



THE MAILBOAT

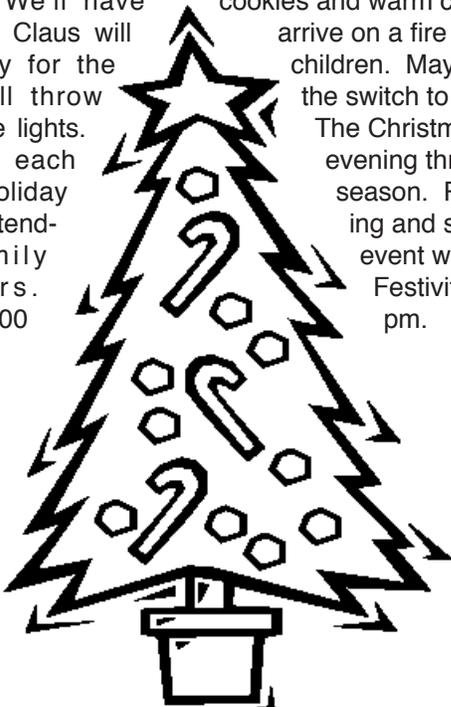


VOLUME 6 NO. 3 4th QUARTER 2000

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING THIS SATURDAY

Have you noticed the signs around town announcing the Christmas tree lighting? This has become an annual event sponsored by the Park and Recreation Board. Every year resident volunteers decorate the tree in front of the fire station in preparation for this event. The choir from the Malabar First Baptist Church will lead us in singing carols. Lights, hay bales for sitting, and copies of Christmas carols will be available; we want everyone to join in the singing and usher in the holiday season. We'll have cookies and warm cider, and Santa Claus will arrive on a fire truck with candy for the children. Mayor Phil Crews will throw the switch to turn on the tree lights. The Christmas tree will be lit each evening through-out the holiday season. Please plan on attending and sharing this family event with your neighbors. Festivities begin at 6:00 pm.



MALABAR ELECTION

On November 9th the new Malabar Council was sworn into office. Returning were Mayor Phillip Crews and Council Member Charlene Horton in District 2. Nancy Tinio-Borton ran unopposed for the District 1 seat, and Steve Rivet won the District 3 seat. 78% of the registered voters in Malabar turned out. The referendum for the repeal of term limits failed; 68% of the voters were against repealing term limits. For more information about the vote you can visit the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections website.



Malabar Town Council, from the right: Steve Rivet, Tom Eschenberg, Charlene Horton, Mayor Phil Crews, Nancy Tinio-Borton, and Henry Dekker.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

We have recently completed the long awaited paving of Hall Road, Atz Road, and Marie Street. Due to lack of funding, it was originally thought that we could pave only Hall Road and Atz Road this year. However, through negotiations with the paving contractor, we were able to also include Marie Street. Now the residents have less dirt road to travel to get to



the main part of the completed project. Though LaCourt was next on the list to be paved we were unable to pave there because of the amount of work that remains to be done to improve the base prior to paving. We will have the funding to work on LaCourt in October, 2001, as well as Hall Road west of Weber Road. In the next few weeks our Public Works Department will prepare the shoulders on the newly paved section of road and place new directional signs. We have already received complaints about speeding on the newly paved roads so we enlisted the assistance of the Sheriff's Department. They will be running radar at various times. A word of advice: driver beware.

Thank you Richard Cameron for stepping up to help with the future of greenway trails throughout Malabar. Richard has volunteered to accept the position of greenway and trails volunteer coordinator. It will take a lot of work to develop and maintain the trails; and if you are interested in making these trails happen, you can contact Richard or call town hall.

Council is working on a five-year capital improvement plan, and in the last newsletter I asked for your ideas. We have not heard from you yet! This is your town, and we can't serve you and your needs without your input. Please call and tell us what you want!

I would like to congratulate Nancy Tinio-Borton and Steve Rivet who were recently elected as council members. And also I would like to congratulate Mayor Phil Crews and Council Member Charlene Horton for their re-election. Welcome! Staff is looking forward to working with you.

A big thanks to John Detwiler and Liz Ritter for your contributions to Malabar. You will be missed, and we enjoyed working with you.

