



# THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 17 NO. 1 4th QUARTER 2011

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.

## Budget Approved and Millage Does Not Increase!

The Town Council approved the budget for the next fiscal year budget (October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012) without raising the millage rate. It was important to Council to not increase the millage when the economy is still struggling. With the continued reduction in property values (19% in Malabar) and the millage rate staying at 1.6630 per \$1000.00 of value of a Malabar home with a taxable value of 150,000 after the 50,000 exemption taken, would pay 249.45 in Malabar property taxes. Malabar has budgeted its expenditures for the next year with 65,000.00 less in Ad Valorem taxes. Malabar Council utilized a Taxpayer Budget Review Board, a committee of citizens appointed by Council and the Mayor to review the draft budget and make recommendations. This is the third year Council has used the citizen participation board and has thanked the Board for their efforts.

## PLANNING FOR TOMORROW SURVEY RESULTS

In July of this year, the Town sent out a survey asking residents and property owners to provide feedback on various issues and their rating of satisfaction on a variety of topics. From the approximately 2200 surveys that were mailed out, we received 126 responses. The responses have all been tabulated and all the comments have been typed up. The results have been included in the newsletter and the comments submitted have been compiled into a 2-page document that is available both online at our website, [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org) and at Town Hall. Overall the majority of residents chose Malabar for the quality of life it offered. They feel there is a good sense of community with a good community appearance and a very good community reputation. They feel we have an excellent firefighting and emergency medical services. They feel the Malabar Community Park has excellent amenities. They also rate the Disc Golf Park, Sand Hill Trailhead, Huggins Park and trails and greenways as very good. They also rate the MailBoat very good as a method of communication with residents and do not feel it should be discontinued. A large majority of respondents believe they receive good value for their tax dollars. On the question of keeping the millage at 1.6630 or increasing to 2.0651, 46 responded that it should be increased and 69 responded that it should be maintained at 1.6630. The majority of respondents support the Town acquiring more land. The vote was very close on their willingness to pay an increased millage to make those purchases; 60 said yes and 63 said no.



Your Council 2010 -2012

11/15/2010 2

(Survey Results pages 6, 7 & 11)

# Town Administrator's Corner

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## **THANK YOU TO THE RESIDENTS WHO REVIEWED THE DRAFT BUDGET**

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For the past three years Malabar Council has invited interested citizens to participate in the budget process. Each Council Member appoints two persons

and the Mayor appoints one person to attend the first budget workshop, then hold their own meeting and make recommendations to Council at their next budget workshop. It is a great way to learn about municipal budgets and how they are forecast. This year they reviewed service levels, capital purchases, and day-to-day operations. Residents Wayne Abare, Bill Arnauckas, Dave Beaudry, Han Kemmler, Don Krieger, Tim Lynch, Bob Rossman, Bud Ryan, Bob Siegmann, Dan Welton, and Bill Withers served in this capacity and provided the Council with insightful comments and suggestions. We extend a BIG thank you to each one of these residents for their time and consideration. If you are interested in serving in this capacity next year, please let your Council Members know. It is a great way to learn about and contribute to the function of your local government.

Bonilyn Wilbanks  
Town Administrator



## **DID YOU KNOW THAT DITCH MAINTENANCE IS EVERYBODY'S JOB?**

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During and after each major rain event, the Town receives calls from residents who are concerned that the ditch in front of their home is holding water that does not appear to be draining. Before you make that call, please check your ditch area for obstructions that often close off culverts, such as fallen debris from trees, trash cans, and trash can lids. Keeping your ditch free of objects and yard waste will help keep the water flowing and would be a tremendous help to our staff. Please know that Malabar has an open ditch drainage system that provides for stormwater to percolate into the ground over time rather than just being carried off to a stormwater retention area. Some ditches actually have ditch blocks to slow the flow of water and allow percolation. We have much to do to achieve the stormwater system improvements necessary but we have made great strides over the last four years. Feel free to call Town Hall and ask for more information.

## **TAX DOLLARS SOON TO BE AT WORK**

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The Town Council approved the purchase of a new tractor and mower deck (shown below) for the Public Works Department. This important upgrade to the department's equipment will allow staff to mow the Town's Right of Ways much faster due to the versatility of the mower deck.



