



# THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 1 NO. 2 2nd QUARTER 1995

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.

## BRUSH FIRE SEASON IN FULL SWING

With the recent lack of rain and the kids about to be finished with school for the summer, brush fires are sure to become more common. Brush fires frequently spread rapidly out of control endangering lives and property. During vacation, children may become bored and start seeking adventure. We hope you as parents, teachers, and mentors educate our youth on the dangers of fire and strive to keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of young children.



Here are some tips to share on brush fire safety:

- Clear all pine needles and pine cones from soffits and gutters
- Cut back scrub palmetto around fences and structures
- Areas used for outdoor cooking and fuel storage tanks should be at least 30 feet from a structure
- Children should be asked to stay out of wooded areas during dry periods

- A garden hose should be attached to a bib and accessible

If a brush fire occurs near your home:

- Close all windows
- Call 911 immediately
- Remove curtains away from windows
- Keep children and pets inside
- If you are requested to evacuate, take medications, small valuables, children and pets only and lock all doors
- Turn air conditioner down to cool interior
- Do not reenter the house after you are asked to evacuate
- Yield to all fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles
- Get out of the area. Do not enter the fire area or become a spectator

Report all fires immediately, no matter how small.

Kevin Bouley, *Fire Marshal*

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dear Citizens,

We've been very busy since the last Newsletter. The Parks Board is moving along with the construction of the Malabar Community Park. We have a bid from Custom Docks to construct a walk bridge over the lake in the park. This bridge will be handicap accessible, provide a place to fish from our stocked lake and will be paid for by a State Grant.



We have advertised for playground equipment for Huggins Park that will be funded with a Recycle Grant.

Our Public Works Building, on Centre Street behind Town Hall, is finished and is a real asset. It will certainly preserve our equipment. The Public Works Department has been rebuilding dirt roads. This will take time to complete but will be ongoing until completed. To date, we have completed Delaware Ave., Eva Lane and Benjamin Road. We have repaired the shoulders on Briar Creek Blvd. and will be resurfacing the street this week. Then the Brookhollow Homeowners' Association will be planting greenery along Briar Creek.

The Department of Transportation will be closing the railroad crossing on Malabar Road for three days in the next couple of weeks for repairs. Please watch the newspaper for details. We finally got our permits for the turn lane on Malabar Road in front of the Post Office. Construction should start in July.

Our franchise with Time Warner Cable expires next year, so we are negotiating a new contract. We would like to hear from the residents concerning any complaints or praise that you might have concerning your cable TV.

We are preparing the Budget for next year. Please watch for the meeting dates. This is YOUR Town, and you should have an interest in how your money is spent.

I continue to be available to answer questions or comments citizens may have. Please write, call (727-7764), or stop by my office located in the Town Hall.

Thank you for your time,

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

William Hall

# MALABAR FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Malabar Fire Department closed out the first 4 months of the year having responded to 100 calls. This includes 6 structure fires, 14 brush fires, 8 vehicle fires, 71 emergency medical calls, and 1 Hazmat (hazardous material incident).



HELP! There are always projects around the station that we never have time to start or complete. "There are never enough hours in the day." If you have expertise in the areas of electronics, electrical, concrete or block, we need your help. Many residents don't have the time to join us full time, but may have a minimal amount of time to help us with small projects around the station. If you wish to help, call the station at 725-1030, and leave your name and phone number. We will gladly get back with you.

The Firematics Team has started training for this year's competition on October 7th at Gleason Park in Indian Harbour Beach. This is an annual competition of firefighting and rescue techniques held between volunteer departments within the County. Last year we placed second; this year we hope to bring home the Gold! We encourage all of you to come out, and support your team at the practices and competition.

We are always in search of new members, both men and women. No special skill or previous experience is required. If you are interested in learning more about the Malabar Fire Department, or are interested in joining, stop by the station for an application.

The department meets every Thursday night for training or business meetings, but your station is manned the majority of the time to take your calls. We welcome you to stop by anytime to visit or for a tour.

