



# THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 15 NO. 1 2nd QUARTER 2009

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.

## Springfest

*Malabar Springfest is upon us once again!*

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 4, 2009**  
**Malabar Community Park** from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

This year's event is being brought to you by  
**The Town of Malabar, Hometown News, FPL, MIMA**

Bands planned: **The Last Chance Band** and **Swamp Fox**

### **Karaoke Contest**

Come out and sing your favorite song; you could be one of three winners to receive a cash prize.

Something new for those who like to toss things around —  
**Hay Toss**

Don't forget to bring your swinging hips for the —  
**Hula Hoop Contest**

There will be some new and exciting games, along with the standards, in the Kids Zone as well. There will be plenty of activities for those who attend, young and old, so come on out and have a great day of food, music and good down home fun in the park.

***We look forward to seeing you there!***

## From the Town Administrator's Desk

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Hi Residents,

As we enter into the spring season, staff is busy working on the FY 09/10 budget, road maintenance, and ditch maintenance while the ditches are low or completely dry. We have schedules for both the ditch program and the road-grading program. I am developing a page that I will upload the schedules to each month on the website. If you want to check on a particular road maintenance issue, you will be able to go to [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org) and see when the road is scheduled for work. Map numbers have been assigned for groups of roads to make it easier to grid out the Town for mapping. If you have a particular concern about your road that you do not feel can wait until the scheduled work date, please call my office, or email me and I will review the problem and get back to you on the issue you raise. If it involves life and safety, we may reschedule the planned work to address the safety problem first.

If you have general concerns over any issues in Town, please talk to me about them. Many times, we are busy handling one set of issues and others do not surface as quickly as they perhaps should, until it is too late. **THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY AND WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!** Let us know the issues that you believe are important to your quality of life.

I am trying to establish a resident's email list so that when we need communication to get to you quickly we

can group email you and get the information out. We know that not every resident has an email, but if you would like to have your address added, please send me an email. In the subject line, please type, "add me to the email list". I hope you will consider this means of communication. We can keep you apprised of Town Meetings, Town issues, Town changes, just to name a few. This is your community; get involved.

Finally yet importantly, I am working with Councilmember Dezman and we are working on establishing a "Senior Connection". This project will have something for the care giver, the senior, volunteer programs for the Town, resource information, and best of all we are going to identify seniors in our community that may have special needs so that when we have Town emergencies we can have staff check on them to identify any help that may be needed or we will be able to communicate with them about the problem. I hope you will be excited about this new project and get involved with us to set it up. You may contact me at the office or by email at [bwfree@townofmalabar.org](mailto:bwfree@townofmalabar.org). I will share your comments with Councilmember Dezman. If you want to know more about this project, please type "Senior Project" in the Subject line of your email or if you call and leave a message please state that it is about the Senior project. The phone number is 727-7764 ext 13.

Hope to see you a Springfest, April 4<sup>th</sup> for a day of fun, laughs, and lots of good food and music. **MARK Your Calendars!**

*Bonilyn Wilbanks-Free*

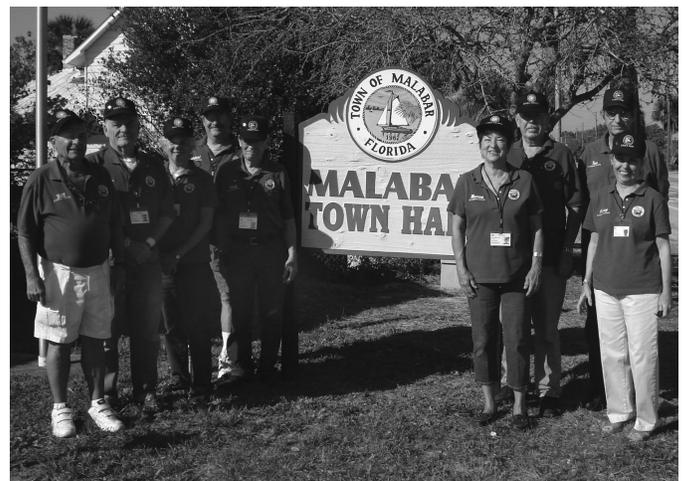
## From the Eagle Corp Desk

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Sadly, tough times are here and there; we certainly can use more help (eyes). **YOUR EAGLE CORPS CITIZENS PATROL NEEDS YOU!!** As Coordinator, I need to keep our numbers up and running for our Town. Please consider joining our patrol group and volunteering a few hours a week to keep our Town as we like it to be – clean, neat, SAFE and a great place to live! We provide the training, the car, and the uniforms. For more information, please call Town Hall at 727-7764 or hail us down as we are patrolling. You'll recognize the car. We all would be glad to answer your questions. If you think this might be something you would be interested in pursuing, we invite you to ride along with an Eagle Corps member and then decide about joining our team. This is something new we have just put into operation.