## **DO YOU VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE?**

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The website is easy to get to at [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org). Once on the site, you can check meeting agendas and minutes just by clicking on the designated tab on the left of your screen. You can check at-a-glance the meetings and events that are going on for the current month. You can also submit an automated service request form if you need Town Services. If you would like to support local businesses, check the upper tab on the right of your screen labeled "Buy Local". We have also provided links to useful information, so you are a click away from many resources. Although State law now requires municipalities to provide their budgets on their websites, Malabar has provided the approved annual budget on their website for the last three years. We also provide all budget adjustments on the website as soon as they are approved by Council. We also provide the annual financial statement by the outside auditors on our website.

If you have any questions, problems, or suggestions, please contact the Town Administrator at [bwfree@townofmalabar.org](mailto:bwfree@townofmalabar.org) or by calling the office.

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## TRASH, YARD WASTE, OR RECYCLES PICK-UP

Please call Waste Management at 321-723-4455 if you are experiencing any problems with your waste pick-up service. They will address and follow up on your complaint. If you are still not getting the correct level of service after you have contacted them at the above phone number, then you should call Town Hall. Please note that Waste Management cannot provide pick up on days that the landfill is closed. For the remainder of 2011 none of the upcoming holidays conflict with the normal Waste Management schedule for trash, yard waste or recycle. Did you know that Waste Management rebates to the Town the amount recycled each month in Malabar? So by participating in the recycling program you are not only helping reduce waste in the landfill, but are helping Malabar's revenues. If you don't have recycle bins call 321-723-4455.

## NEWS REGARDING TRASH/VEGETATION PICK-UP FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT

**GARBAGE AND TRASH** should be accumulated for collection and disposal in containers or bundles as follows:

All residents of single-family homes should place garbage and trash in cans, bags or bundles. No single item should exceed 50 pounds. Containers and bundles must be placed at the curbside in front of the premises. Garbage and trash will be collected twice weekly. Cans should be placed curbside no later than 6am on the day of collection. Cans must be removed from the curbside promptly after emptying by Waste Management

Containers should be kept tightly covered or closed at all times and in such a manner as to protect the contents from wind, weather, flies, insects, rodents and other animals. The area surrounding the container must be maintained free of garbage, trash and other litter at all times. Containers shall not be used to accumulate liquids. All garbage, cans and bottles must be drained of all liquid before being placed in the container.

**YARD WASTE** Yard waste set out for curbside collection shall not be comingled with any other solid waste. Yard waste shall be set out at the collection point separated from all other solid waste. All loose yard trash which includes leaves, pine needles, lawn clippings, palm fronds and tree and shrub trimmings shall be placed in an appropriate solid waste receptacle(s). Please do not bag—bagged yard waste cannot be processed by the Brevard County landfill. All yard trash not capable of being placed in a receptacle shall be neatly placed at the collection point and shall be cut in lengths

not to exceed four feet in length and 24 inches in diameter and 50 pounds in weight. Yard trash not meeting the size and weight limits shall be considered as bulky solid waste. For removal of such waste, the customer should notify Waste Management at 723-4455 that they desire a pick up and the collector will schedule a special collection.

Yard waste generated from vacant lots should not be set out for curbside collection service. Contractors engaged in the landscaping or tree cutting business shall be responsible for collection and disposal of the yard trash generated from their operations. Persons engaged in clearing property will be responsible for the collection and disposal of the land clearing debris. Residents should not set out such waste for curbside pickup by the collector.

**BULK WASTE** should be placed at the curbside in a location accessible to the collector vehicle. All lids or doors must be securely sealed or removed. Bulk residential-use waste items will be removed at no additional charge. It is recommended that residents contact Waste Management at 723-4455 to ensure a timely pickup.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE** Waste Management is not obligated to collect waste, in any amount, which is defined, characterized, or designated as hazardous or infectious by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or appropriate state agency by or pursuant to federal or state law, or waste, in any amount, which is regulated under federal or state law. Resident drop-off services are available through the Brevard County Solid Waste Department at the Sarno Transfer Station. Please visit <http://www.brevardcounty.us/swr/hazwaste.cfm> or call 633-1888 for more information.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR TOWN HALL

Town Hall will be closed for THANKSGIVING on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!!!