Charles D. McClelland, *Fire Chief*

## SPECIAL NOTE

Town Administrator Bill Hall has been recently elected as Secretary/Treasurer to the Brevard County Public Management Association. Congratulations.

# Town Happenings . . .

## Cemetery Renovation

The historic Malabar Cemetery, located north of Town Hall, is due for a cleanup. The cemetery which has been vandalized and unkempt for quite some time will be cleaned up as a project by the Boy Scouts of America. John Sineath, who is working toward his Eagle Scout, along with Troop 365, will begin the work soon. Local historian Anne Crane has provided the names and circumstances relating to the deaths of the 16 past residents who were buried on the site. The Town of Malabar plans to erect a monument listing the deceased whose grave markers have long since been destroyed.

## New Town Clerk steps in

Susan Kilian began her duties as Town Clerk/Treasurer on March 31, 1995, when Rosalie Lasky retired. Susan grew up in the area and graduated from a local high school and Brevard Community College. Her background is in corporate accounting. Her hobbies include needlework, tatting, and orchid growing. She is the leader of Brownie Troop 1245 and has two children. We welcome Susan to her new position.



We also welcome our new Deputy Town Clerk, Debby Franklin who took Susan's place when she became Town Clerk.

## Lots of Trash

The Town of Malabar was awarded 1st PLACE by Keep Brevard Beautiful for the 1995 TRASH BASH. The event, originally scheduled for April 1st but postponed because of rain, was held April 22nd across the Space Coast. Malabar won the award for "Most Trash per Capita" collected that Saturday. The final total was 960 lbs. of trash (160 lbs. recyclable). The 12 volunteers cleaned a stretch of 6 miles collecting 48 trash bags full.

A plaque made from recycled aluminum cans was presented to Malabar's Trash Bash Chairman, John Kelvington, by Keep Brevard Beautiful Director Marguerita Engel and Harris Sanitation's Peter Jurgel, cosponsor of the event, at the League of Cities dinner held May 8, 1995. Thank you to ALL the volunteers who helped clean up our community.

## Farewell to Clerk

A final farewell was bid to Town Clerk Rosalie Lasky at a banquet held April 20th at the Port Malabar Country Club. Rosie was to retire in February but stayed on to help the new Town Clerk get acclimated when deputy clerk Joan Borcenk passed away unexpectedly. Rosie's eight years with the Town of Malabar were rewarded with accolades from council, co-workers, friends, and family. Yovone Rasor presented a plaque and a gold watch from the Town as the highlight of the evening.



## PICNIC

The Town of Malabar's annual picnic was held March 11, 1995 at the Fire Department Park grounds. Postponed from an earlier date because of tropical storm Gordon, the Saturday event was well attended. A craft show was held in conjunction with the picnic as well as a dunking booth for council members and others. Woody's Bar-B-Que catered the event, and the highlight of the picnic was the Firematics Team demonstration. They showed the onlookers the "jaws of life" in action and an old fashion "bucket brigade."

### 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.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

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The Town of Malabar requires that permits be obtained through the Building Department for all construction and land improvement within the town limits of Malabar. The purpose of the permitting procedure is to assure the individual, who is applying for the permit, that the design and construction materials are sound and up to code. Permitting also confirms that the contractors are properly licensed and insured.

In the case of land improvement, The permitting process protects you, the landowner, and your surrounding neighbors, from the possibility of unforeseen flooding and erosion.

The permitting process is your assurance that the Town will work in your best interest during your construction or land improvement projects.

David Beaudry, *Code Enforcement*

## MALABAR COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE

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Progress is being made on phase 1 of the new community park. Funded in part by a state grant, the 20-acre park will soon have a wooden pedestrian bridge over its 3.8-acre man-made lake. Also the Town has applied for a tree grant from the *Plant a Tree Trust Fund Program* operated by the Florida State Department of Agriculture. The grant would provide over 120 trees, all native to Florida, including Slash Pines, Live Oaks, and Dahoon Holly. These trees are important to the endangered Scrub Jay population and will tie in nicely with the adjacent 345-acre county Scrub Sanctuary. If you have the time or talent to donate in helping build this park, please contact Bill Hall 727-7764.

