



THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 2 NO. 1 1st QUARTER 1996

The Town of Malabar got its 1st official Post Office and name on December 24, 1883 when R.A. Ward was named Postmaster by President Chester A. Arthur. Two times a week, the boat that travelled down the intracoastal waterway from Jacksonville, would deliver the mail to the palmetto shack post office along the river bank at Malabar. The mail was dumped on the counter for the population of 25 to shuffle through. With the coming of the railroad, in 1893, the mail boat was no longer needed.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater provides important fresh water to replenish our wetlands. Over the years, man has changed the natural land surfaces to surfaces which reduce the amount of rainwater that can soak into the ground like parking lots, roads, and roofs. Now, more rain water flows into our lakes, streams and canals creating flooding and water pollution problems.

Unmanaged stormwater causes flooding and erosion; pollutants such as fertilizers, chemicals, and motor oils are carried into our surface waters; sand and other solids settle in canals and rivers reducing water depth and damaging natural marine habitats. The nutrients in the fertilizers cause accelerated growth of algae in the lagoon which depletes the oxygen and stresses the aquatic ecosystem.

Managed stormwater is a plan that provides for the efficient treatment of stormwater "runoff", which is what is left after the rain has soaked into the ground, been absorbed by plant life, collected in a natural wetland or has evaporated. This reduces pollution of waterways, buildup of sedimentation in canals and rivers, and prevents fish kills. Flooding is also reduced because drainage systems are part of the plan as well as strategically placed detention and retention ponds.



Malabar's Stormwater Master Plan consists of three phases. The main objective in Phase I was to complete a data base of stormwater management information, including a complete inventory of the Town's existing stormwater management system components and drainage features as well as background data to establish drainage

basins and prepare for future phases. Phase II consisted of defining the problems and designing solutions. This was accomplished through public workshops, stormwater surveys, water quality analysis and exploring funding sources.

Malabar is currently funding part of the work on its stormwater utility with two grants from St. Johns Water Management District. One will allow for the construction of a baffle box to be placed in a conveyance ditch that would capture sediments and filter chemicals that otherwise would end up in the lagoon.

The other pays for the engineering necessary to complete the municipal surface water drainage treatment plan. Historic flow patterns will be restored. This will serve to reduce flow velocities, diminish the erosion problems and ultimately decrease suspended solids reaching the Indian River Lagoon. Much more information is available at Town Hall on our Stormwater Management Master Plan. Please stop by for additional information or input.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dear Residents,

The Public Works Department continues to work on road and drainage issues and has completed rebuilding LaCourt, Old Mission and Atz Road. They have completed rebuilding the drainage systems on north Corey Road, north Marie Street, LaCourt and south Linrose Lane.



Ranger Construction was awarded the contract to build a left turn lane on Malabar Road at the Post Office. The project should be completed by April 1st and is funded with Impact Building Permit Fees.

We are continuing construction of the Malabar Community Park. The bridge over the lake is finished and is ready for use. Please stop by and look at it, and bring your fishing gear. Within the next couple of months, we will be adding an exercise trail around the lake, which is officially named the Damon Arnold Lake, after two of the founding fathers of Malabar. We are about to start construction on the public restrooms and parking lots.

On December 15, 1995, we were awarded a grant from the State for 1.2 mil to purchase land from Malabar Road north to the Turkey Creek Sanctuary for the purpose of establishing a greenway trail system.

The Park Board met February 7, 1996 at Town Hall to determine whether there was an interest in trail

systems that would include hiking, biking, and horses. There was a tremendous turnout and a lot of enthusiasm! The possibility of trails from the south county to Turkey Creek Sanctuary was discussed. An ad-hoc committee was created which consists of members countywide. This committee will recommend locations and design the trails. If you are interested, please call Debby at Town Hall, 727-7764.

We received a grant from the Department of Agriculture to purchase and install native Florida trees within the Malabar Community Park. The trees will be situated to enhance the natural beauty of the park and offer shady rest spots to picnickers and hikers alike. We have plans for the park that include ball fields and soccer fields. (Volunteers to help with construction are welcome.)

