

**Planning for Tomorrow for Town of Malabar
Resident Survey
August 2011**

Comments

General

1. The survey was well written and very thorough and easy to understand. It covered, I think, the primary area of concern for Malabar residents.
2. The Town continues to lose luster and attractiveness. We have no attractive river front access. No sidewalks to walk or ride and enjoy our countryside. Valkaria Rd sidewalk was never even completed. What do we have to attract residents?
3. I really, truly believe in the individuals that guide the best way they do. I'm very thankful to have those people at their interest for the good of our town. Thanks.
4. Services must be provided, but we believe in being frugal, looking at other options for saving money, possible volunteer services, community service hours,...
5. Code enforcement needs to be more aggressive on abandoned vehicles on properties, and enforce codes on right of ways.
6. All in all, very proud of Malabar.
7. In these times when current income to town is uncertain – thank you to all staff-council for good/fair decisions made.
8. Town restricts unregulated growth unlike Palm Bay. This maintains our quality of life and property value.
9. I would like to see the town enhance its sense of community and develop & market the 'rural' country setting that sets us apart from Palm Bay and Melbourne. I would be encouraged to see Malabar support a Farmers Market (perhaps @ the park) to offer residents another venue for developing a sense of community. Thank you for the survey & opportunity for citizens to offer their thoughts and opinion.
10. I am thankful you want my opinion and I trust you will do what is right for our town. Improving blighted areas would be great!
11. If roads were repaired better the first time, they wouldn't have to be repaired so often. i.e. – Marie St & La Court drainage pipes. Vacant homes attract criminals – mowing those yards would help.
12. I think a Saturday morning farmers market might be interesting! Use the park behind the fire station - Arts & Crafts
13. Why was there not a bid from Palm Bay for services like fire/EMS/roads/stormwater?
14. I've seen horses on my street maybe 2x a year. Is it cheaper to pave in the long run with resident approval x street?
15. Fine Homeowners who do not cut or maintain their yards, especially the Homeowner at 2465 LaCourt Lane grass is up to the windows in back yard – Looks like a Dump.
16. Look at all staff and reduce somewhere, if not a whole position then part of one.
17. It would be nice to have a farmer's market in Malabar.
18. I am not "computer literate" and have enjoyed "The Mailboat" but at a savings of \$1840 it should be eliminated.
19. There are still homes being built in Malabar so that is bringing in tax revenues.
20. Thank you for this survey so that residents can voice and choose our future.
21. Promote volunteerism. Reduce staff, limit benefits, no overtime. Max three year contracts ALL employees.
22. For big road and storm drain projects, I hope you put out bids.
23. Being on a fixed income for every extra dollar you increase taxes I have to decrease my spending. When times were good you increased taxes. Now it is time to stop and live within a reduced budget.
24. Please reduce spending!
25. Reduce, reduce, ...
26. Meeting times should be posted on a sign at least a week in advance and not just on the website. Properties taken over and owned by banks should be required to pay property tax and maintain the property to some extent!
27. When/if purchase of river front prop. – Use of Indian River for a reverse osmosis plant to supply town w/ drinking H2O Bid on – pipeline, etc from a private co/or Town owned?
28. Look into getting the area around the Town Hall improved (R/R Tracks to US1 and west ½ mile)
29. Do not raise taxes. Be resourceful and do the job better prices Cut the fat! Be like everyone. Manage w/what you have!! Do NOT raise taxes at all!! Sick of politicians raising our taxes!
30. Malabar has changed since we moved here (sad face) Too much gun shooting and ATV traffic.
31. The shooting in the town of Malabar is ridiculous and nothing ruins a nice weekend than to listen to this for hours!
32. Non-maintenance of dirt roads millings are too thin, creating a dust bowl when driven on.
33. Parks are used more by non-Malabar residents
34. I received this survey on Aug 2. You want it back by Aug 5 - ?
35. The town has to (sic) many employees Everywhere I go I see 2, 3, and 4 or more milking a job that requires less. I see unregistered cars in yards, lots not maintained, etc. Where is the code enforcer?
36. I would like to see the Town receive a grant to remove/cut down dead trees resulting from arson fires 3 years ago – would like to see horseback riding trails established on platted rights of way surrounding the town.
37. Could clean up house on Corey Rd that has 20+ cars and 100's of tires on their property – you know who this is & choose to continue to let them trash our town.

