



# 'THE MAILBOAT'



VOLUME 13 NO. 2 3rd 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.

## Candidate Qualifying

**C**andidate Qualifying is upon us once again! If you live in either District 4 or District 5, you can take an active part in shaping the future. The Council Member seats for Districts 4 and 5 are up for election this November and **candidate qualifying begins August 17<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>**. Bobbi Moccia has held the District 4 seat for the past six years and due to Malabar's three-term limit she can no longer run. Patricia Dezman has held the District 5 seat since April 2005.

To be eligible to qualify you must be at least 18 years of age and able to prove that you have lived within the town

limits for the past year. Qualifying consists of obtaining 15 signatures of registered voters from your district and filling out the necessary paperwork. The packets can be picked up at Town Hall. Confused about what district you live in? Look at the back page of this newsletter to determine your district, or look online at [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org) and click on the Town Officials page.

Just a reminder that though you need to live within the district you wish to qualify for, in Malabar we vote 'at large' which means that all registered voters in Malabar will vote on all seats on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Meet our new Town Administrator, Bonilyn Wilbanks-Free

It has been two months since I took the position as your Town Administrator. I hope that everyone has had a chance to read the news articles that were written about me as it fills in all the blanks about where I have been professionally to the present day. Since my tenure began it has been an interesting journey for me. I have met a lot of the residents who have stopped by Town Hall for various reasons or I have spoken to you on the phone and by email. Malabar is a busy little Town! Staff has done an excellent job helping me learn the history on people, places, problems and general day-to-day operations, and for that I am very thankful. Residents have also lent their historical knowledge on issues as well, which has been helpful. All this information combined has really helped me to get acclimated quicker to the job.

There are several things that I have implemented as soon as I got here and I know that some of you have

written me and let me know how much you appreciate a timely response to your inquiries. I consider my communications with residents to be a priority everyday. I try to respond to every phone call the same day, and I do this by phone or email. You will hear my staff ask you for details of the reason you are calling and I know that you may feel that is redundant when you are going to be telling it all to me. However, staff will provide me with background information which lets me have a more productive conversation with you when we do speak so please answer their questions. In addition, I have asked staff to please attempt to always get an email address from you and the best time of day to call. Some of you have been the recipients of my late night or very early morning email responses, as I work on these matters at all hours. Email has afforded me a greater opportunity to be more responsive to you, so please provide it if you would like a quicker response than snail mail.

# General Items

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By Mayor Tom Eschenberg

At the time of this writing, the Town Council at their last meeting, will consider the creation of a "Board of Honor" to be placed in the Town Hall. The purpose of this project is to post the pictures and a brief bio of active duty military service men and women with a Malabar connection. This would include resident's children and grandchildren as well as active duty personnel who formerly lived in Malabar. By the time of this newsletter publication, the Council should have made a decision. If you know someone who should be posted in the "Board of Honor", call the Town Hall for information as to whether the Council approved this project.

## TAXES

For those who have not been following the goings-on in Tallahassee, the Legislature in a June special session passed two bills. The first one will give people a small reduction in their ad valorem tax. According to published figures, the average combined county and city tax reduction will be \$174. A roll back of ad valorem taxes to 2005/2006 is required. In addition, a further reduction of up to 9% is required depending on how much a government entity has raised taxes over the last five years. Malabar's percentage is 5. The Town Council will have to make tough budget decisions to reduce spending by about \$54,000. The second bill passed is for a proposed constitutional amendment to be voted on in January during the Presidential primary. A 60% majority is required for approval. There will be much publicity and propaganda about this amendment as we get closer to the vote, probably reaching a peak after Christmas. This amendment is known as the "Super Homestead" and would appear to benefit most, those people who have purchased a house in the last few years. The Counties and Cities most likely will fight this amendment with the

claim that they will loose so much revenue that services will have to be drastically cut back. Be sure to educate yourself on this amendment so you may cast an intelligent vote in January.

## MSTU

After a long contentious battle with the County, the Town Council passed the MSTU tax for Sheriff protection. As a result, the County Commission decided not to pursue a lawsuit against Malabar. This new tax will appear on your tax bill this November as the line item "Law Enforcement MSTU". It should amount to a little less than \$87 per \$100,000 of your taxable value. The Council also passed a companion ordinance to have a binding referendum starting in November 2008 and every two years thereafter, to let the people decide if they want to continue paying the MSTU tax.