I wish a happy and safe holiday season to you and yours.



Bill Hall

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS...

On September 25th Council passed the 00/01 millage rate of 1.6212. The 00/01 budget also passed at \$1,869,692. That number includes grant money that we propose to receive. The operating budget (called the general fund) is \$872,102.

Also on September 25th Council approved a new cell tower to be located on Crescent Drive, off US1. This tower should improve reception for Bell South Mobility customers when they are in the area.

The Park and Recreation Board has been working on an ordinance for park rules and regulations. The Council passed Ordinance 00-6, Park Rules and Regulations, on its first reading on November 6th, the second reading is scheduled for November 20th.

GLOSSARY...

Ad Valorem (property) Tax – a local government tax based on the value of real property; the term “ad valorem” means “according to the value of.”

Millage (mills) – the rate of taxation as it applies to ad valorem property taxes; one mill is equivalent to \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value. Currently Malabar's millage is \$1.6212 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

Ordinance – a law of a permanent nature passed by a city or county and enforceable within that government's boundaries.

Resolution – an expression of a local governing body concerning matters of a temporary nature.

STANDARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE

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

The Planning and Zoning Board meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

The Park Board meets the third Wednesday of the the month at 7:30 pm.

All meetings take place at Town Hall. All cancellations and meeting notices are posted on the sign in front of the Fire Department, at the Post Office and at Town Hall.

Town Happenings . . .

BE THANKFUL

As we get closer to the Holidays, it's the time of year when we remember to give to others and share our good fortune. It is easy to be caught in the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and what we may not consider to be much, is often more than others have. In that spirit of sharing, we are providing a list of organizations that help people at this time of the year and throughout the year. If you are able, brighten someone's holidays by donating canned goods, toys, time, or money. Or, if you find yourself in need of help this season, these organizations are waiting for your call.

The First Baptist Church of Malabar	723-1602
South Brevard Sharing Center	676-2965 or 727-8581
Daily Bread	723-9040
Salvation Army	724-0494
CITA	725-5160

It's a wonderful thing to live in a country where we are able to help other people that aren't as fortunate. If you find that you are able to help during this holiday season we hope you will contact one of the organizations listed above and help them help others.

PLEASE PAY YOUR HARRIS SANITATION BILL

We have had many calls inquiring about the last Harris Sanitation bill the citizens of Malabar recently found in their mailboxes. If you were living here last July you would have received a letter stating that the Council was going to consider putting the cost of solid waste collection on the tax roll. But, when the motion was considered at the August 7th Council meeting, it failed. And since the motion failed, the solid waste collection is not on your ad valorem tax bill. That means Harris Sanitation is going to continue to bill the citizens of Malabar on a quarterly basis.

MALABAR ON-LINE

Through the generous donation of her time and talent, Malabar resident Laura Guy has us up and running. Our web address is www.malabartown.org. This site is in its infancy and we will continually work with Laura to develop it. Are there certain things you would like to see on our site? You can call town hall or send email to skabana@malabartown.org.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Richard Cameron, Planning & Zoning member and Park Board liaison, has recently been appointed the Greenways and Trails Volunteer Coordinator. If you have an interest in developing the trails within Malabar for multi-use, please contact him. His current project is to construct a trail head on north Marie Street. Plans are currently being drafted, and development will start this winter. The property was purchased as part of the Sand Hill Trail grant which was recently awarded to the Town. It is Richard's firm belief that with Malabar's rural nature, the town could become a key player in the eco-tourism development, bringing both recreational, and business opportunities to the town. He is very active in several equestrian groups, and they have offered to help. If you would like to get involved or know someone who would, you can call town hall. We are taking names, addresses, and phone numbers of volunteers so that we can notify them when we are ready to start improvements later this winter.

MALABAR DAY SET FOR MARCH 24, 2001

If you would like to participate in Malabar Day by promoting your business or if you would like to sell arts and crafts, please contact Debby at town hall at 727-7764. This one-day event will again be held in our Malabar Community Park from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM. It promises to be bigger and better than last year's. Malabar's Yellow Dog Cafe will again be operating the food court. Volunteers will be needed to operate the game booths, serve food, sodas and beer, help set up, etc. Whatever your special expertise, you can make a difference. The Park and Recreation Board hosts this event and volunteers their time. The profits from this event go into the park and recreation fund for future enhancements to the park. Watch the coming newsletters for more information on this event.