Since the last newsletter, we have lost four (4) former elected officials in Malabar: Goldwin "Pop" Ackerman, Margaret White, Gertrude Murphy and Charles Hanson. I was fortunate to have known "Pop" Ackerman as a friend. I used to sit under his favorite orange tree and listen to him tell of the good ol' days in Malabar. He called himself the "Grand Daddy of Malabar". He would tell me of his days as one of the first Councilmen and how he borrowed \$1200.00 from FPL to get Malabar's first budget. I enjoyed our conversations and marveled at how well he functioned at the age of 92. I will sure miss him.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Hall".

William Hall

State Mutual Aid Agreement

In February, Council adopted an ordinance joining Malabar with all the cities in the State of Florida for mutual assistance during emergencies. Basically, what this means is that, should we have an emergency that requires additional manpower, other cities within the State of Florida will assist us, as well as our doing the same for them.

A perfect example of this program in work was the brush fire over Presidents' Day weekend in Palm Bay. Fire departments from cities all over Brevard County as well as Indian River, Oseola, and Orange Counties responded to the call. This type of need may have occurred in Malabar.

Another big positive to signing this agreement is that we become eligible for competitive grant packages through DCA (Department of Community Affairs). Using debris removal as an example, Bob Lay, Director of Emergency Management, Brevard County, states that if Malabar were not part of this agreement the support Malabar would get is only a list of contractors with appropriate equipment. By being part of this agreement, Malabar could ask, and another municipality would respond with the needed equipment and take care of the job.

Town Happenings . . .

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Harris Sanitation offers garbage service in Malabar. This is not provided by the Town. You can call them at 723-4455 for information and rates. They provide household garbage pickup on Wednesdays and Saturdays and yard waste pickup on Thursdays and recycle pickup on Saturdays. Yard trash needs to be neatly stacked by the curbside in bundles or in containers not to exceed 50 pounds in weight or 4 feet in length.

Harris will also be collecting old phone books curbside from April 1 through May 11, 1996. A drop off container will also be located at Town Hall for your convenience. It was a great success last year.

Harris will once again co-sponsor with Keep Florida Beautiful the annual Trash Bash this spring. Last year Malabar won first place! This year's event is scheduled for April 20, 1996 at 8:00 A.M. Check-in site is once again going to be Town Hall. See you there!

The County Solid Waste Management Department also offers a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup twice a year, in the spring and fall. If you have questions regarding disposal options, you can call 633-2043.

COMPOST BIN SALE

As of February 16, 1996 the University of Florida's Brevard County Agricultural Center began selling wire compost bins to the Public for \$5.00 each. You can purchase your bin at the Melbourne Agricultural Center at 4090 Minton Road. For more information, call 952-4536 and ask for Dan Keene.



Our 3rd Annual Malabar Day will be held at the Community Park on Saturday, October 19, 1996. This event is intended to bring all Malabar residents together for a social event. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to bring your favorite covered dish or baked goods to share. We will have local entertainment, arts and crafts, games, volleyball, pony rides, hamburgers, hotdogs, beer and soda.

If you have an art or craft to demonstrate or sell, please call Town Hall to reserve a table. This is a great time to meet your neighbors and Town representatives.

Greenway bike trails

Barbara Meyer, Brevard County's bicycle program coordinator, has begun putting together a plan for a county greenway bike path system. Her vision of a series of lush corridors connecting parks and neighborhoods would provide a path from the north county line to the south. The narrow strips of land will provide a path for hikers and horseback riders as well.

Already greenways are popping up in different parts of the county. The county is creating greenways at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, and Viera's developers have incorporated the idea in their neighborhoods and shopping centers. The Town of Malabar is pursuing a grant to link its parks using greenways.

For more information, call Barbara Meyer at 690-6890.

DO WE NEED A GUN ORDINANCE?

With the increase of home owners in the Town of Malabar, the number of complaints regarding the discharge of firearms was 6 in 1995. In an effort to protect the rights of all within the Town, we are looking for your input on whether to enact an ordinance that will regulate the discharge of firearms.

Your opinion is important to us. Exercise your right to voice it. Please call Town Hall at 727-7764 and let us know if you would be for or against such an ordinance.

STANDARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE

The Town Council meets the first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm.

The Planning & Zoning Board meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 8:00 pm.

The Park Board meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

All meetings take place at Town Hall.

