

# About Town



*A Newsletter from the Town of Duck – Summer Issue 2005*

## HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT

### *Town to Implement Residential Curbside Recycling Program*

Duck has not had a recycling program since Dare County operated a drop off recycling container at the Duck Volunteer Fire Department over four years ago. On, or near, October 1, 2005; however, recycling will return to the Town of Duck in the form of a residential curbside recycling program.

The benefits of recycling have long been documented. Recycling helps the environment by reuse of materials, allowing for the conservation of natural resources, including saving landfill space. In addition, recycling can help lower certain costs associated with solid waste collection and removal by reducing the volume of waste being delivered to landfills and thereby decreasing tipping fees. Recycling is not cost neutral, however. In the FY 2006 Budget for the Town of Duck, \$90,000 has been set aside to implement the residential curbside recycling program. Over time it is hoped that enough waste will be diverted into the recycling program to allow for a decrease of costs associated with residential trash collection.

Currently, the Town is negotiating with recycling service providers to get the best possible balance of service and cost for the property owners in Duck. It is expected that a contract for recycling services will be adopted by the Town Council in August of 2005. Each residence within the Town will then receive a 96-gallon cart that will allow for co-mingled recyclables.

Materials to be collected include plastic bottles, newspapers, magazines and junk mail, cardboard boxes and brown paper bags, aluminum, steel and tin cans, glass bottles, and telephone books. Items that will not be recycled include plastic bags, Styrofoam, food containers (such as pizza boxes), and yard waste. The cart will be collected once a week each Monday, year round.

Condominiums and subdivisions that utilize dumpsters will have recycling containers delivered and located at the drop off sites. The Town Manager will be contacting these groups to discuss various logistic issues prior to the delivery of the carts. After collection, recyclables will be delivered to a material recovery facility where workers will sort the recyclables for shipment to companies that will reuse the material. The only recyclables that will be sent to a landfill will be those materials that have been contaminated by non-recyclable waste.

The success of the recycling program in the Town of Duck is dependent on participation by property owners, full-time residents and visitors. Together we can make this project a great success.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS

### *Town of Duck Opportunities & Information*

#### Community Grants & Awards

**T**he Town of Duck is pleased to announce two new programs to support community improvement initiatives. The Village Improvement Program (VIP) will provide a financial incentive in the form of matching grants to qualified businesses and community organizations to improve commercial properties in the Village Commercial District and to enhance community entrances and facilities. The VIP is designed to support community goals for building, signage, lighting and landscaping.

The second program, Community Appearance Awards, will be given annually to encourage and recognize individuals and organizations for their efforts to enhance the Town's image and vitality. The Town Council has funded these initiatives beginning July 1, 2005 and has established a Community Improvement Committee which is now seeking applications and nominations for the grants and awards.

For more information on how to apply for improvement grants and how to nominate a business, residence or residential community for an award please go to the Town of Duck Website, [www.townofduck.com](http://www.townofduck.com) or call Sue Cotellessa or Sandy Cady at (252) 255-1234 or please stop by the Town Office located in Suite 106 of the Duck Waterfront Shops at 1240 Duck Road.

#### Travel Advisory Station Debuts

**T**his year visitors and residents alike will be able to tune in to DUCK AM 530 to get the latest traffic advisories as well as information concerning Town events. The AM station is being purchased and installed as a means of better informing our motorists of any delays caused by

accidents or heavy rains which can, and often do, cause roads to flood. While the information should be helpful, it is important for citizens to remember that the Town of Duck will do everything it can to expedite the traffic flow to the degree it can.

Duck AM 530 is expected to have a broadcast range of 7-10 miles radius. This coverage should allow motorists entering from the north or south to pick up the station a couple of miles prior to entering Duck.

#### NC 12 Drainage Study

**C**urrently, the Town of Duck, in cooperation and coordination with the Town of Southern Shores and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, is conducting an engineering study on the nuisance flooding and drainage issues that plague NC 12. The study will focus on the sources of flooding on the road and will provide preliminary engineering solutions for five specific areas each in Duck and Southern Shores (yes, Tuckahoe is on the list) and possible solutions for other areas. The study is not intended to provide solutions for all of the nuisance flooding on NC 12, but is intended to focus on the areas that pose the greatest risk to public safety. The study is expected to be completed in the late Fall and funding has been set aside in the FY 2006 Budget to begin implementation of the engineered solutions in the Spring of 2006.

