area, so why do we flood?

A: Ditches were put in decades ago to control flooding but not to prevent it. It would take astronomical-sized ditches to prevent flooding. This is not feasible or practical. Expanding ditches is often controversial because landowners are often reluctant to allowing ditches to be expanded on their property. Issues such as this are also a civil matter between the two parties.

Q: I live in a newer subdivision which experiences flooding. Who is responsible?

A: If the developer is still in control, then they are. After the developer turns the subdivision over to the homeowners association, then the homeowners association is responsible.

For more information, contact the Soil and Water Conservation office at 232-3360.

## Extension enjoys successful Farm Festival

Cooperative Extension hosted on May 14 the first Currituck Rural Farm Festival, held at the Rural Center. Many visitors and outdoor enthusiasts attended this special event, which included equestrian activities and demonstrations, blacksmith demonstrations, a cow drop fundraiser, agricultural exhibits and much more.



A special moment during the Farm Festival was a donation made by the Farm Bureau Federation to the Cooperative Extension. The federation has pledged support to help build a farm museum at the Rural Center. Above, Roy Harrison, FBF president, makes a donation to Extension's Ellen Owens.

### "Plants, Pests and Pathogens"

Tuesday, June 28, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The information will be live from NC State through a new program called Elluminate. The topic for the seminar is "Beneficial Insects and Organic Pest Management." The seminar is free and will be held at the Currituck Extension office. For more information and to pre-register, call the Extension office at 232-2262 or e-mail Jan Perry-Weber at jan\_perry-weber@ncsu.edu.

### Youth Cooking Classes

The first class will be for ages 5-8 and is scheduled for July 13 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The cost is \$7.00. Participants will learn basic nutrition, kitchen safety, basic cooking skills and be physically active. Participants must bring a bagged lunch. The second class is for ages 9-12 and is scheduled for July 14 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.00. Youth will learn about MyPyramid, food safety, prepare healthy snacks as well as be physically active. Participants must bring a bagged lunch. Both classes are limited to the first 12 who pre-register and pay the program fees. The classes will be held at the Extension center. Checks should be made payable to Currituck County and mailed to Currituck Cooperative Extension, 120 Community Way, Barco, NC 27917. If you have questions, please call Sheila Gregory at 252-232-2261 or email Sheila\_gregory@ncsu.edu.

## Extension reports to the public

Cooperative Extension recently presented its annual "Report to the People." The purpose of this event is to report impacts and activities that have occurred over the previous year to the public.

Educational displays were available for perusal and volunteers and clients shared testimonials of life change due to Extension programming. A brief video was presented highlighting further impacts. Cooperative Extension Programming was conducted in the areas of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth Development, and Community and Rural Development.

Overall highlights of 2010 programming included:

- 42,590 client contacts were made
- 19,749 educational materials were distributed
- 715 classes were offered
- 1,083 field visits were conducted by staff
- Reported savings by program participants because of Extension programs: \$530,579.43
- Volunteers with Extension donated time valued at \$210,136.50
- Grants and fundraising efforts generated \$90,478

For more information, contact Cooperative Extension at 232-2262.

## DSS helps students experience Real World

On April 6, 59 high school students from Currituck, Camden and Dare counties participated in a Real World event at the Cooperative Extension facility.



Real World is a daylong event. Students do a career exploration inventory to register that identifies their interest areas. From that inventory, they are assigned a job. Each student fills out a work application and an interest survey. Then the students attend classes on social skills and interviewing, insurance, budgeting and banking.

After lunch, students visited each of the vendors with

their checkbook to purchase housing, transportation, insurance and furniture. To make it more like real life, there was also a "Life Happens" category, in which a student's name could be called out for something like a dead battery or a traffic ticket. Students who end the day within their budget are eligible for a grand door prize.



There was no cost to the students and breakfast, lunch and door prizes were all free. It was a great day of fun and learning. Many thanks to the volunteers and vendors who helped make this event a success.