RECYCLING TIPS

Cans: Aluminum or tin only, please rinse. It is OK to crush cans and leave labels on. Empty aerosol spray cans are also acceptable.

Glass: Any color food and beverage bottles and jars, please rinse. Do not include ceramics, dishes, window glass, light bulbs, etc.

Newspaper and shiny inserts: No magazines, junk mail, catalogs, paper or plastic bags, cardboard or Styrofoam.

Plastic: Rinse and remove lids. OK to crush and to leave labels on. Check the bottom on the container for a number 1 or 2 surrounded by three arrows. These are OK to recycle. No others.

THANKS TO OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Contrary to any rumors you may have heard, the Malabar Town Council and the position of mayor are voluntary positions and thus receive no monetary compensation. To willingly hold the position of council member, or mayor, in Malabar speaks volumes about those who come forward to serve their community, and we extend a big THANK YOU to two members as they leave office.

For the past six years John Detwiler has held the position of council member for District 3; but due to term limitation, he must leave office. John has faithfully supported Malabar and helped this town grow into the new millennium. He has donated countless hours of his time. John shaped many projects in the town and he's a staunch supporter of Malabar's stormwater master plan. He feels that it is vital to treat stormwater before it

reaches the Indian River Lagoon so that the lagoon will remain a beautiful source of enjoyment for future generations. John also acted as the Council liaison for the Fire Department for many years, and they too will feel a loss as his term ends. We wish John all the good things in life, and though we will miss him, we know he will continue to be an active part of this community.

Liz Ritter began as council member for District 1 in 1997. In her three year term she has tenaciously supported the development of ecotourism within the town. During the last Council meeting while Liz was in office she was delighted when council awarded seed money toward developing a trail head on Marie Street. Liz works full-time with her family at Camelot RV Park and is a busy mother of two. She is a park monitor for the EELS program and is very active in her son's scout pack. Liz has more than enough to keep her busy and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Good luck to you both!



*The Malabar Town Council and
the staff at Town Hall
wish you a very safe and
wonderful holiday season.*

Building Official's Report

By Jim Phelps, CBO

This is the time of year when people begin looking toward the holidays, get into the Christmas spirit, begin to shop, and look forward to the New Year. Unfortunately for some, the holidays bring despair due to some unforeseen mishap, even loss of loved ones from fire.



Please remember during this time that many potential dangers exist. Hurricane season continues until the end of November; being prepared is important. Remember the need to keep your property and home ready should a storm approach.

As you read this article many any of us have already begun decorating for Christmas. Care should be taken with Christmas trees and trimmings. Artificial trees can become fire and/or shock hazards if not properly used. Be sure to check the manufactures' recommendations before using electrical lights on these trees.

Real trees are also potential fire hazards if allowed to dry out, if you use too many lights, or use lights that are too hot. Often when real trees are used we like to put them up at Thanksgiving and leave them until the New Year. During that time, in warm houses, the tree tends to dry out and become a potential fire hazard. If you are one of those people that likes the smell and atmosphere of a live tree, be sure to keep plenty of water and a tree saver on the tree. Use small tree lights as they produce very little heat, or if using the larger lights, do not allow them to burn for an extended period of time, as the heat dries the tree out and can cause it to catch fire. Most important, never leave the lights on when you are in bed or not at home.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the citizens of Malabar, the business community, contractors and developers for your support and cooperation during this past year. The Building and Zoning staff wish you a HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Remember the Building and Zoning Department is here to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact us at 727-7764 if you have any questions or need assistance.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

It's that time of the year when our northern residents return and people feel the urge to plant. This month we are taking a look at a business that brings blends the flavor of the orient with a tropical lifestyle. We're talking about Bonsai by Penjing Bonsai Gardens located at 1650 U.S. 1 in Malabar.