Due to the Christmas holiday falling on the weekend, Town Hall will be closing at noon on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Christmas falls on Sunday this year, so we will not be back in the office until Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL FROM THE TOWN OF MALABAR!!!

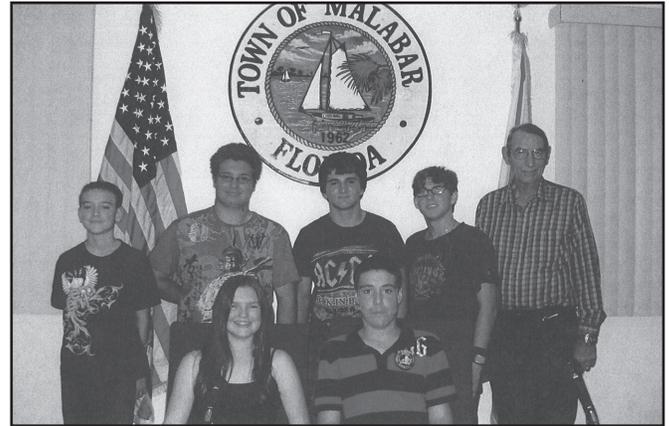
Due to the New Year's holiday falling on the weekend, Town Hall will be closing at noon on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. New Year's Day falls on Sunday this year, so we will not be back in the office until Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. MAY YOU ALL HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

## MALABAR TEEN COUNCIL

By Mayor Tom Eschenberg

The Malabar Teen Council was organized in early 2009 and held their first meeting in April of that year. The purpose of the council is to give teenagers the opportunity to learn how local government operates. The Teen Council meetings simulate a regular Malabar town council meeting. An agenda with four action items is published a few days prior to the scheduled meeting and emailed to all the members of the Teen Council. The action items are controversial issues that the Malabar council or some other city council has previously, or is currently dealing with. The teens make a motion; discuss the issue and vote on it. Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting and address the council on the issue prior to the teen's discussions. Three or four parents have been regulars at giving their opinions along with a few of the teens younger siblings and friends. At a recent meeting, the teens discussed and voted on the following issues: 1. Should Malabar pass an ordinance to require employers in the town to provide paid sick leave to their employees (voted against). 2. Should Malabar have a two day Springfest next year to celebrate the town's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation (voted for)? 3. Should Malabar prohibit roadside stands (voted to allow). 4. Should motor homes, boats and campers be allowed to be parked in front yards (voted to allow). The teens often provide a unique perspective on the issues.

The number of teens on the council varies from six to about nine. Some come and go. Six of the members



have attended since the first meeting. In that time two have turned eighteen, some have gotten their driver licenses and three have qualified to be eagle scouts. Most members live in Malabar; however a few are from Grant-Valkaria and Palm Bay. Any teen interested in local government is welcome because they could, in the future, run for election in their town or city and will have developed a basic understanding of local government.

Since the beginning, the Teen Council meetings have been chaired by the Malabar Mayor. Cindi Kelley, Deputy Town Clerk graciously volunteers to set up for the meetings, send out the agenda and take the minutes. Beginning in January, the teens will rotate the chairmanship monthly and the Mayor will act as attorney and adviser. The Teen Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month except June and July at 7:00 PM. Come to a meeting and see for yourself how these young people address the issues and increase their knowledge of local government.

## Who says Florida doesn't have four seasons?

We all made it through another unusually cold winter, followed by a brush fire season that didn't hurt us as much as other areas, rainy season, and now we are in the middle of what has so far been a very quiet hurricane season.

But that doesn't mean that this couldn't change at any moment. I have been following a couple of sources who say that we could get hit later in the season by some strong winds and rain.

So now is the time to make sure that we are all prepared. Here at the fire department we have been checking and rechecking our equipment and supplies so that should a hurricane hit Malabar, WE WILL BE READY!

Most of us think we are all set to meet the challenge until it is actually upon us and we are all scrambling around trying to secure our homes and get the necessary supplies. Be unusual . . . prepare ahead!



If you're not sure what you might need, we suggest that you go on-line to [www.spacecoastredcross.org](http://www.spacecoastredcross.org) where you can find a complete list of supplies and tips to help you endure hurricanes and other tropical storms.