38. We pay a lot for road maintenance & stormwater drainage and I see little improvement. Why? Otherwise, overall the township is a fantastic place to live. Good job!
39. Thank you for asking
40. Some of us are willing to do for our town what is necessary to maintain it.
41. NO NEW TAXES. We're being taxed to death – gas, school, electric, county, federal, insurance companies.
42. Roads are being repaved when other roads never has (sic) been paved. Yet the same taxes are paid.
43. I believe the Fire Dept. budget is way out of line for the size of our community – cut back!
44. Refer #18 We are not in the Real Estate business!!!!
45. In the current economic climate, we must all tighten our belts and make budget cuts. Even though the price of land is relatively inexpensive, it seems folly to buy more land and remove it from the tax rolls.
46. Too much funds (resources) directed to EMS/fire department.
47. Enforce codes
48. Town needs to get by on fixed % of property revenues. When values are increasing we should be setting aside increased revenues for time like this. This mirrors what is going on at all levels of government!!!
49. 1) Would allow dogs on EELs land, not just horses. 2) Would like Duncil Lane paved

Public Works

Public Space/Parks

1. Obviously al services are necessary, but non-safety related services would have to come last.

Storm water Drainage

Street maintenance

1. Can change road maintenance if dirt roads get paved!
2. NE corner Hall/Weber – fix pothole!
3. Grade roads once a week
4. What road maintenance do you do, anyway?

Fire Department

Fire Fighting

1. FD is a joke – only boys with their toys
2. Fire Dept can't (sic) put out a fire across the street

Emergency Medical Services/EMT

1. Fire and EMS are vital to the safety and well being of all residents
2. (9) Oh come on, this is slanted
3. Let county construct fire station on EELs land and contract w/county & turn existing fire station into a community (sic) center; auction of (sic) all assets.
4. Spend less on fancy stuff
5. (9) Bad skewed loaded question
6. (9) Where are these figures from? Does the \$50 include all costs involved with having a fire dept – insurance, workers comp, etc? Sounds like creative figuring

Building Department

1. Who determines this?

Parks/Recreation/Facilities

1. Where is Huggins Park?
2. Fern Creek Park not included in survey
3. I like to see the town build a Community Center/Hurricane Shelter
4. We are a bedroom community. Other recreation is all around us. Our properties are recreational, in a way.
5. Where is Fern Creek (on the survey)?
6. (Huggins) half of park is wasted space. Clearing of north half should be completed and used as a gen purpose (sic) field. (Trails and greenways) not completed.
7. (Disc) – Dangerous parking! (Athletic fields) Used a LOT by other towns residents so they can come to Malabar (cleaner, less crime) yet we have to pay taxes and maintain them

8. (Added) __1__ Fern Creek
9. (Added) __1__ Fern Creek
10. Park on corner of Corey & Malabar – what a waste!
11. (13) Only if it is affordable

Riverfront/Land Purchasing

1. I support the Town acquiring properties for public recreation uses.
2. (support acquiring properties) But do not feel riverfront access is necessary.
3. Not riverfront. What about old schoolhouse?
4. Land is Not a very low price – just lower than it was over the over-inflated years
5. And turns it into a community (sic) property for the use of all residents
6. Support acquiring riverfront access property < 5 acres
7. IF money is available and not raise property tax.
8. (18) Only if we can fish there and launch a boat.

Residents Communication T.O.M Staff: *PLEASE NOTE: this section included two questions (22, 23) which were more applicable to Public Works/Fire Dept, but the comments were left here where/as they were entered on the survey...*