## “Buy Local Currituck”

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Marketing materials – including window stickers, coasters and napkins featuring the “Buy Local Currituck” logo – will be produced and distributed to county stores and restaurants. In addition, a comprehensive, searchable website will be created to make it easy for shoppers to locate the goods and services available in Currituck. Social media, such as Facebook and YouTube, will be utilized to get the buy local message to consumers.

Plans are to offer incentive prizes to citizens who shop local. These may include shopping sprees, free services and other rewards.

“Locals can have a major impact on Currituck’s economy by simply patronizing the businesses located in here,” said Diane Nordstrom, Tourism Director. “Every time you buy your groceries, fill your gas tank, dine at a restaurant, and utilize a local service in Currituck you benefit the community.

“Tax dollars for these goods and services are then used to fund law enforcement, emergency medical services, schools and many other services we rely on every day,” she said.

The buy local concept is not new. These campaigns are implemented in many communities across the country. They seek to change consumers’ perceptions by reminding them that local stores are important to a community’s livelihood because they contribute tax dollars and create jobs.

“Dollars spent at local businesses re-circulate income within our community and return increased tax revenue,” said Judy Vassar, Visitor Relations Coordinator with the Tourism Department. “It keeps more jobs in Currituck, helps our businesses grow and preserves the unique character of Currituck County.”



Three meetings were held to seek input from local businesses. The ideas expressed by attendees have shaped the way county staff developed the Buy Local Currituck campaign.

Several local retailers are already putting into practice the Buy Local Currituck tactics. John Wright of Sanctuary Vineyards says he sees the value in promoting his business to locals. Although many businesses are dependent on visitor spending during the summer tourist season, it’s the locals who can help a business keep its doors open year round.

“A Buy Local campaign is necessary during these tough economic times to keep local businesses surviving and thriving,” said Wright.

Businesses physically located and operated within Currituck County are eligible to join for free and may have a free listing on the Buy Local Currituck website (which will launch this summer). The promotions and coordination are funded through occupancy tax.

“Ideally, we’d like everyone to shop locally, but we realize a few things just aren’t available in Currituck,” said Nordstrom. “We simply want people to think about where they’re shopping and to choose Currituck whenever possible. Our local business owners depend on it.”

## 10 Reasons to Buy Local in Currituck

1. It keeps dollars in our economy. Money spent at local businesses generates a direct local economic benefit. In addition, tax dollars fund county services including schools, emergency services, community recreation, law enforcement and more. By spending locally, we support local services; spending outside of the county supports someone else’s services.
2. It encourages local job growth. Local businesses provide jobs for our citizens, allowing us to work closer to home.
3. It results in the multiplier effect. Local businesses employ an array of supporting services such as contractors, computer consultants, attorneys, insurance brokers and others. This helps to circulate money and strengthen the local economy.
4. It allows you to find great products at affordable prices. Some people get out of the habit of shopping locally and are then surprised by the range of products available without having to drive long distances.
5. It supports community groups. Local business owners care about your community and donate to community causes. Consumers can return this support by shopping locally.

6. It keeps our community unique. Many one-of-a-kind items can be found in local shops, and family-owned restaurants offer distinctive flavors. Unique businesses are vital to the diverse character of our community.
7. It saves you time and money. You travel less, saving on time and fuel...and helping to save our environment.
8. It takes advantage of local expertise. Local owners and employees take special pride in their trade, and they can offer customers a high level of expertise in their chosen field.
9. It invests in entrepreneurship. Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.
10. It makes us a destination. Currituck is a wonderful place to call home and a top-notch vacation destination. Local shops, restaurants and service providers are a big part of what make us special.

Take 10 minutes to educate yourself on the importance of supporting local businesses in our community. Visit [www.BuyLocalCurrituck.com](http://www.BuyLocalCurrituck.com) (website to launch this summer), or call Judy Vassar at 435-2938 for more information.