If you don't find what you need, we are here to help answer any questions. We are *YOUR* fire department and we are here to serve your needs. So stop in any time with your questions, concerns or to just say hi! And don't forget to come by on the first Sunday of the month between 8am & noon for a delicious Pancake Breakfast prepared and served by the men & women of the Malabar Fire Department!

Dennis Covey  
Fire Chief  
Malabar Fire Department

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND UPDATES TO FLUM

The Town Council has considered and approved a 5-year plan for capital improvements.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	YEAR 1 FY2012	YEAR 2 FY2013	YEAR 3 FY2014	YEAR 4 FY2015	YEAR 5 FY2016
COMMUNITY CENTER					X
TOWN HALL LAND			X		
RIVER FRONT ACCESS					X
EXTEND MARIE TO ATZ			X		
COREY RIGHT TURN LN	X				
FIRE DPT EMERG LIGHT			X		
RESURFACE WEST HALL				X	
RESURFACE WEST ATZ		X			
RESURFACE OLD MISSION			X		
TRAILHEAD RESTROOMS	X				
HUGGINS PARK UPGRADE		X			
MALABAR RD BIKE PATH			X		
WEBER RIGHT TURN LANE				X	
ARTESIAN HYDRANT		X	X	X	X
BASEBALL FIELD DUGOUTS AND CONCESSION STAND	X				

The Planning and Zoning Board has been reviewing the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) as part of their duties. It has not been updated since the early 1990's. They have reviewed the current land uses along the three main corridors: Babcock, Malabar and Highway 1. They are finishing up some of the language and definitions associated with their recommendations and will be presenting to Council for their consideration. If Council supports their recommendations, the Town will advertise and hold public hearings to solicit input from residents and property owners.

### NO LOCAL MALABAR ELECTION IN 2011

Candidate qualifying in Malabar took place from August 10<sup>th</sup>-August 24<sup>th</sup>. Town Council seats for District 4 and District 5 were open for election. Incumbents Jeff McKnight, District 4, and Marisa Acquaviva, District 5, were qualified during this time and no other candidates submitted paperwork. Both Jeff McKnight and Marisa Acquaviva will be sworn into office on Thursday, November 10, 2011. Council Member terms are for two years each with a maximum of three terms allowed by Charter. The Mayor serves for a four-year term and has a limit of two terms. In 2012, we will have District seats 1, 2, 3 and the Mayor's seat up for election. We will also have several referendum questions on the 2012 ballot. Prior to the election, we will send out information in the MailBoat to residents. Malabar still only has one voting precinct, Precinct 7 located at the First Baptist Church of Malabar across from the Post Office.

### EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS IN THE TOWN OF MALABAR

The Town of Malabar would like to let residents know of the many projects performed in Malabar by Eagle Scout candidates. Malabar and the Scouts have benefited greatly by the guidance provided by Eagle Advisor Mr. Donald Crowell. As a long time property owner and a part time resident here he has provided invaluable assistance to the Town. Some of the recent Eagle Scout projects are:

- Scott Prasse (Troop 37) revitalized the Fern Creek Crossing Park with new trail walkways laid out with timbers; exotic plant removals, native plantings and new mulch.
- Connor Mahoney (Troop 37) built a community fire pit in the Malabar Community Park adjacent to the flagpole by the Damon-Arnold Lake.
- Kevin Pagliarulo (Troop 37) built a 4' sq double sided kiosk at the front of the Malabar Community Park.

- Alex Hoffman (Troop 37) built a wooden fence across the front of the Disc Golf Park.
- Robert Ritter III (Troop 37) built a wooden fence on the south property line of the Fern Creek Crossing Park.
- Jason Draper (Troop 232) is building a 4' sq. kiosk adjacent to the soccer field.
- Paul Draper (Troop 232) built an overlook at the Fern Creek Crossing.

We thank the Eagle Scouts for their time and efforts in making the parks of Malabar a better place to visit. We have two plaques on display at Town Hall with 22 scout names that have provided Eagle Scout projects within Malabar. The Malabar Troop has an extremely high percentage of successful Eagle Scouts which is a credit to their Troop leadership. If you are interested in joining the Troop or would like more information on the Scouts, please call Mrs. Laura Mahoney at 321-693-4314.