Think about it – you would be doing a good thing for your Town, your Neighborhood and You.

Thanks,  
Nancy Conklin



*Left to right: Bill Maroney, Paul Eden, Melva Howell, David Hudson and Richard Kovach (very back). Maureen Graham, Wayne Graham, Mayor Tom Eschenberg, Nancy Conklin.*

# Town Happenings . . .

## TRASH BASH

Keep Brevard Beautiful is a non-profit organization that started in 1981 and is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. The entire month of April is considered Trash Bash Month. There is one day set aside for friendly competition within the County and that date is **Saturday April 18, 2009 from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.** The competition is aimed at encouraging local residents to participate in special clean-ups in their communities to clean those often forgotten areas. Any other *special* clean-ups scheduled for April will also be included in the competition. Malabar Town Hall is the Malabar sign-in site and Malabar's Public Works Manager Carl Beatty will act as the Site Captain again this

year. He will also treat the volunteers to pizza and soda served on Solo Cup paperware afterwards at the Town Hall. Last year we had 48 volunteers that collected 120 bags of litter. Malabar's Scouts and the Malabar

Mariners are two of our largest participants. Get your Neighborhood Watch Group involved or your Homeowners Association Members involved – let's have some friendly competition. Please come out and join in this worthy cause. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather, get some exercise and help keep our community clean. Waste Management has been a major supporter of this event over the years in donating the three (3) \$500.00 cash awards. The cash is then given to a charity of the winner's choosing. Malabar has won in our category for most of the years we have participated. Other great supporters of this event are Pepsi, Solo, Publix, Wrigley, Honda, Glad, Firestone, Sams Club, Troy-Bilt, Sprint, Atlantic Intracoastal and Scotts Miracle Grow.

## From the Malabar Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

The Malabar Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. will be holding a fund raiser by selling Christmas trees in front of the park this year. There will be signs posted around town to let residents know when the trees are available for purchase. Talena King, President of the Corporation, has advised the Town Council that residents will be able to purchase a tree at a discounted price. You will need to provide proof of residency. If your household sports a real tree during the holiday season, come out and support your local fire department.

## Join the Recycling Crowd Today

No membership fee required! You just set your recycle bin(s) out on collection day. In Malabar, collection day is Saturday. Recycle everything you can. Waste Management (WM) now accepts mixed materials in your recycle bin. They will collect aluminum, steel cans, glass bottles and jars and ALL plastic bottles (but no motor oil, herbicides, pesticides or pool chemicals) and new this month: newspapers, office paper, junk mail, magazines, catalogs and phone books. They will also take shredded paper as long as it is in paper bags. All year long you can make a difference for the environment. You can use the recycle bins provided by WM or request one by logging on to [brevardrecycles.org](http://brevardrecycles.org) (or you can call 321-633-2043) and request your FREE curbside bin (you can even ask for two if your family plans to recycle a lot). In about 2 weeks, you'll have your new bin. Place it in your kitchen (or near your trash can) so you don't forget to recycle; out of sight, out of mind!

Did you know...

- we throw away enough aluminum cans to rebuild a commercial airline fleet every three months
- every day Americans buy 62 million newspapers and trash 44 million

## PROPER ADDRESS MARKING OF OCCUPANCIES FOR EMERGENCY USE

Malabar is rural and many homes and businesses are set back from the roadway. If the building is not clearly visible from the public or private way, an additional building number must be placed in a manner easily visible from a public or private way.

The size of lettering and numbers will be determined by occupancy as follows:

- Single-family dwelling: Minimum of four (4) inches in height and one-half (1/2) inch in width.
- Other residential and all commercial: Minimum of six (6) inches in height and one (1) inch in width.
- All letters and numbers shall be in a contrasting color to the immediate background of the building or structure on which they are affixed.

Please take notice of this requirement and bring your addressing requirements into compliance – it could save your life. If further assistance is required, you may call the Building Department at 321-727-7764, ext. 14.

# HURRICANE SEASON IS JU

As you all know, hurricane season is here. There have been predictions of a bad season this year. We all know the damage and devastation that these storms can cause. We would like to give you some basic information regarding hurricane precautions, preparations and safety issues. Also provided are lists for a hurricane shelter and a disaster supply kit.