## If Success is Your Endgame, Start with a Bishop.



Currituck County has the strengths and resources, natural assets and regulatory climate that can give your new or existing business a clear competitive edge. Contact Economic Development Department Director Peter Bishop today to outline your winning strategy. One phone call. One e-mail. It may be the most strategic move you’ll ever make.

e-mail: [pbishop@thinkcurrituck.com](mailto:pbishop@thinkcurrituck.com)  
phone: (252) 232-6015

**CURRITUCK**  
North Carolina  
Economic Development

## CCLEA NEEDS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS

The Currituck County Law Enforcement Association would like to extend its appreciation for the continued support of our endeavors. The association is dedicated to several community projects and, without many gracious donations, we would not be able to continue programs that are beneficial to the people living in Currituck County.

The association’s program include Shop with a Deputy, sponsorship of athletic events, Food Pantry donations, and assistance for elderly. The CCLEA accepts contributions by mail to The Currituck County Law Enforcement Association, P. O. Box 135, Currituck, NC 27929.

## PIPELINE SAFETY IMPORTANT IN COMMUNITY

The Currituck Fire Marshal reminds citizens that using the senses of sight, smell and sound will help recognize a suspected natural gas pipeline leak.

A leak may create a dense fog, mist or white cloud, bubbling in water or creeks, or blowing dust and discolored vegetation. Natural gas is odorless, so a distinctive gaseous odor may be added. Finally, a whistling, hissing or roaring noise may be heard, depending on the size of the gas leak.

If you notice any of these warning signs, call 911 immediately. Prior to any type of construction or work that involves digging, call 811 before you dig, so the locations of natural gas pipelines can be marked for safety.

# Currituck County Annual Water Quality Report

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2010. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always available to assist you. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call William Nash, Public Utilities Superintendent, at (252) 232-6062.

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Currituck County customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from two sources. The original 1.4-million-gallon-per-day Green Sand Filter Treatment Plant draws water from twenty-eight shallow wells that are supplied from the Yorktown Aquifer and the Upper Tertiary Aquifer. In 2009, our 1.5-million-gallon-per-day Reverse Osmosis Plant came online. It draws water from three deep wells located in the Yorktown Aquifer. Combined, our treatment facilities can provide 2.9 million gallons of clean drinking water every day.

## SUBSTANCES THAT COULD BE IN WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons

who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## WHY DO I GET THIS REPORT EACH YEAR?

Community water system operators are required by federal law to provide their customers with an annual water quality report.

## WHY DOES MY WATER SOMETIMES LOOK "MILKY"?

The "milky" look is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water. The water in the pipes coming into your home or business is under pressure, so gasses (the air) are dissolved and trapped in the pressurized water as it flows into your glass. As the air bubbles rise in the glass, they break free at the surface, thus clearing up the water. Although the milky appearance might be disconcerting, the air bubbles won't affect the quality or taste of the water.

## HOW CAN I KEEP MY PET'S WATER BOWL GERM FREE?

Veterinarians generally recommend that water bowls be washed daily with warm, soapy water – normally when you change the water. Scour the corners, nooks, and crannies of the water dish using a small scrub brush. In addition, once a week, put water bowls into the dishwasher to sanitize them with hot water. In most situations, disinfectants like bleach are not needed; warm, soapy water is all you need to keep your pet's water clean and safe.

## HOW MUCH WATER IS USED DURING A TYPICAL SHOWER?

The Federal Energy Policy Act set a nationwide regulation that limits showerheads to a maximum flow of 2.5 gallons per minute (GPM). Showerheads made before 1980 are rated at 5 GPM. Since the average shower is estimated to last 8.2 minutes, the old showerheads use 41 gallons of water while the newer, low-flow showerheads use only about 21 gallons.

## IS IT OKAY TO USE HOT WATER FROM THE TAP FOR COOKING AND DRINKING?

No, always use cold water. Hot water is more likely to contain rust, copper, and lead from household plumbing and water heaters. These substances can dissolve into hot water faster than they do into cold water, especially when the faucet has not been used for an extended period of time.