Rating Scale	
Where you are asked to rate something in this survey, please use the following scale:	
5 Excellent	2 Fair
4 Very Good	1 Poor
3 Good	0 Not Needed
N/O No Opinion	

**RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS**

- Are you a resident of the Town of Malabar? 123 Yes 1 No
- Do you own a business in the Town of Malabar? 22 Yes 109 No
- How long have you lived in the Town of Malabar 17 0-5 years 27 6-10 years 41 11-20 years 40 over 20 years
- Number of persons in your household in each category: Age: 36 under 18 15 18-35 84 36-55 80 56-65 50 over 65
- Why did you choose to live in Town of Malabar? (Check all that apply)  
35 Family 21 Work 4 Schools 35 Safety 108 Quality of life 37 Community Reputation 17 Recreational Opportunities

- Using our rating scale, please rate the following regarding the Town of Malabar.

#1 Sense of Community	Excellent = 20	Very Good = 28	Good = 39	Fair = 13	Poor = 13	Not Needed = 0	No Opinion = 5
#2 Sense of Safety	Excellent = 27	Very Good = 36	Good = 37	Fair = 10	Poor = 2	Not Needed = 0	No Opinion = 3
#3 Community Appearance	Excellent = 13	Very Good = 35	Good = 40	Fair = 26	Poor = 7	Not Needed = 0	No Opinion = 3
#4 Community Reputation	Excellent = 20	Very Good = 35	Good = 33	Fair = 17	Poor = 2	Not Needed = 0	No Opinion = 8
#5 Quality of Life	Excellent = 39	Very Good = 41	Good = 28	Fair = 5	Poor = 2	Not Needed = 0	No Opinion = 0

**7. Public Works - Using our rating scale, please rate the following services**

Appearance/maintenance of public open space and buildings

Excellent = 10    Very Good = 47    Good = 48    Fair = 16    Poor = 1    Not Needed = 1    No Opinion = 0

Stormwater drainage (currently maintaining 50 miles of pipe and ditches)

Excellent = 9    Very Good = 31    Good = 38    Fair = 21    Poor = 12    Not Needed = 1    No Opinion = 9

Street repair/repaving (currently maintaining 17 miles of dirt road and 18.5 miles of paved road)

Excellent = 8    Very Good = 25    Good = 43    Fair = 35    Poor = 11    Not Needed = 1    No Opinion = 3

**8. Fire Department - Using our rating scale, please rate the following services**

Firefighting services

Excellent = 36    Very Good = 30    Good = 17    Fair = 6    Poor = 8    Not Needed = 2    No Opinion = 22

Emergency medical services (firefighters are also EMTs or paramedics)

Excellent = 30    Very Good = 28    Good = 15    Fair = 6    Poor = 5    Not Needed = 2    No Opinion = 35

- Do you support maintaining the Town of Malabar Fire Department as a part of the Town's Fiscal Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012? The average house valued at \$175,000 pays less than \$50.00 of their \$149.20 Malabar Property Tax to fund this department. (If not, the Town would contract with Brevard County for Fire Services as an MSTU. That cost would be \$286.14 annually.

101 Yes    13 No    8 No opinion

**10. Building Department - Using our rating scale, please rate the following services**

Permitting and inspections of building renovations

Excellent = 14    Very Good = 25    Good = 32    Fair = 10    Poor = 7    Not Needed = 2    No Opinion = 30

Permitting and inspections of new construction

Excellent = 9    Very Good = 26    Good = 26    Fair = 9    Poor = 5    Not Needed = 1    No Opinion = 44

11. **Recreation (Parks and Facilities) - Using our rating scale, please rate the following services**

Malabar Community Park amenities (exercise trail, playground equipment, restrooms)

Excellent = 40    Very Good = 35    Good = 21    Fair = 6    Poor = 0    Not Needed = 1    No Opinion = 14

Park facility rentals (availability, cost,) Currently the rental is \$10/hour or is based on first-come, first serve basis

Excellent = 20    Very Good = 19    Good = 22    Fair = 4    Poor = 1    Not Needed = 5    No Opinion = 44

Athletic fields (soccer, tennis, baseball)

Excellent = 21    Very Good = 32    Good = 22    Fair = 6    Poor = 1    Not Needed = 12    No Opinion = 32

Disc Golf Park

Excellent = 18    Very Good = 22    Good = 11    Fair = 3    Poor = 3    Not Needed = 10    No Opinion = 43