Clerk's Corner

During the budget process and the tax increase process last September, the question was asked, "What is the rolled-back rate?" The Florida Administrative Code defines the rolled-back rate as "the millage rate which, exclusive of new construction, additions to structure, deletions, and property added due to geographic boundary changes, will provide the same ad valorem tax revenue for each taxing authority as was levied during the prior year." In plain English, this means that the Town, by law, will collect at least the same amount of ad valorem tax as the previous year. If the overall value of the taxable property in Malabar goes down, the taxes will increase. (Example: If the previous year's millage was 1.0457 based on 112 million dollars of taxable property and the Town collected \$118,000 in ad valorem tax and then the next year the value

of taxable property dropped to 110 million dollars, the millage rate will increase in order for the Town to collect the \$118,000.00.

If the overall value of the taxable property in Malabar goes up, the taxes will decrease. (Example: If the previous year's millage was 1.0457 based on 112 million dollars of taxable property and the Town collected \$118,000 in ad valorem tax, and then the next year the value of taxable property increased to 114 million dollars, the millage rate will go down in order for the Town to collect \$118,000.00).

This resulting new millage rate is the rolled-back rate. I hope this helped you define this sometimes confusing terminology. If you still have any questions, call Town Hall and we will be happy to assist you.

Employees honored for Service

Two Public Works Department employees got a special nod in 1995. Both were honored as Employee of the Month.

Mike Brown has worked for the Town of Malabar since 1991.

The New Jersey native operates the backhoe or mows the grass around ditches, roads, and in the Town parks.



Brown's Proclamation for Employee of the Month last July stated that "Mike Brown is always punctual and never misses a workday." Mayor Jerry Durand, one of the signers of the award, read that "Mike has been a dedicated employee and is keenly interested in his work and service to the citizens of Malabar."

When Brown and his two colleagues are not out caring for the 17 miles of unpaved roads, they might be found repairing and maintaining all the equipment that resides in the new Public Works Complex. Brown spent 27 years working for the Thomas Procter Construction Corp. in Long Branch, N.J. before moving to Florida. But, being honored by the Town of Malabar, "... makes you feel good,

because you know they appreciate what you're doing."

Honored as employee of the month last November was **Tim Smith**. A Maine native, Smith has lived in Brevard County since 1987 and been employed by the Town of Malabar since October 1994.

Tim helps maintain the Town's parks. He spreads the mulch, mows and trims the grass, and maintains the new playground equipment. Other Public Works Department duties include reading the water meters in Brookhollow subdivision and posting current events on the Town sign in front of the fire station.

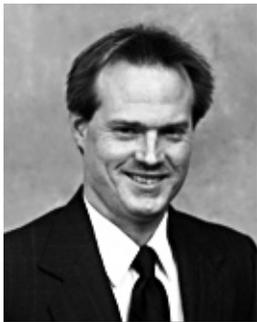


"I like doing the sign. I see people in the morning, and they see me and wave. I love working outdoors," Smith says. Mayor Durand spoke of Tim as being, "... enthusiastic and always has something friendly to say to fellow employees."

Smith graduated from Palm Bay High School in 1992 and spent one year studying at Brevard Community College in Palm Bay before coming to work for Malabar.

Election Results — New Faces

Elections were held last November for District 1 and 4. Dave Morey was elected in District 1 and Tom Eschenberg in District 4. Also on the ballot was the amendment to the Town Charter, which passed. During the first Council meeting after the election, nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair were made. Mayor Durand was selected by Council to be the Chairman and Mr. Detwiler was selected as Vice-Chairman. With the Charter amendment passing the next Mayor will serve from 1997 to 2000 and then from then on the Mayor's term will be for a period of four (4) years. The Council's terms remain at two (2) years with elections next year for Districts 1, 2, and 3, and in 1997 for District 4, 5 and the at large Mayor. Due to term limitations, Jerry R. Durand will have to step down after serving 3 terms as Mayor and 2 terms as a Council Member. He will be eligible to run again for Mayor in the year 2000 or for Council in 1999.



Dave Morey, a 26 year old auto mechanic, emphasized a conservative approach to spending and pledged to clean up the rundown areas of Malabar Road. He is also a volunteer fireman in Malabar.



Tom Eschenberg, a Harris Corp. engineer, said he would keep his campaign promise to emphasize the road and drainage situation within the Town. He loves the Town's quiet rural atmosphere and natural beauty.