## TRASH

Keep Brevard Beautiful and Waste Management sponsor a County-wide Trash Bash every year during the month of April. Volunteers all over the County go out and pick up trash. Each city has their own volunteers. Waste Management awards \$500 to the city or town that collects the most trash in their population group. Malabar has won in their group for a number of years in a row, thanks mainly to our Boy Scout troop. The Town Council then awards the \$500 to the Boy Scouts. While this is a wonderful project, trash continues to accumulate along the roads and in the ditches all year long. We should all be volunteers and pick up any trash along the road or in the ditch in front of our own property at least every two or three months. This would make Malabar an even more beautiful place to live. Also, it is great exercise.

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## Budget Timetable for FY 2007/2008

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July 16	Regular Council Meeting, tentative millage adopted, schedule first budget hearing
August 2	Budget Workshop #1 @ 7:30 pm in Council Chambers
August 9	Budget Workshop #2 @ 7:30 pm in Council Chambers
August 31	Final proposed budget delivered to Council
Sept. 5	Budget Hearing to adopt tentative millage & proposed budget @ 7:30 in Council Chambers
Sept. 17	Final Budget Hearing @ 7:30 in Council Chambers

# Malabar Springfest was a blast

## as seen through the eyes of one of Malabar's residents...

It was a HOT TIME in the 'ol town this year - mainly because we had to postpone our first date in April and go with the first Saturday in May. But, we survived and hope that everyone had fun. You're probably glad you bought a newly-designed Town of Malabar tank top and/or new light-weight tee this year. They do look nice, don't they? And, the bands - kept us in continual best ever music. How nice that the Mayor (and Mrs. Mayor) drove all the way back from Georgia to enjoy the events of the day. Our new Town Administrator, Bonilyn, had just arrived in town, and chose to attend our Malabar Spring Fest. She said it was a good event to come to! Can we say that folks come from all around to enjoy the festivities?

I heard the pony rides were fantastic - bet all three of 'em slept good that night. Ya know, I wish I were a kid again, then I could have had a pony pix, enjoyed the bouncy house and slide, plus eat all the hot dogs and hamburgers and hot popcorn my tummy could hold and still participate in the kid games. Wow! The goodie bags were so much fun for them to open - just what they love at a festival. And then there was the dunk tank. I know it felt good going under. Perhaps the sign-up sheet will be much longer next year. Let's see, what else did I want to talk about. Oh yes, the food - delish! And of course, the liquid refreshment is always tasty in the heat. How'd you like the truck for serving beer?

Craft Booths - nothing tops looking and buying from under a tent outdoors.

Did you get your face painted? I mean kiddos AND adults? There was a CONSTANT line for this activity. I'm going to have mine painted next year, for sure.

How about the Opening and Closing ceremonies? Scouts, and their leaders, do a wonderful job. Thanks.

Bee Man - were you here too? I know I'm ready for a new jar of your famous honey.

Our very own Fire Department - demo and then get called out on a run - how exciting is that seeing your very own fire truck speed off like lightning??

And the boats, WOW! What fun. Were your eyes totally whipped from looking at all the stuff on this great day?

Alpacas, and llamas and fur, oh boy! Do you know how SOFT alpaca fur is? Oh meeeeeeee!

Thanks to all who participated in the scorching heat - guests, workers, planners. We love the effort y'all bring forth.

I understand the Springfest Committee was interested in your survey/comments. They appreciate the time you took to do this and will remember your suggestions for next year. Until then, let's all plan to come out and have as much fun, if not more, next year.

Pssssttt: I hear were having a Fall Fest this year (with chili) - Oh goody! Another fun time.