1. Could put it (MailBoat) online, make it available for pick-up, deliver only to those requesting
2. Put it (MailBoat) online!
3. Less, rather than none, of Park Maintenance and Stormwater Drainage
4. (re: services) Contract out EMS
5. Update website more frequently w/ added optional email correspondence (sp?)
6. We have a hospital nearby to handle EMS
7. Road and water drainage are high priorities
8. Why not use the Town's web site (for MailBoat)
9. County responds to 911 now; County is provided with excellent training & gear
10. Put (MailBoat) content on web instead.
11. The other 4 (fire/EMS/Drainage/Roads) are very important for safety purposes.
12. There should always be EMS-Fire no question & Storm drainage should be part of roads. In need should always be able to call 911 & receive EMS from P.B. hospital or Fire rescue.
13. All are important to the community. None should be reduced. All are needed.
14. Clarify: Is there an option for pay-per-use for EMS?
15. (Reduce Fire/EMS) If picked up by county.
16. Having Palm Bay hospital so close is very important. Drainage should be handled by the state under one comprehensive plan which connects all the cities.
17. EMS from county
18. Sometimes less is more
19. According to your #'s on 11 we are over in acreage of parks which means maintenance on more than we need!
20. Palm Bay Hospital close
21. Contract w/ Palm Bay or BCFR
22. Fire Dept is crucial
23. (keep MailBoat) unless it requires raising property tax. The road maintenance on my road is poor already. Why doesn't the Fire Dept do the fund raiser they used to do? I always donated.
24. The Town should operate as economically as possible. Cut waste. Do we really need a Town Manager?
25. You must cut services – not increase taxes
26. (discontinue MailBoat) Use the money for necessary services. Fire service is already paid for – see #9 – so how can you cut it to save money?
27. I understand our EMS cannot transport people; if that is the case, it is fairly useless
28. (Keep MailBoat) or send via email to those that desire that method. Reduce Town Admin costs
29. Cost of Fire/EMS goes up if County provided.

Future Budgets/Property Taxes

1. Additional millage is okay for improved services. Malabar is a great place to live. We are happy to pay more taxes to keep it that way.
2. Taxes should be somewhere in between
3. Increase taxes to cover BCFR for fire and EMS
4. To do what is the most important for the town!!
5. I would like to see town acquire recreation water front property.

6. Malabar does an excellent job w/ minimal taxes. Please increase taxes for river front access & continued services.
7. I do not mind paying more taxes.
8. Keep Malabar with controlled growth
9. Why cut fire to replace w/ county for more money?
10. Is it necessary to trim around our mailboxes?
11. No tax increases what so ever
12. Would prefer some increase in millage rate combined with a cut in services if needed.
13. All households have had to make cutbacks. The Town of Malabar will have to do the same.
14. Stop funding the F.D. Sell of (sic) the assets and there will be more than enough \$ to fund the other services and to convert fire station into a community (sic) ctr.
15. If my value has gone (down) and it has. Don't boost up your millage to cover it Cut what needs to be cut. My taxes have gone up every year while my value goes down. That is not right. Last year Brevard Co. boosted it millage way up resulting in over 150.00 increase. If you don't have money make cuts just like we do and company around the world.
16. Times are tuff. Don't raise taxes now!
17. If manager can't cut, get a new manager
18. Tighten your belt as we must do! CUT!
19. Cut across the board!
20. Storm drainage is taxed separate (sic) and should not have been included.
21. Roads come first.
22. Use volunteers
23. Storm water drainage should be more than just on Corey Rd.
24. Running Town Hall costs to (sic) much. Road and stormwater affect everyone – the others don't.
25. *** Why no amount for MSTU? Storm water and solid waste have amounts, but not MSTU?
26. BCFR provides 24/265 professional Fire/EMS service with staffing levels that meet the national standards. Which in turn affects I.S.O. rating which decrease insurance rates.
27. Let those who use the park –pay for use-
28. Stormwater drainage is AWFUL. I pay separately for trash; why do I pay tax for it too? Let's get more community volunteers to do park maintenance
29. Maybe the community could help, or people needing community service. The town needs to make sure there is no waste.
30. Cut out MSTU
31. There is a hospital close by also urgent care facilities
32. Your statement is general and inaccurate. It would raise taxes for many. Never raise taxes in a recession – cut services.
33. My taxes would go up significantly
34. You receive a 10% utility tax from each house. Didn't want MTSU for police. Don't like utility tax. You have plenty of money in reserve. In these tough economic times taxes should NOT BE RAISED.
35. I think we should sell some of the FD trucks!
36. 19% Across the Board

Other (property/)

1. Corner of Hall & Weber is a huge eyesore and has become a dumping ground. The owners should be maintaining it.
2. Very disappointed at the handling (sic) of 2985 Township Rd. 7 years after hurricane and it is still horrible mess.

Recurring themes noted

MailBoat online
 Farmer's market
 Fire/EMS from county/Palm Bay
 Reduce (taxes, spending, and services)
 Code enforcement
 Use Volunteers for park maintenance