Henry Dekker, former President of the Brook Hollow Homeowners' Association, is a consultant and public speaker. He served as the Director of Development for Westinghouse Corporation until 1970, and was one of the founders and Vice President of Mitsubishi Electric, USA until his early retirement in 1991.



We congratulate the candidates on their election and welcome them to the Town Council.

FREE-FLOWING WELLS/WELL CAPPING

An artesian well is one that has been drilled into an aquifer that is under pressure, which pushes water up to the surface. Most wells were drilled decades ago for irrigation on land that was formerly agricultural and have been flowing ever since because they were never properly plugged.

As much as 260,000 gallons of water can gush out of an unplugged artesian well in one day! Even if your not big on water conservation, it would take you more than three years to use that much water. The flow from these wells also can reduce the aquifer's water level and provide an entranceway for contaminants to enter the aquifers. Many of these wells are only discovered when the land is developed.

An abandon artesian well is one that either is no longer used; does not have a control valve that works; does not meet current well construction standards; is discharging saltwater into an aquifer;

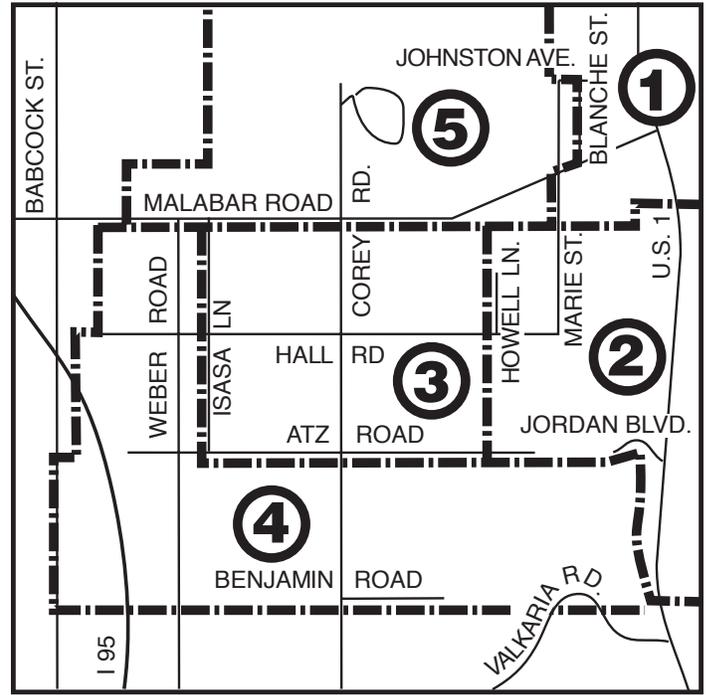
or is in such disrepair that it cannot be used without harming a drinking water aquifer. Since 1983, The St. Johns District has plugged or fixed 946 of those wells. Well owners have plugged another 700 on their own. But, it is estimated that anywhere from 500 to 3,000 more of these free-flowing wells continue to flow unchecked within the 19-county St. Johns District.

The majority of these uncapped wells are located in Brevard, Seminole and Indian River counties. If you own a free-flowing well, you may be eligible for a cost share program where the District will pay up to 50 percent of the cost to plug or repair the well, and Brevard County will pay the other half. There are other cost share options available. To report an abandoned well or to learn more about the District's cost share agreements, contact Wesley Curtis at 1-800-741-9355. Additional information is also available at Town Hall.

Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Dave Morey 2475 Malabar Road	729-6505
District 2	Julane Kikla 2730 Rocky Point Road	676-3698
District 3	John Detwiler 1780 Eva Lane	725-7759
District 4	Tom Eschenberg 2835 Beran Lane	724-1007
District 5	Henry Dekker 1260 Hollow Brook Lane	722-9717
Mayor	Jerry Durand 1460 Hall Road	724-0123
Town Administrator	Bill Hall Town Hall	723-3261
Town Clerk/ Treasurer	Susan Kilian Town Hall	727-7764
County Comm.	Nancy Higgs, Dist. 3	952-6300
State Senator	Patsy Kurth, Dist. 15	984-4951



Town Administrator - WILLIAM HALL 723-3261 FAX 722-2234 Editor - John Detwiler, Council Vice-Chairman

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