



THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 13 NO. 1 1st QUARTER 2007

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.

SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 10TH IMPORTANT TAX ISSUE, YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Meeting Time: 6:00pm.
Meeting place: Malabar Fire Department,
1840 Malabar Road

Written by Mayor Tom Eschenberg

This letter to the citizens of Malabar is to announce a special meeting to receive input on the subject of police protection. The Council passed a motion on Jan. 22, 2007 to have this meeting and educate the public in advance.

As you may know, over the past four years, the Town Council has been trying to resolve the issue of passing an ordinance requiring the citizens of Malabar to pay an MSTU tax for Sheriff service or establish our own Police Department. Over the past four years, the Council has conducted surveys, had members of law enforcement make presentations, been addressed by a County Commissioner and had the issue placed on the ballot for a referendum. The bottom line is that although the Town Council has received a great amount of feedback, we are looking for the opinion of the majority.

The Town Council has four choices. The first is to pass an ordinance to require the citizens of Malabar to pay the MSTU tax for the Sheriff. According to State law, the Sheriff must respond to calls in Malabar and there is no requirement that Malabar pay for it. The Sheriff has stated that if Malabar does not pay the MSTU tax, he could stop using MSTU deputies in Malabar and respond with general fund deputies. The response time could be 30 minutes or more because the general fund deputy may be in the central part of the county. The County Commission has injected "fairness" into this issue. They

say it is not fair for Malabar to get Sheriff service for free when citizens in Palm Shores, Cape Canaveral and the unincorporated County area pay for it. At the present rate, the amount Malabar citizens would pay for an MSTU tax would be \$86.80 per \$100,000 of valuation. Based on current property valuations in Malabar, the total tax collected would be about \$220,000. This rate could be changed by the County Commission. The second option is for the Town Council to establish a Police Department. The cost would be dependent on size and level of service. Staff will prepare the numbers for the meeting. If the money is not available in the budget, it would require a vote of the citizens of Malabar for the additional funding. The third option is to do nothing. This option was not offered in the referendum and the Council is concerned that this could be the majority opinion. The County Commission has threatened the Town of Malabar with a lawsuit if the Town Council does nothing although legal opinion from our Town attorney says such a lawsuit would have no basis. The fourth option is to enter into a contract with the Sheriff. Since this is not an MSTU, the money would have to come from the general fund. Again, if the money is not available, it would require a vote of the citizens.

Before a decision by the Town Council is made, they are requesting your opinion. It is important for you to attend this meeting because of the impact it has on your taxes. We hope to have the Sheriff or his representative in attendance. The meeting will be held at the Malabar Fire Station on March 10, 2007 at 6 P.M. Please come and give the Council your opinion. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please call Town Hall or your council representative with your opinion.

Titusville



J. R. "Jack" Parker
BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

January 17, 2007

The Honorable Tom Eschenberg, Mayor of the Town of Malabar
And Members of the Malabar Town Council
2725 Malabar Road
Malabar, FL 32950-4427



Dear Mayor Eschenberg and Council Members:

I am taking this opportunity to follow up on the recent Malabar Town Council Meeting discussion regarding law enforcement options for the Town. I want to be sure that you have accurate information regarding costs for services and levels of service as you make your decision.

Currently, the Law Enforcement MSTU ad valorem millage rate for Sheriff's patrol services equates to **\$86 per \$100,000 of taxable value (excluding any exemptions) ...not the \$860 dollars per \$100,000, which I am advised was presented to you by the Town Administrator at the Council meeting.**

During that same meeting, I am told you were advised you that a new Police Department could be implemented with a recurring cost of approximately one million dollars annually (not including start-up costs). **Based on that cost, the taxes you will have to assess the citizens to enable the Town of Malabar to operate a police department would greatly exceed the cost of being served by the Sheriff's Office.** Should the Town Council abide by the outcome of the voters' referendum to pay the MSTU for Sheriff's services, it appears the tax burden you place on your citizens will be greatly reduced as compared to starting your own police department.

I would also like to emphasize that the cost of running a small police department may exceed your current expectations. The presented budget amount of a million dollars a year may not be sufficient when you consider personnel costs such as providing coverage for court appearances, sick/annual leave, work injury, extensive required training, and continuous recruitment in addition to operational costs such as insurance and replacement equipment. **Although the start-up budget was not included in the annual budget, this cost needs to be fully understood as it can be substantial.** It also should be considered that the Town would be in the position of defending possible lawsuits and paying subsequent financial awards due to the actions or negligence of the Town's Police Officers.