**HUGGINS PARK** will soon have swings, slides, monkey bars, springy animals to ride and a merry-go-round. The Town is planning to purchase these park play items in the near future. Huggins park is located on Johnston Street.

## COUNCIL MEMBER PROFILE

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Phillip Roger Crews, 50, has lived in Malabar since November 1986 when he retired from a 20 year career in the United States Air Force.

Crews was born in Vincennes, Indiana, the son of an Illinois farmer. He moved with his family to Eau Gallie when he was 13 years old and attended Melbourne High School.

After his graduation from Mel High in 1963, he attended Brevard Community College in Cocoa receiving his Associate of Arts degree in 1966. He then joined the Air Force, working as an electronics and computer technician until he received a scholarship to attend the University of Southern California to study cinema.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts from USC, he worked as a film director and producer for the Air Force in southern California, Vietnam, Florida, Alaska and Ohio. He subsequently earned his Master of Science Degree in Systems Management from USC and spent three years teaching management at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

After retiring from the Air Force, Crews went to work for Palm Bay's Q-Bit Corporation which manufactures Radio-Frequency amplifiers. He serves as

the corporation's Manager of Human Resources, Accounting and Management Information Systems departments. He also oversees the corporation's security programs.

Crews has served on the United Way of Brevard County Board of Directors and as Vice President of Funds Distribution. During his five years of volunteer service to the United Way, he chaired various budget review committees. He resigned from the United Way in 1994 to devote time to the Town of Malabar. He then served as a member of Malabar's Planning and Zoning Board until he was elected to Town Council in November 1994.

As a council member, he represents the town as a member of the Valkaria Airport Advisory Board and is liaison to the Planning and Zoning Board. He was recently elected as the Council's Vice Chairman.

Crews is married to Ethel Maxam Crews, a novelist and Florida Today correspondent. They live on three acres of land, which they purchased almost 15 years ago to be close to Ethel's parents, Paul and Gertrude Maxam, longtime Malabar residents. The Crews have two daughters, Alyssa, 20, a junior studying psychology at Rollins College, and Tiffany, 24, a third-year law student at Florida State University.

## Volunteers Needed for a Good Cause!

Here is a great opportunity for you to make a difference. Chairman of Council, Yovone Rasor is organizing a volunteer group of citizens to help their neighbors. Seniors who can't do their lawn work any more, physically handicapped folks who need a hand with trash removal or cleanups, towns-people who can't afford help with household projects will benefit by this volunteer group. "I'd like the community to pull together and get a chance to know each other. This would be a great way to do it."

Yovone and her husband Gary are willing to donate a Saturday afternoon a month for this cause. They hope you will too. Please call Malabar Town Hall at 727-7764 to volunteer or if you need assistance.

## Newest Council Member

Former Council member Jim Hurley resigned his seat in Malabar's 5th District in March to accept a position with a company in Rochester, NY. The Town presented a plaque to him in thanks for his service as Chairperson of Council.



Appointed to replace him was Connie Chiles-Cooke who was sworn in at the Monday, April 3 Town Council Meeting. Council woman Chiles-Cooke has lived in Brevard County since 1968 and resided in Malabar since 1990.

## Changes to the Town Charter

The present Charter for the Town of Malabar was written in 1985, and many changes have occurred in government since that time. One good example would be that if the Town does not have something covered in its own Charter, the Charter for Brevard County would prevail. In January, the Town Council appointed a Charter Review Committee with one member from each district. This committee went through the Charter to update it to be consistent with and make recommendations for changes necessitated by omissions on the original document. They submitted their recommendations to Town Council on May 1, 1995 for Council's review and comment.