Trailhead & paddock

Excellent = 23    Very Good = 30    Good = 17    Fair = 3    Poor = 3    Not Needed = 2    No Opinion = 38

Trails and greenways

Excellent = 25    Very Good = 34    Good = 19    Fair = 6    Poor = 3    Not Needed = 2    No Opinion = 30

Huggins Park

Excellent = 12    Very Good = 21    Good = 6    Fair = 7    Poor = 6    Not Needed = 6    No Opinion = 44

12. Are the Town's recreation offerings important to our community's quality of life?

84 Yes    25 No    15 No opinion

13. Is providing recreation opportunities an appropriate use of tax dollars?

81 Yes    26 No    18 No opinion

**Riverfront Preservation**

As a part of the Town's Comprehensive Land Plan, the Town would have riverfront access. Presently land is selling at a very low price. There has been discussion to purchase property for future Town uses, i.e. town hall or community center. The purchase of any property removes the property from the tax rolls which reduces our tax rolls.

18. **Please select one of the following:**

60 I support the Town acquiring properties.    54 I do not support the Town acquiring properties.    11 No opinion

19. Based on the information above, I would support a millage increase for 2 years only to be set aside for these purchases. Estimated Annual cost as follows:

49 .5 mills = \$96.15 per year    11 .75 mills = \$131.00 per year    63 I do not support

20. **Communication with Residents - Using our rating scale, please rate the following services**

Town Newsletter "The Mailboat "

Excellent = 17    Very Good = 35    Good = 37    Fair = 9    Poor = 7    Not Needed = 0    No Opinion = 7

Town Website (www.townofmalabar.org)

Excellent = 7    Very Good = 18    Good = 23    Fair = 16    Poor = 3    Not Needed = 1    No Opinion = 41

21. Should the Town discontinue the MailBoat (total cost of \$1840.00 for 3 editions per year)

43 Yes    78 No

22. If the Town could provide only 3 services, what should they be? (List most important service first)

#1 \_\_\_ Fire Service    #2 \_\_\_ EMS Services    #3 \_\_\_ Stormwater Drainage    #4 \_\_\_ Road Maintenance    #5 \_\_\_ Park Maintenance

#1 51 Fire Service    5 EMS Services    17 Stormwater Drainage    12 Road Maintenance    1 Park Maintenance

#2 9 Fire Service    29 EMS Services    21 Stormwater Drainage    24 Road Maintenance    1 Park Maintenance

#3 13 Fire Service    7 EMS Services    19 Stormwater Drainage    5 Road Maintenance    10 Park Maintenance

(con't on pg 11)

# Town Happenings . . .

## **TOWN FLAG DESIGN CONTEST**

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The Town is offering a flag contest to have a “Town Flag” designed. The design of the flag should depict the character of Malabar and possibly include the Town logo. Anyone who is interested in being a part of this contest should visit the Town’s website at [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org) for all details pertaining to the contest. The winning design will be selected by Malabar Council in February and a flag will be made with that design. Then the winning entrant will be asked to “hoist” the new official Malabar “flag” at the Malabar Springfest 2012 to be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 1, 2012. This will be a huge celebration as the Town will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation next year.

## **HAPPY 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO THE TOWN OF MALABAR**

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The Town of Malabar will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation during the Spring Fest in 2012. The Town of Malabar was incorporated on December 18, 1962. Whether you have lived here since 1962 or are a newer resident you can appreciate Malabar’s commitment to remain rural in nature and keep its agricultural roots. Much of Malabar was agricultural farm land in the early days. Gladiolas and pineapples were large crops that were grown here and shipped on the railroad north each season. We still have many large acreage property owners that still use the land agriculturally. The 21<sup>st</sup> President Chester Arthur named Malabar as an official post office in 1883. The mail was delivered via boat on the river. Did you know that Malabar originally incorporated as a city in 1927 and selected Mr. E. B. Arnold as their first Mayor? For reasons unknown the city was dissolved by Special Act of the State Legislature in 1935. Then in 1962 the voters in Malabar went to the polls and by majority vote determined they wanted to become a municipality. They incorporated and designed a logo depicting the boat that delivered mail along the river in the early days. The second ordinance adopted by that 1962 Council was to repay the residents that had provided the funds necessary to pay the legal costs associated with incorporation. We will have many special activities during Spring Fest 2012 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation. If you have any old pictures of Malabar from the early days, we would love to scan them in and make them part of Malabar history. Please call Debby at 321-727-7764.