Regards, One Happy Townee

## Do you know...511

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You have travel information at your finger tips? The FDOT has provided a free service to everyone in Central Florida. Call 511 for travel information. The expanded Central Florida system provides major road travel times, as well as airport, public transportation and seaport information. Expanded 511 features are:

- Available 24 hours a day
- Toll-free call with voice activated menus
- Cell phone or land line use
- Travel times on major roads
- Roadway, segment or summary reporting
- Construction and lane closure updates
- Severe weather, evacuation and child abduction alerts
- Access to regional and statewide 511 systems
- Customer feedback option

Visit [www.FL511.com](http://www.FL511.com) to see what information you can obtain before leaving for any trip you may have planned or just for your regular work day. You can also call, from any phone, 511 and get specific information regarding areas that you may be traveling in or around.

# HURRICANE SEASON

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. I 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.

# IS UPON US

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.
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.

## 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.

## 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.

## PASSED RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

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These are the Resolutions and Ordinances that passed or failed since the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2006 newsletter:

Ordinances:	2006-09	Board Member Seats
	2006-13	Malabar Comp Plan Changes
	2006-14	Millage 06/07
	2006-15	Budget 06/07
	2006-16	Maximum Building Coverage
	2006-17	Sewer System
	2006-18	Junked, Abandoned Property
	2006-19	Bed & Breakfast
	2007-03	Political Signs
	2007-04	Site Lighting
	2007-05	Enacting Sheriff MSTU
	2007-06	Periodic Elections for Sheriff MSTU
	2007-10	Adoption of Town Logo & Seal
Resolutions:	06-2006	Board Member Seats
	07-2006	Certification of Annual Stormwater Utility Assessment Roll
	08-2006	Budget Adjustment 05/06
	09-2006	Amending Section 1E of Employee Manual
	10-2006	Support Widening Malabar Road to Four Lanes
	11-2006	Repeal Section 2 of Resolution 15-2005; Service Charge for Water Utility Customers
	12-2006	Increase in Water & Sewer Utilities Rate
	13-2006	Budget Adjustment 06-07
	14-2006	Acquisition of Type 6 Mini Pumper
	01-2007	Adopting Whimsical Lane
	02-2007	Repealing Resolution 7-93 Relating to Fire Inspection Fees; Adopting new Fire & Permit Fees
	03-2007	Budget Adjustment 06-07
	04-2007	Amending Section 4 of Resolution 5-97; Council Procedures
	05-2007	Accepting Public Improvements to Weber Woods Subdivision
	06-2007	Adopting Town of Malabar Technical Provisions for Wastewater Collection Systems
	07-2007	Participation in Conflict Resolution Procedures Initiated by Brevard County
	08-2007	Grant Application to Recreational Trails Program
	09-2007	Reconsideration of Location of Adult Entertainment
	10-2007	Mutual Aid Agreement between Town of Malabar and Dept. of Community Affairs
	11-2007	Adopting Fern Creek Park as Municipal Park
	12-2007	Adopting Disc Golf Park as Municipal Park
	13-2007	Adopting Beekeeper Road

## Malabar Scout Advocate Steps Down

After serving the scouting programs in Malabar for the last ten years, John Henkleman steps down.

As a founding leader, Mr. Henkleman extends a warm and hearty thank you to everyone who made it possible for the boys to grow and become good citizens of Malabar. Scouting develops leadership skills, a sense of community, an awareness of faith in a God, and the drawing together of all of these in service to others. The Town provided the park for the troops to use and camp in, and the boys provided, through Eagle service projects, many of the initial improvements that brought the park to be able to be used in the first Malabar Day. The EELs program has provided much land for practicing scouting skills, and the troops have provided clean-up services during Trash Bash to help keep Malabar at the top of the county clean up competition. The Town thanks Malabar Baptist Church for providing the troops with a facility to meet weekly. In return, the boys have been able to provide improvements to the church's property through Trash Bash, a new baseball backstop and some items in the hall were they have been meeting. Ace Hardware has provided a place for the Pinewood Derby races and fund raising. As a thank you to Ace Hardware for all of their support, the troops assisted the store with their new flag pole and the new store off Malabar Road. It is this give and take that teaches our youth that this is their town and it is a very special place to live - where people help each other and together we grow and make our town a better place.

Mr. Henkleman has left the scouting programs to focus his full attention on his health and full recovery from cancer. He is saddened by his departure, but will rest well knowing that many capable adults are with the troops, helping them to continue on their way.

There is a need for teens, women and men, as well as adults, to carry on the Venture Crew. For more information on the Venture Crew activities and program, contact the Malabar Eagle Corp Citizens Patrol.