**The Duck Post Office will remain open under new management and will continue as a full-service facility.**

## PLANNING & BUILDING

*Keeping up with local regulations can be frustrating, especially for out of town property owners. Here's some information that you may find interesting or helpful.*

*Building or trade permits are required for most construction activities, including installation of swimming pools as well as hot tubs and HVAC units (new or replacement).* A current survey of your property must be submitted with building permit applications; the survey requires a long lead time (often several weeks). The Planning and Building offices can supply you with a list of local surveyors and can answer your questions about permit requirements.

*Building projects have a series of required inspections as they progress.* The completed project cannot be used by owners or renters until the Town has issued a certificate of occupancy/completion (CO). The CO should be obtained by your contractor and presented to you as evidence that the required Town inspections have been performed. Buildings, accessory structures, pools, hot tubs, wooden walkways and stairways, piers, and similar structures all should have a CO. It is common for contracts to specify final payment upon receipt of a CO.

*Land disturbance permits, which also require a current site survey, must be obtained for the following types of activities:*

- new driveway installation or conversion of a driveway from gravel to concrete or vice versa
- new or replacement septic systems
- placement of pre-built storage shed or playhouses or underground propane tank on the property
- landscaping projects that involve machine grading or filling of the property
- any projects that add fill dirt or gravel or concrete areas, patios, walkways, ground-level decks and similar site features that cover or disturb the land

*Floodplain development permits are required for any man-made disturbance in the floodplain.* When a building or land disturbance permit is required, the floodplain development permit is processed concurrently. Some activities that do not require other permits, such as installation of a standard residential fence or above-ground propane tank, may still require a floodplain development permit and must meet code requirements.

*Propane tanks are a major concern during storms in Duck because they can be combustible debris when floating or blown away.* If you have an above-ground propane tank, please be sure that it is properly anchored. During Hurricane Isabel, Duck's volunteer fire fighters spent precious hours anchoring as many of the loose tanks as possible, but they could not reach them all. For more information about propane tank anchoring requirements, please refer to the NC Dept. of Agriculture's website:  
[www.ncagr.com/standard/sections/lpgasconcerns/FloodAnchoringProtection.htm](http://www.ncagr.com/standard/sections/lpgasconcerns/FloodAnchoringProtection.htm).

*The Planning & Building Staff welcome your calls and will do their best to provide you with the information you need. Most importantly, do not assume that a contractor or company that you have hired to do a job will obtain the required permit—ask to see the permit or contact us to determine if one is required; (252) 255-1234. While the Town of Duck cannot recommend specific contractors, a Contractor Reference Book ( based on neighbor-to-neighbor referrals) is available to the public on-line at [www.townofduck.com/contractor\\_reference\\_book.htm](http://www.townofduck.com/contractor_reference_book.htm) If you have recently made repairs to, renovated or remodeled your home, our department is interested in obtaining information from you regarding the contractor(s) that you selected for your home improvements. You may complete an information sheet through the web site referenced above or call and we will send you one. Please feel free to provide positive or negative feedback on the contractor(s) you hired. Your comments will be helpful to other Town property owners looking for contractor referrals.*

# Information About Town

The Town of Duck Administrative Office is located at 1240 Duck Road, Suite 106 (at the Waterfront Shops).

Office hours are Mon. thru Fri., 9 am to 5pm

Telephone (252) 255-1234; Fax (252) 255-1236

E-mail: [info@townofduck.com](mailto:info@townofduck.com)

Mailing Address: POB 8369, Duck NC, 27949

Stay informed about town by visiting the Town of Duck's official home page, <http://www.townofduck.com>.

From our web page you may request that your e-mail address be added to our town's "Subscriber List."

Help us to help you stay informed about issues and events affecting Duck.

# Mark Your Calendar

**P**lanning Board Meetings: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Duck Planning Board **has been changed** to the second Wednesday of each month (6:30 p.m.) at the Town's Administrative Office. All meetings are open to the public.

**T**own Council Meetings: The regularly scheduled meetings of the Town of Duck Town Council are held on the first Wednesday of each month (7:00 pm) at the Town's Administrative Office. All meetings are open to the public.

**H**urricane Season 2005: Dare County residents are advised to have plans for safe travel and shelter in the event of a major storm. Residents with special health or medical needs are advised to contact an adult services social worker with the Dare County Department of Social Services at (252) 475-5500.

**S**horeline Protection Commission: The next meeting will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, at the Kill Devil Hills Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend.

*Town of Duck*

*POB 8369*

*Duck, North Carolina 27949*