As I have stated previously, if the Malabar Town Council decides to be served by the Sheriff's Office, I will request the Board of County Commissioners allow me to use the funding to hire more patrol deputies for the South Precinct area that will result in an improved level of service to Malabar and surrounding areas.

However, to acquire the additional Deputies in time, I need to submit the request for the new Deputies in my budget for FY 2007/2008. It is my intent to finalize that request no later than April 15th of this year. As a result, I need your decision on whether you will join the MSTU or opt to start your own police department by the April 15th deadline, preferably sooner. If no decision is made by that date, the additional Deputies for your area will be difficult to achieve.

We look forward to serving the citizens of Malabar with a high quality, low cost law enforcement service that fully meets the needs of Town residents.

Very Truly Yours,

Sheriff Jack Parker

BREVARD County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

Helen Voltz, Commissioner, District 3
1311 E. New Haven Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32901

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www.brevardcounty.us



January 22, 2007

Malabar Mayor and Town Council Members
2725 Malabar Road
Malabar, FL 32950



Dear Mayor Eschenberg and Council Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your support of the MSTU for Brevard County Sheriff's services. This past November, the citizens of Malabar also went to the polls and voted in favor of paying the MSTU rather than starting up your own police department. I feel that this is the best way to ensure the safety of your citizens.

If the Malabar Town Council votes in favor of the MSTU, the Sheriff will request the funding of more patrol deputies for the South Precinct area. This will result in an increased level of service to Malabar and is something that I will support when it comes before the Board of County Commissioners.

Additionally, voting for the MSTU is the most fiscally responsible option. The tax burden on the citizens of Malabar will be less under the MSTU for Sheriff's services than if the town decided to create their own police department.

My staff and I are committed to working with the Town of Malabar in whatever way we may be of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Voltz".

Helen Voltz
Brevard County Commissioner
District 3

MALABAR SPRINGFEST...

will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2007,
from 10 am until 6 pm.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

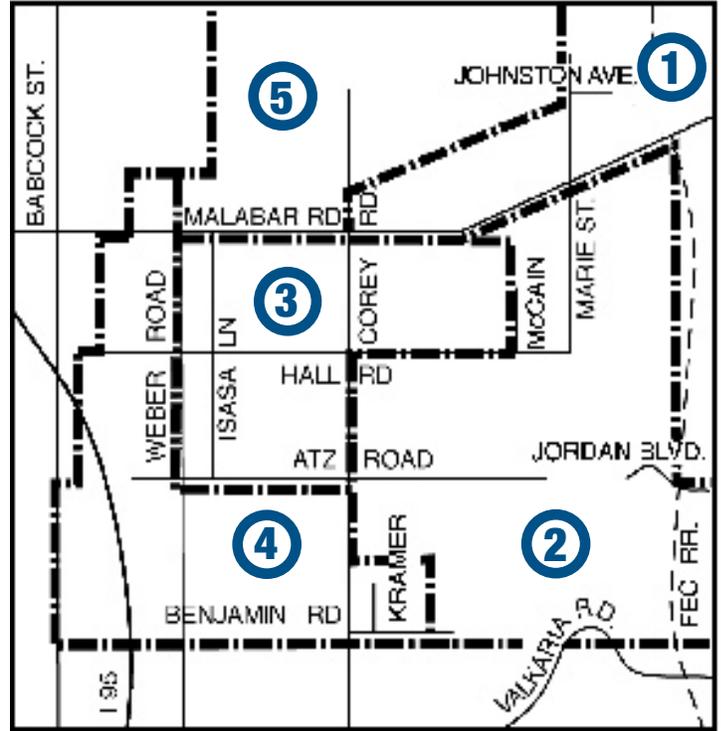
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONIC ROUNDUP

is on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the Barefoot Bay Community Center, 625 Barefoot Bay Boulevard, Building A parking lot, Micco, Florida. **Drop off time is 9:00 am until 3:00 pm ONLY.**

Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Nancy Borton 141 Riverview Dr.	724-1540
District 2	Brian Vail 2700 Smith Lane	952-9110
District 3	Chuck McClelland 2050 Linrose Lane	723-0143
District 4	Bobbi Moccia 3135 Kramer Lane	722-3447
District 5	Pat Dezman 1670 Country Cove	724-5817
Mayor	Tom Eschenberg 2835 Beran Lane	724-1007
Town Administrator	Town Hall	
Town Clerk/ Treasurer	Susan Kabana Town Hall	727-7764 x12
Town Fax		722-2234
County Comm.	Helen Voltz, Dist. 3	952-6300
St. John's River Water Mgmt District		www.sjrwmd.com



Editor - Susan Kabana www.townofmalabar.org

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