## Before Hurricane Season starts:

1. Check your insurance policy for the proper coverage. If you are not sure of the coverage, call your insurance company and express your concerns. They will be able to provide you with advice on this matter.
2. Know the hurricane risks in your area; determine whether you live in a potential flood zone.
3. Know where the hurricane shelters are in your area.
4. Prepare a personal evacuation plan with your family.
5. Trim your trees and shrubs.
6. Buy plywood or shutters to protect the doors and windows of your home.
7. Make sure that your emergency equipment (flashlights & battery operated radios) are working. Make sure you have enough batteries on hand.
8. Make sure that you have enough non-perishable food and water for a two-week period. The electric could be off for some time. Also, make sure that you have a hand-held can opener. This is very important if your electric is not functioning.

## Before the Storm:

1. Listen to the radio frequently for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
2. Fuel and service family vehicles.
3. Have extra cash on hand.
4. Inspect and make sure your home is as secure as you can make it.

5. Check your non-perishable food and water supply. If needed, stock up as quickly as you can.
6. Fill all of your sinks and bathtubs with water. This will come in handy for bathing and flushing toilets, especially those of us with well/septic system homes.
7. Cover all windows and doors with shutters or other shielding materials.
8. Check batteries, first aid supplies and medications that you may need during the storm. If you are low on your prescription medications, call your doctor immediately so that you have time to get the prescription medications from the pharmacy. This is a very important issue.
9. Bring all lightweight objects, such as garbage cans, garden tools, toys, and lawn furniture inside. This will keep these items from flying if the winds are strong and causing damage to someone else's property.

## During the Storm:

1. Listen closely to the radio for official bulletins as to the storms progress.
2. Follow instructions issued by local officials. **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IF TOLD TO DO SO!**
3. If you are evacuating, leave, if possible, during daylight hours. Stay with friends/relatives, stay at a low-rise inland hotel/motel, or go to a pre-designated public shelter outside a flood zone.
4. Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.
5. If you are evacuating, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND.** If you can, find a shelter that will allow you to bring your pets, whether it's a shelter or another means of shelter.
6. Move to a safe area before you are cut off by floodwaters.
7. Turn off all propane tanks.

# JUST AROUND THE CORNER

8. Unplug all small appliances and shut down any and all computers. Make sure that your computer equipment is placed high up off the floor and you may want to cover it in plastic as extra protection.
9. If you are staying in your home, turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting and leave it closed.

## After the Storm:

1. Listen to the radio for official bulletins of the storm.
2. Keep abreast of road conditions through the media. Wait until an area has been declared safe before entering.

3. Do not attempt to drive across flowing water. As little as 6" of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle – 2 feet of water can carry most cars away.
4. Stay away from standing water. It may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
5. Have professionals check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
6. Use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles and other open flames indoors.
7. Use tap water for drinking and cooking only when officials say it is safe to do so.
8. Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

## What to Bring to a Shelter:

First-aid kit	Flashlight (one per person)	Prescription medicines
Extra batteries	Baby food & diapers	Blankets or sleeping bags
Cards, games, books	Identification	Toiletries
Credit card or cash	Battery-powered radio	Valuable papers (insurance)

## A Disaster Supplies Kit Should Include:

3-day supply of water (1 gal. per person/day)	Prescription medicines	Emergency tools
Non-perishable food	One blanket or sleeping bag (per person)	Flashlight, extra batteries
One change of clothes & shoes per person	Battery-powered NWR** and portable radio	Extra set/car keys & credit card or cash
		Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members

\*\*NWR=National Weather Radio

We hope that this information will prove to be helpful to you and your families. Please put this portion of the newsletter in a safe place, and pull it out as a handy reminder checklist for you. In times of emergencies, when everyone is rushed to get things completed and prepared, it is not easy to remember all that we need to take with us or the things that need to be taken care before we have to leave our homes. Use these lists as gentle reminders in times of hurricane emergencies.

# Watering Restrictions

## Know Your Days

For more information or questions about the watering restrictions, please call (800) 232-0904.

Mandatory lawn watering restrictions specify the days when you may water. These days depend on whether you have an odd or even numbered address, and the time of year.

Time of year	Home with odd numbered or no addresses	Home with even numbered addresses	Nonresidential properties
Daylight saving time	Wednesday/Saturday	Thursday/Sunday	Tuesday/Friday
Eastern Standard Time	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

- Daylight saving time:  
Second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November
- Eastern Standard Time:  
First Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March
- Water only when needed and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Water for no more than one hour per zone.
- Restrictions apply to private wells and pumps, ground or surface water and water from public and private utilities.
- Some exceptions apply.



## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater: The flow of water that results from precipitation and which occurs immediately following rainfall or as a result of snowmelt.

When a rainfall event occurs, several things can happen to the precipitation. Some of the precipitation infiltrates into the soil surface, some is taken up by plants, and some is evaporated into the atmosphere. Stormwater is the rest of the precipitation that runs off land surfaces and impervious areas.

Stormwater discharges are generated by precipitation and runoff from land, pavements, building rooftops and other surfaces. These hardened surfaces are called "impervious surfaces" and they do not allow rainfall to infiltrate into the soil surface like natural vegetation, so more of the rainfall becomes stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff accumulates pollutants such as oil and grease, chemicals, nutrients, metals, and bacteria as it travels across land. Heavy precipitation or snowmelt can also cause sewer overflows that may contaminate water sources with untreated human and industrial waste, toxic materials, and other debris.

## Why be concerned about Stormwater?

Why be concerned about Stormwater? Stormwater runoff can have a number of impacts. As development and

imperviousness increase in an area, the natural capacity of the soil and vegetation to infiltrate and take up rainfall decreases, and more rainfall becomes stormwater runoff. This can produce negative impacts by causing erosion of land areas and stream banks, by causing or increasing flooding and also by carrying pollutants to surface waters. When more houses, roads and businesses are constructed, water has nowhere to go and can cause serious drainage, pollutant, and sanitation problems.

### Continuing development can cause:

- Increased Imperviousness
- Impact to Streambanks
- Increased Runoff
- Erosion/Sedimentation
- Increased Pollutants

## How Stormwater Is Carried to Surface Waters

Stormwater runoff may be carried through natural or manmade drainage ways or conveyance systems. In some cases stormwater runoff leaves a site spread out over a large dispersed area as "sheet flow." It may also be conveyed through natural ditches, swales and natural drainage features. In most developing and urbanizing areas, stormwater is conveyed through a system of catch basins and pipes commonly referred to as a storm sewer system.

(con't on pg 7)

## Public Awareness of the Potential Impacts of Stormwater Runoff

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Public awareness is an important part of stormwater pollutant reduction. Unfortunately not everyone is currently aware that the decisions they make can have an impact on stormwater pollution. As an example, some people assume that stormwater runoff that enters a storm sewer system is being routed to some type of treatment process before entering our surface waters. In Florida, there is no pre-treatment of stormwater. Storm sewer systems are designed simply to capture the stormwater and convey it to the nearest surface water.

## Activities that Citizens can be Involved with to Help Control Stormwater Pollution

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Many of our daily activities have the potential to cause stormwater pollution. Any situation where activities can contribute more pollutants to stormwater runoff is an area that should be considered in attempts to minimize impacts. The list below is certainly not all inclusive, but it gives an idea of things citizens can do to help control stormwater pollution.

- Maintain buffer areas around stream segments to protect stream banks and to provide a mechanism for pollutant removal.
- Minimize impervious areas to reduce runoff.
- Design all new construction to prevent or minimize runoff and stormwater pollution – a major component here is planning up front in the design process to consider and manage potential stormwater problems.
- Practice “good housekeeping” by keeping areas clean of potentially harmful pollutants. This also may involve changing activities or practices if they have potential impacts.
- Use lawn care practices that protect water quality – minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and when used, do so in a safe manner. When possible incorporate native plant species since they are best adapted to the local growing conditions and tend to be naturally pest resistant.
- Properly use and store household materials and be aware of and make use of local recycling and collection centers to handle household wastes.
- Remember that any materials that are poured or placed on the ground, streets, driveways, etc. can be picked up and carried by stormwater runoff to our surface waters
- Report any pollution, illegal dumping, or soil erosion that you see to the appropriate authorities.
- Get involved with local efforts for public education, water quality monitoring, stream cleanup, recycling, etc.

## Wild Fire Season

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We are in the wild fire season once again. Staff would like to provide some tips to use in protecting your home and property. Town Council adopted Ordinance 2008-08 at the RTCM of October 20, 2008. This ordinance allows pruning or removal of trees under certain circumstances; wild fires would be one of the circumstances. For removal of trees, you will need to make contact with the Building Department for the necessary permit(s).