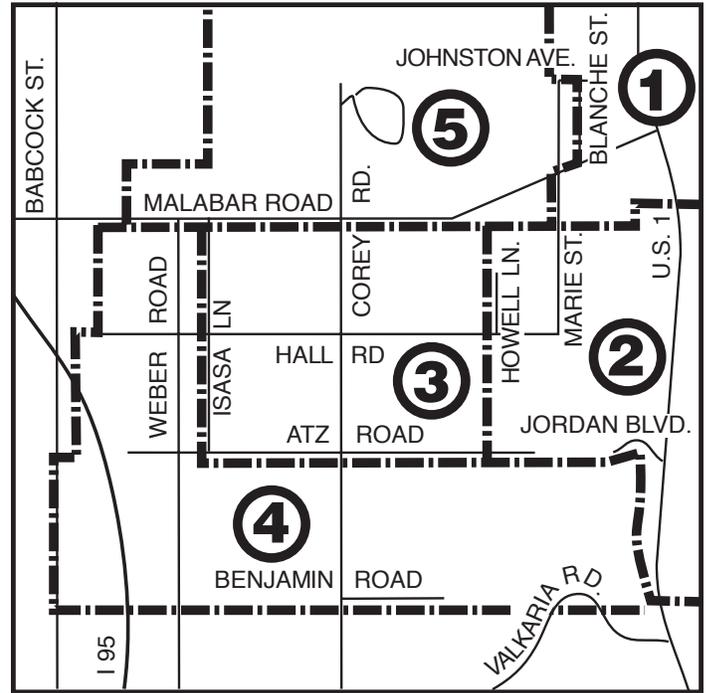
The committee recommended that the Town of Malabar remain *rural* in nature and the type government shall remain a *strong council*. Here are the basic changes/enhancements other than obvious typos and style corrections:

- Section 1.04: 'Under Florida Statutes' changed to 'as required by law'.
- Any candidate for office must have 15 valid signatures, this being recommended by the Supervisor of Elections Office, as opposed to a percentage. The petition must be turned in not less than 45 days and not more than 60 days prior to election, this giving the Clerk's Office time to validate signatures and send necessary paperwork to Elections Office.
- The Mayor would be the Chairperson so all Members of Council can make a motion. Changing the residency requirement (on the advice of attorney) from three years to one year and changing the length of term to four years beginning in the year 2000. Changing the length of term would accomplish two things: the Mayor would have continuity with the Council members changing every two years, and the Mayoral election would fall in the same year as a presidential election . . .greater voter turnout!!
- In case of multiple candidates for one office, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be the winner (eliminating the need for a runoff).
- An election would be held only if there is more than one year left in a term.
- Meeting requirements would change from 'twice a month' to 'not less than once a month, and an emergency meeting may be called' (it will take an ordinance to define emergency).
- Quorum definition would change from 'majority' to 'three members'.
- Town Council may assign the duties of Treasurer to an appointed Treasurer.
- Attorney may recommend the appointment of Assistant Town Attorneys.
- Under section 3.06: 'as set forth in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the Town'. This way if the Comp Plan changes, you do not need to change the Charter.
- Budget statement changed to 'Governmental Uniform Accounting System set forth by the Department of Banking and Finance of the State of Florida'.
- All of section 901 is new and provides for amendments to Charter. The legal description of Malabar is Attachment "A". The Committee suggested to Council that the Attorney review this presentation and prepare the necessary ordinance and/or resolution to place any or all recommendations on the November ballot.

## Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Phillip Crews 2480 Johnston Avenue	951-0422
District 2	Julane Kikla 2730 Rocky Point Road	676-3698
District 3	John Detwiler 1780 Eva Lane	725-7759
District 4	Yovone Rasor 3165 Kramer Lane	722-2627
District 5	Connie Chiles-Cooke 1030 Hollow Brook Lane	984-9613
Mayor	Jerry Durand 1460 Hall Road	724-0123
Town Administrator	Bill Hall Town Hall	727-7764
Town Clerk/ Treas.	Susan Kilian Town Hall	727-7764



Town Administrator & Editor - WILLIAM HALL 723-3261 FAX 722-2234



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