There are 14 Eagle Scouts that Troop 37 has assisted in earning Scouting's most prestigious award. You can find these young men listed on a plaque proudly displayed here at Town Hall. If you have sons in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, cub scouts has a program for them. If your son is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12 grades, Troop 37 has a place for you. If your son or daughter is 14 or older, Crew 37 has a place for them. Please consider scouting as a way to help our youth understand the wonderful place that we live in, and the wonderful neighbors that we have.

The Town thanks Mr. Henkleman for his time and dedication provided to the Boy Scouts. We wish him well and a full and speedy recovery.

## EAGLE CORPS CITIZEN PATROL

HELLO MALABAR RESIDENTS!

For our new residents in town, let me say that as members of the EAGLE PATROL WE DO NOT SPOT, COUNT, OR TRACK EAGLES! (I think it would be exciting to do, however). We might note on our report if we see an eagle's nest and/or the bird itself, but our main job is to observe and report any unusual/unacceptable/out of the ordinary activities in our town.

It has been awhile since we chatted and several positive changes have occurred. I'm happy to report that five new Eagle Corps Citizen Patrol members are out and about in our (blue) patrol car. We have to keep up with all the growth in our Town! Times are not carved in stone which means we are out and about "whenever" on designated days. Many of you give us a friendly wave as we pass you on the road or drive by your property.

More of our citizens are taking advantage of the Eagle Corps keeping an eye on their home while on vacation. We are happy to provide this service for you. It's easy to start the watch; just come in to Town Hall and fill out the required Vacation Request form. We do the rest. Let me say that WE DO NOT ENTER YOU HOME so we accept no house keys – WE WALK AROUND THE GROUNDS.

If you have a little spare time and think you might like to join the Citizens Patrol team in helping keep your Town of Malabar safe, it's an "UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU" thing - call Town Hall and leave your number. We will be happy to talk with you.

Until the next time,

Nancy & Carl  
Coordinators

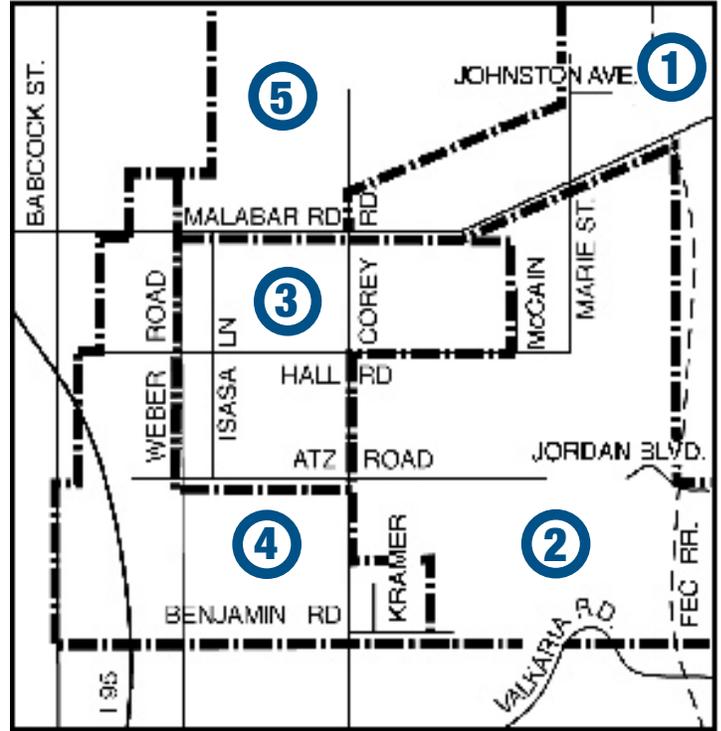
### FROM THE UTILITY DEPARTMENT...

With special thanks to the City of Palm Bay, please be advised that we have a full calendar with the Consumer Confidence Report (2007 Water Quality Report) information in it. We have mailed the report to our utility customers in June, but would like to invite you to stop in at Town Hall for a free copy of the calendar.

## 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	Bonilyn Wilbanks-Free Town Hall	727-7764 x11
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](http://www.townofmalabar.org)

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