

COROLLA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

One voice to preserve, protect & enhance the Currituck Outer Banks
for residents, owners, visitors & businesses

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CCA Currents Newsletter to the COBX Community ***March 11, 2012***

Corolla has a Local School

By the Corolla Education Foundation

Since the mid-20th century, Corolla students have not had a local public school. They do now! Water's Edge Village School will open in August of 2012. The Corolla Education Foundation was granted a charter on March 1, 2012 for Water's Edge Village School. WEVS (pronounced waves) is a free public school governed by a board of directors. The Corolla school will be in a familiar location, the old Corolla school house, but with many updates.

The K through 6 facility will house about 30 students. An executive director/educator plus 2 full time teachers will provide a 15 to 1 student teacher ratio. The curriculum meets all NC state standards but is enhanced. Project based learning focused on the rich environmental and historical resources in Corolla and multiage classes allow students to maximize their potential.

The Corolla community has been extremely generous with their moral, financial and professional support. Donations of funds for text books, computers, other start- up costs and our pledge drive are providing help in establishing a local academic opportunity for Corolla kids. Additionally, the spirit of volunteerism exhibited by the residents has resulted in an exceptional pool of talent that will be instrumental in establishing a tradition of excellence for Corolla's children.

If you want to help Corolla in "Making WEVS" or want to find out how to enroll your children please visit www.watersedgevillageschool.com

Potential Multi-Purpose Building at Currituck Heritage Park

Compiled from CCA Board & Committee reports

The Long Range Planning Committee of the Whalehead Club, which CCA board members Gary McGee & Barbara Marzetti serve on, made a recommendation to the Whalehead Trust Board that rather than pursuing reconstruction the Caretaker's Cottage & Garage on the grounds of Currituck Heritage Park,

they investigate building a multipurpose building in the NE corner of the park by the picnic shelter. The committee recommended that any building be compatible with the Corolla Village Small Area plan, and consistent with the appearance of the historic buildings in the park. Functions that the committee envisioned being in such a structure include but are not limited to: indoor wedding venue/large multipurpose room with movable walls to allow multiple activities simultaneously, and audio visual capabilities; catering/serving kitchen (not a prep kitchen); restrooms; wedding party dressing rooms; offices for WHC staff, thus allowing the third floor of the WHC to be opened for tours; and community meeting & activity rooms. The committee chose this location as it would not obstruct the panoramic views or intrude on the park's tranquil ambience.

This proposed structure is seen as a way for the WHC to generate the income it needs to survive, while concurrently providing the community with long needed activity & meeting areas. It was contemplated that the WHC would contribute capital funds it had previously earmarked for the caretakers cottage, while the remaining funding would come primarily from the county's occupancy tax funds. Although the county is holding preliminary discussions with an architect/planner, it would first have to be determined whether the proposed site is suitable for such a structure. The county has pledged to a form a committee to provide community input for this facility, should it go forward.

Although this topic was discussed by the WHT at its recent retreat, no action was taken. Perhaps the Trust Board will make a recommendation at its meeting on March 13th.

Internet Sweepstakes AKA On-Line Video Poker

Compiled from CCA Board & Committee reports

Although we've heard and read about this, it apparently has become a substantial issue for not only Currituck County but the State of North Carolina as well. This represents a topic that the CCA should look into, learn more about and consider taking a position on. Apparently the gambling via video poker machines has been slowly growing over the last couple of years in our part of North Carolina and recently has increased dramatically. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands of video poker machines in Currituck County now and the number of "parlors" is increasing. Since gambling is not lawful in Virginia, busloads of gamblers are coming from Virginia to spend hours and many dollars in towns like Moyock, Grandy and even Jarvisburg. There is a State law prohibiting these machines and such activities but the proponents have found a loophole and are moving ahead to continue to operate and expand. The State Court of Appeals recently overturned the State law as unconstitutional, but the issue will most likely end up in the State Supreme court.

Rumors to the contrary, there are not currently any gaming parlors on COBX, but it would obviously be a lucrative market during the tourist season. There is an astronomical amount of money being made in these establishments, and while Eastern NC has not had the same issues that the western part of the state has had (money laundering, drugs, criminal enterprise, etc.), the potential is there as the number of machines increases.

According to Sheriff Susan Johnson, as long as the issue is under appeal, the local Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency (who is responsible for the enforcement) was directed NOT to act on the law

until a decision was reached on the appeal. The sheriff's office works as an assisting agency and the sheriff's office legal counsel has also advised waiting for the appeal decision before enforcement was undertaken. These establishments violate the Currituck County code so the county is fining these businesses. This topic is on the Planning Board Agenda for Tuesday March 13th as some of the operators are asking for UDO text amendments to allow these uses. The background information can be found starting on p.15 of the PB Agenda packet here: <http://co.currituck.nc.us/pdf/planning-board-minutes-current/pb-agenda-packet-12mar13.pdf>

The County Attorney, Ike McRee, will be our guest speaker at the March 29th CCA meeting, and will address this topic as well as others that may arise.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 12, 2012: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding To Help Flood-Prone Properties, County Satellite Office, Corolla

Monday, March 12, 5:30pm, Pine Island Fire Station, Waters Edge Village School celebration pot luck, sign up here: <http://www.watersedgevillageschool.com/Events.html>

Tuesday, March 13, 1:30pm, Extension Center, Barco – Whalehead Preservation Trust board meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 7pm Courthouse – Planning Board agenda, including video gaming, here: <http://co.currituck.nc.us/pdf/planning-board-minutes-current/pb-agenda-packet-12mar13.pdf>

Monday, March 19th, 7pm Courthouse, BOC, legal announcement here (including request for amendment to SUP for Monterey Greens): <http://co.currituck.nc.us/pdf/board-of-commissioners-minutes-current/legalad-12mar19.pdf>

Thursday, March 29, 5pm, Corolla Library – CCA meeting, guest speaker, county attorney, Ike McRee

CCA wishes to extend its heartfelt gratitude to Susan Taylor for her dedicated service on the planning board! Your community appreciates your tireless efforts on our behalf. Well done!