## HOW MANY CONTAMINANTS ARE REGULATED IN DRINKING WATER?

The U.S. EPA regulates over 80 contaminants in drinking water. Some states may choose to regulate additional contaminants or to set stricter standards, but all states must have standards at least as stringent as the EPA's and provide their customers with an annual water quality report. The report helps people make informed choices about the water they drink. It lets people know what contaminants, if any, are in their drinking water and how these contaminants may affect their health. It also gives the system operators a chance to tell customers what it takes to deliver safe drinking water.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could

migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of moderate/lower. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours at 232-2769.

## TAP VS. BOTTLED

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates). The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp).

## LEAD IN HOME PLUMBING

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhme](http://www.epa.gov/watrhme)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)). Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health.

## SAMPLING RESULTS

The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. The most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Substance (Unit of measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2010	[4]	[4]	0.8	ND-4	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Substance (Unit of measure)	Year Sampled	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th %tile)	Sites Above AL/ Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2010	1.3	1.3	0.152	0/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2010	15	0	7	0/60	No	same

Substance (Unit of measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Haloacetic acids	2010	60	NA	9.375	2-60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs	2010	80	NA	55.25	1-80	No	same

Substance (Unit of measure)	Year Sampled	SMCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
pH	2010	6.5-8.5	NA	7.8	6.5-8.5	No	Naturally occurring

## DSS: FOOD BENEFIT CHANGES

The issuance dates for Food and Nutrition Services EBT benefits are changing. Starting in July 2011, your household's Food and Nutrition Services benefits will still be placed in your EBT account based on the last number of your Social Security Number (SSN), but the **issuance dates have changed**. The new issuance schedule is:

If your SSN ends in:	NEW date benefits will be available, effective July 2011 after 6:00 a.m.
1	3rd day of every month
2	5th day of every month
3	7th day of every month
4	9th day of every month
5	11th day of every month
6	13th day of every month
7	15th day of every month
8	17th day of every month
9	19th day of every month
0	21st day of every month

If you don't have a SSN, your benefits will be placed in your EBT account on the 3rd calendar day of each month. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact the Food and Nutrition Services EBT Call Center at: 1-866-622-7328, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For other information, contact the Currituck Department of Social Services at 232-3083.

## Summer fun at the Whalehead Club

**Under the Oaks Arts Festival** June 22-23, Enjoy the 10th edition of this annual festival at Currituck Heritage Park. This features more than 100 artists, live music, local food vendors, art auction and children's activities. Admission is free.

**Patriotic Salute Concert** with the 440th Army Band. July 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The 440th serves as the National Guard Band and has been recognized with numerous awards. It is comprised of more than 40 members. Admission is free. Pets on a leash are welcome.

For more information on these and all events at the Whalehead Club, located in Corolla at Currituck Heritage Park, call 453-9040.

## Parks & Rec: Baseball and Softball Tournaments

Baseball	District 7		ENC State		Southeast Regional	
Age group	Location	Date	Location	Date	Location	Date
Rookie	Currituck	June 29	Winterville	July 7	Pulaski, TN	July 21
9 year old	Currituck	June 29	TBD	July 7	Startown, NC	July 21
10 year old	Roanoke Rapids	June 29	Wilmington	July 7	New Bern, NC	July 28
11 year old	Outer Banks	July 7	TBD	July 14	Mobile, AL	July 28
12 year old	Dare Co.	July 6	Laurinburg	July 14	Aiken, SC	July 28
13 year old	Perqu./Gates	July 6	Pikeville	July 14	Stafford, VA	July 28
14 year old	Perqu./Gates	July 6	TBD	July 14	Greenville, NC	July 28
13-15	Elizabeth City	July 6	Lumberton	July 14	Sarasota, FL	July 29

Softball	District 7		ENC State		Southeast Regional	
Age group	Location	Date	Location	Date	Location	Date
All	Camden	June 24-26	New Bern	July 6-10	Varina, VA (8U, 14U, 16U, 18U) Lewsborg, TN (10U, 12U)	July 21

**Summer Tennis Camp** June 13-17 at Currituck County High School. Classes are scheduled for Monday-Thursday, with Friday held as a rain-date. Open to children and teenagers. Students must have completed kindergarten. The cost is \$40.00 per student, which includes a t-shirt. Registration forms are available online. Make checks payable to Currituck Tennis. Contact CCPRD at 232-3007.