Here are some low or no cost tips in protecting your home and property:

- Create a defensible space around structures – 30 to 100 feet away from the structure depending on exposure to natural vegetation areas.
- Move combustible materials, such as wood piles, away from structures.
- Thin out ornamental shrubs and bushes; remove dead vegetation.
- Cut back dead or dying tree limbs, especially those that overhang the roof and all vegetation within 10 feet of a chimney.
- Mow grass and cut back low-to-ground vegetation (ivy, vines, and weeds) to three to six inches high.
- Keep 12 to 18 inches of bare ground between structures and grasses or other vegetation.
- Keep areas around the home clear so emergency vehicles have easy access.
- Ask your local building or fire department about developing a fire protection plan.

Here are some affordable and higher cost tips:

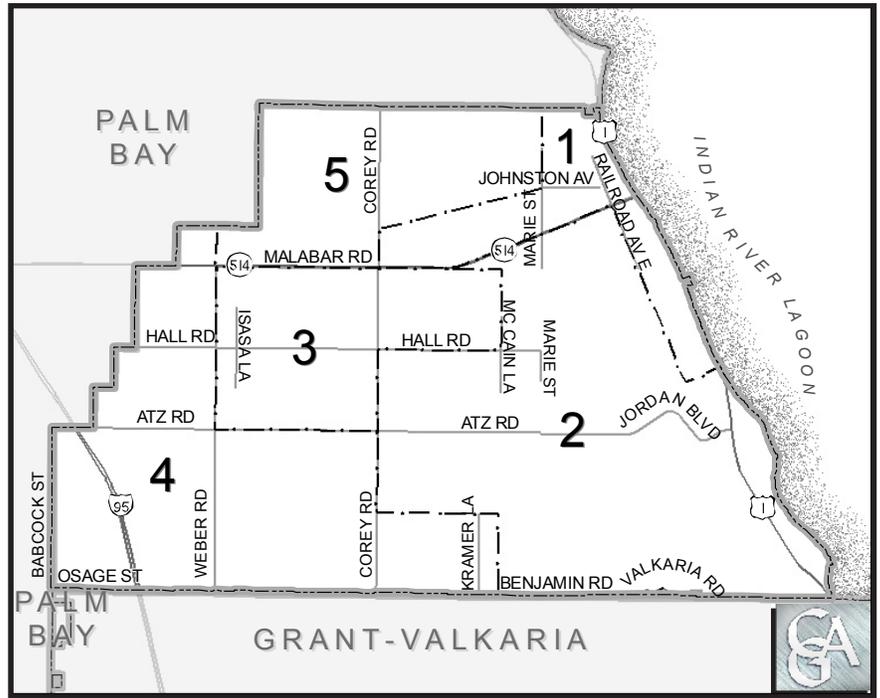
- Fire-retardant roof materials such as tile or roof coverings identified as Class A or steel. Approximate cost over traditional roofing materials: \$2,500 (based on a two-story, 2,000 sq. ft. home).
- Tempered or multiple pane windows to reduce heat and protect against wind and debris that can break windows and allow fire to enter the home. Approximate cost: about 20% more than non-tempered or single pane windows.
- Residential fire sprinkler systems to extinguish fire that may enter the home and prevent structural fires from spreading to the Wildland. Approximate cost: \$1.50 - \$2 per sq. ft. (\$3,000-\$4,000 based on a two-story, 2,000 sq. ft. home).
- Fire resistant building materials for exterior walls or siding. Approximate cost: \$9,000 (based on a two-story, 2,000 sq. ft. home with brick veneer).

All costs are approximate, may not include labor and may vary due to local economic conditions.

**Know Your Representatives on Council**

The Council members to the left represent these districts:

- District 1:** Nancy Borton  
724-1540 141 Riverview Dr.
- District 2:** Brian Vail  
952-9110 2700 Smith Lane
- District 3:** Steve Rivet  
956-6551 2005 Rivet Lane
- District 4:** Jeffrey McKnight  
722-1243 2005 Flashy Lane
- District 5:** Pat Dezman  
724-5817 1670 Country Cove
- Mayor:** Tom Eschenberg  
724-1007 2835 Beran Lane
- Town Administrator** Bonilyn Wilbanks-Free  
Town Hall 727-7764 x13
- Town Clerk/ Treasurer** Debby Franklin  
Town Hall 727-7764 x12
- Town Fax** 722-2234
- County Comm.** Trudie Infantini, Dist. 3  
952-6300



**St. John's River Water Mgmt District** [www.sjrwm.com](http://www.sjrwm.com)

Editor - Debby Franklin [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org)

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