Gary and his wife, Nina, have created both an interesting nursery and some very beautiful gardens. Gary has been in this area for over 18 years bringing with him from Shanghai, his Grandfather's love of gardening. Nina is the perfect partner bringing a knowledge and love of bamboo from her native Sichuan Province, where her parents managed the River View Park and over 200 varieties of bamboo. The third partner in the Gardens is Henry, a friendly hole-digging/tail-wagging black and white spotted dog. The gardens have been here since 1990 and include many rare and beautiful plants, ornamental shrubbery, bromeliads, oriental statuary, a large pond filled with Koi, lily pad ponds for frogs, and, of course, bonsai plants.

Gary uses natural fertilizers and non-toxic pest controls. The nursery specializes in xeriscape; low maintenance landscaping with large rocks and coral, ponds, waterfalls, sprinkler systems and plants that drop fewer leaves. This kind of landscaping needs less water and uses very hardy plants. Xeriscape is becoming more and more popular as concerns about the Florida watershed increase.

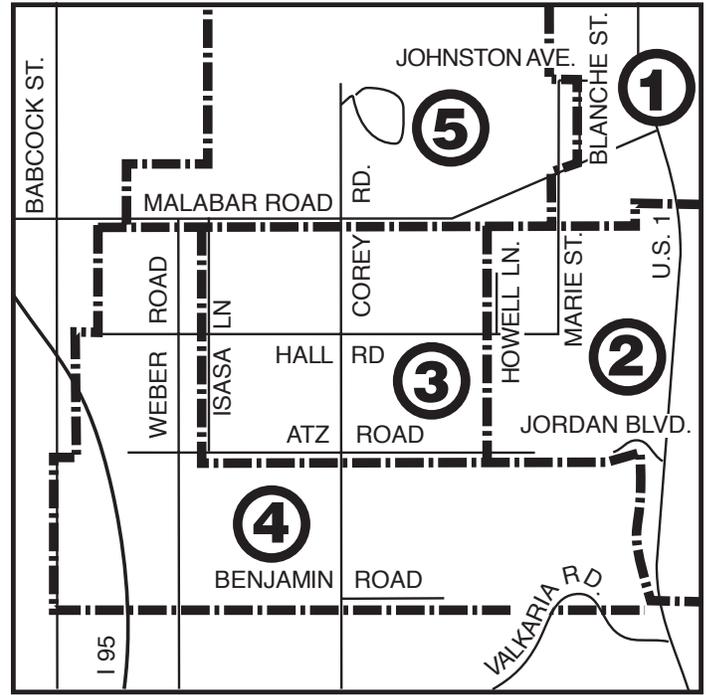
There are two types of bonsai plants that are Gary's first love: The first is pre-bonsai intended for hobbyist that want to trim and shape their own plants. They range in price from \$8.00 to \$50.00 depending on the age and rarity of the plant; the second are those already potted and shaped, and they range in price from \$15.00 to \$350.00. The most popular Bonsai plants are juniper, schefflera and green island ficus. Bonsai plants do best when kept on a patio or porch, take very little water, and don't do well inside for extended periods of time. So if you have a patio or porch area just begging for plants, stop by and see Gary and Nina. The nursery also sells plants that can be planted in the yard and don't take the care and shaping of a bonsai plant.

Gary and Nina would like to invite all of the town residents to stop by to see their nursery and gardens and, of course, meet Henry. Should you decide to purchase any plants, Gary and Nina will give all residents a 10% discount as a 'thank you.'

Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Nancy Tinio-Borton 141 Riverview Drive	953-3334
District 2	Charlene Horton 2175 LaCourt Lane	727-2194
District 3	Steve Rivet 2005 Rivet Lane	956-6551
District 4	Tom Eschenberg 2835 Beran Lane	724-1007
District 5	Henry Dekker 1260 Hollow Brook Lane	722-9717
Mayor	Phillip Crews 2480 Johnston Ave.	951-0422
Town Administrator	Bill Hall Town Hall	723-3261
Town Clerk/ Treasurer	Susan Kabana Town Hall	727-7764
Town Fax		722-2234
County Comm.	Nancy Higgs, Dist. 3	952-6300



Editors - Susan Kabana & Pat Bennington

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