**Summer Jr. Tennis League** runs June 20 – July 31. Matches will be played Monday-Thursday mornings depending on the age-group. The cost is \$40.00 per student. Contact CCPRD at 232-3007.

**2011 Storm Football Camp** July 13-15 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Sign up before June 22 and receive a free t-shirt! Registration form online.

**Tackle Football** onsite registration will be held August 1. For info go to [www.currituckfootball.com](http://www.currituckfootball.com).

**Girls Volleyball** registration will begin in June. Registration forms will be available online and at the CCPRD office. An on site registration will be held July 23 from 9 a.m. - noon at the Currituck Parks and Recreation building.

**Special Olympics Volleyball** Summer Games will be held in Raleigh on June 4, – June 5.

**Fall Soccer** registration begins in June. Registration forms will be available online and at the CCPRD office. An on site registration will be held July 9 from 9 a.m. - noon.

## Seniors' hearing presentation

**Hard of Hearing** presentation with hearing tests, Tuesday, July 19, at the Currituck Senior Center. Karen Caputo, a hard of hearing specialist, will present information at 11:30 a.m. Following the presentation, hearing tests will be administered at 12:30 p.m.

Please call the Currituck Senior Center at 232-3505 or stop in to sign up for this free presentation.

## Community events calendar available online

Currituck County staff maintains a community events calendar at [www.CurrituckGovernment.com](http://www.CurrituckGovernment.com).

Check out updated event descriptions, dates, times and locations. Simply click on the "Events" tab in the website's main menu and go from there. You can select specific months and types of activities.

## LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

### Barco

**BABY BUZZ**, Ages 0-17 Mo  
Wednesdays at 10:00  
June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27  
Learn fingerplays, sing songs, read stories, learn rhymes & play time.

**TODDLER TIME**, 18 mo. - 2 yrs.  
Tuesdays at 10:00  
June 21: A Few of My Favorite Things  
June 28: Who Lived in a Glove?  
July 5: Let's Dance  
July 12: Choo Choo Clickety Clack  
July 19: Nature Walk  
July 26: Little Hands Art

**STORY TIME**, 3 Year Olds  
Thursdays at 10:00  
June 23: Bumble Bees Buzz

June 30: Little Hands Art  
July 7: Celebrate America  
July 14: Hey Diddle Diddle  
July 21: We Are the World  
July 28: Can Elephants Dance?

**STORY TIME**, Ages 4-5  
Wednesdays at 11:00  
June 22: Paint With Me  
June 29: One World  
July 6: Ahoy Mates  
July 13: Nature Walk  
July 20: Celebrate Mexico  
July 27: Can Elephants Dance?

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**, Grades K-5  
"One World, Many Stories"  
Tuesdays at 11:00  
June 21: North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island  
"Estuary Essentials"

June 28: Movement Around the Globe with Kathy Blades  
July 5: Around the World in 60 minutes  
July 12: Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education "Bear Necessities"  
July 19: Master Gardeners "Pretty Plant What's Your Story?"  
July 26: Kim Norman, Children's book Author, Poet & Performer

Join us as we learn about other countries. You can participate in hands on projects and be rewarded by reading 2 hours a week on your reading level.

The Summer Reading Program will be held at BOTH the Barco Library and the Moyock Library. For more information, contact Barco at 453-8345 or Moyock at 435-6419. All programs are free of charge.

## 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.

### Snapshots: A Community Center under construction

Progress of the Community Center in Barco continues at a good pace. Below are recent photos of construction on the main building, which will house a YMCA, Senior Center, regional healthcare services, Parks and Recreation staff offices, activity rooms and more.



Left: The Senior Center area of the Community Center building



Right: The youth gymnasium of the YMCA section



Left: The space for regional healthcare services



Right: The back of the building, looking over the swimming pool