## **CELEBRATION OF GARY DOTSON – SAND HILL TRAIL HEAD & THE CASTAWAY BLUE GRASS BUNCH**

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Gary Dotson was a property owner in Malabar. He operated the Castaway Point Tavern in Palm Bay for 30 years until his retirement after Hurricane Frances in 2004. He brought his love of bluegrass music to Malabar with a weekly jam session with the Castaway Blue Grass Bunch at the Sand Hill Trailhead every Sunday afternoon. He died in May after a long battle with cancer. In a way to memorialize his contributions in bringing bluegrass music to Malabar on Sundays, Council approved installing a commemorative plaque at the Sand Hill Trailhead. The Castaway Bluegrass Bunch still plays every Sunday from 3PM to 6PM at the Sand Hill Trailhead, 1400 Marie Street, just north of Brevard Hardwoods (the Old Schoolhouse). The Sand Hill Trailhead was built in 2002/2003 by volunteers with grant money from the State’s Greenways and Trails Department. Please stop by and enjoy the afternoon.

## **MALABAR’S BERRI PATCH GETS A VISIT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!**

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The Malabar Fire Department visited the Berri Patch Preschool in October and showed the kids how to “Stop, Drop, and Roll” as well as some basic fire prevention lessons. They also showed them around on the Fire Engine and gave them a presentation on what a fire fighter looks like when they are suited up so they understood the safety process. It was a great learning experience for the kids and the Malabar Fire Department Volunteers did a tremendous job!



## **MALABAR SPRINGFEST 2012 – A TIME TO CELEBRATE**

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The planning has begun for next year's event. The Town will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation and we want to showcase this at Malabar Springfest on Saturday and Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1, 2012; a two-day event! Town staff has started the preparations along with the Spring Fest Committee to ensure a memorable event filled with live entertainment from local bands; great food from local restaurants and vendors, participation from local businesses and vendors from throughout the area. There will be a 5K Fun Run, a Farmers Market, Flea Market, Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Department on Sunday, as well as plenty of games and live music. We invite vendors to participate by calling 321-727-7764 and hope to have a large turn-out since it will be a two-day event. There will be demonstrations and exhibitions and an open house at the Fire Department. There will be a Kid's Zone for the little ones and games for the older ones. The Malabar Scout Troop 37 will assist in the preparation as well as offering hamburgers as a fundraiser. Local artisan gardeners have also committed to participate. We will be holding a cake bake contest as well as a pie eating contest. This community event has been enjoyed by Malabar residents and others in the community for a great number of years. Please save the dates and plan to attend for some good down-home fun in the sun. If you are interested in participating in any way for this auspicious occasion, please make contact with Cindi or Debby at Town Hall. We are looking for sponsors to help defray costs associated with the event. Last year our largest sponsors, FPL, MIMA, Home Town News and Acquaviva Pharmacy helped offset the cost for the bands, tables, chairs and tents and also the Kids Zone. We are also looking for volunteers to help operate games, set-up, clean up or serving. If you are a crafter/business vendor and would like a booth please call 321-727-7764 to reserve a space. We look forward to seeing you at the Malabar Community Park for this grand celebration!

## **TOWN "SONG" ADOPTED BY COUNCIL**

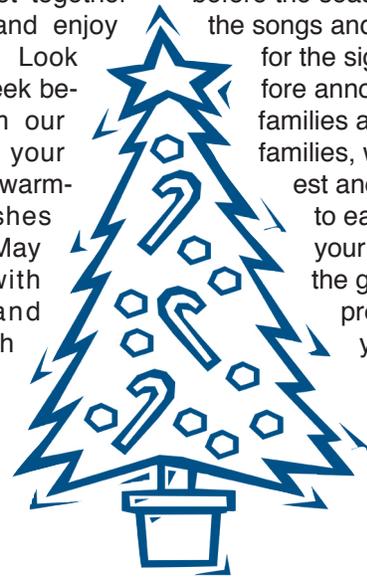
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The Town Council formally adopted the "The Little Town of Malabar" as the official song of Malabar at their Council meeting of September 12, 2011. The song was written and produced by Malabar residents Rick and Chris Rakauskas of Corey Road. They graciously offered the exclusive use of the copyrighted song to the Town. We will have a proclamation prepared and presented to them during the Spring Fest 2012 events. We will also have CDs available for purchase.

## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

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The Town of Malabar invites you to our annual Malabar Christmas Tree Lighting. This year the event will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 6:00 pm. The choir from the Malabar First Baptist Church will lead us in seasonal singing and Town Hall will provide song sheets for those who are musically challenged! The Town will have cookies and warm cider for attendees. Santa Claus will arrive on the fire truck with candy canes for the children. Mayor Eschenberg will "flip" the switch and light the tree. The tree lights will then be on each night afterward through Christmas. This has turned into a fun community event over the years. It allows for the community to get together before the season gets too hectic and enjoy the songs and flavors of Christmas. Look for the signs around Town the week before announcing the event. From our Malabar to your families, we want to extend the warm-holiday wishes to each and everyone. May your holidays be filled with laughter and the gift of love, spent with your loved ones.



## **MALABAR'S FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS VIAL OF LIFE PROJECT**

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The Malabar Fire Department is offering information on a program that can help save precious time and thus lives by having critical medical information readily available to first responder rescue personnel in times of emergency at homes. Malabar Council approved the expenditure to purchase the stickers and information handouts. They are available at Town Hall and the Fire Department. You can also get information directly from the American Senior Safety Agency at 888-724-1200 and through [www.vialoflife.com](http://www.vialoflife.com). Another similar program which places a sticker in the rear window of vehicles directs first responders to motorists' medical information in the glove compartment. It has generated an enormous amount of interest nationwide. Alabama is the first State to adopt the program statewide. For more information contact the District V Office of the Florida Department of Transportation.

# MALABAR'S CONSERVATION LAND

The Town of Malabar applied for and received two grant awards in the mid 1990's as part of the Florida Communities Trust Preservation 2000 Program. As part of the process, the Malabar Council at the time of the grants committed Malabar to maintaining and managing these properties as stipulated in the Management Plan for the properties. That means providing public access and parking, removing exotics, non-native plant species and constructing limited improvements to provide visitors with minimal enhancements such as overlooks, picnic tables, educational and directional signage, signage crediting the funding source, and in some cases, trail maintenance and improvements. These properties were not intended for development into active recreational areas. They are intended for passive enjoyment by multi-users. The trails through the Cameron Preserve (short title) have been compared to some of the trails in the Ocala National Forest. The variety of terrains and vegetation along the trails is enjoyed by all the users. The Town of Malabar holds title and is responsible for maintaining the following lands for conservation and public passive enjoyment:

- 100 acre parcel known as the Richard E. Cameron Sr & Volunteers Wilderness Preserve located at the north end of Corey Road (adjacent to Malabar Sanctuary and Malabar West Sanctuary – total over 500 acres).
- 8.48 acre parcel known as the Disc Golf Park located across from the Fire Department.
- 1.1 acre parcel known as the Fern Creek Crossing Park located at the SW corner of Malabar Road and Corey Road.
- 17 acres parcel (unnamed) at the north end of Wilson Lane (from Hall Rd) that has yet to be developed as stated in the management plan.

These properties were set aside to provide Malabar also benefitted from a private donation from a property owner of three parcels on south Marie Street totaling roughly 4.5 acres. It was dedicated to the Town for their municipal use. Mr. Jorgensen had thought it could be used for a possible fire station. At the time of his donation, the fire department operated out of what is now the Malabar building department.

Another potential developer donated the 20-acres that the Fire Department and the Malabar Community Park have been constructed on. The original conceptual design from the developer showed this area as the town center with the town hall and community center also located here. The Malabar Community Park was developed through taxpayer dollars and grant funds from multiple awards from the Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program from 1995-2005. We have held our annual community celebrations, Christmas tree lightings and Pancake Breakfasts on this centrally located Malabar property.

Malabar also received multiple parcels of land (about four acres) from Brevard County for use as public recreation at the north end of Florence Street on Johnson. There were deed restrictions that required the Town to develop the land into a property the community could use for recreation. Malabar followed through and cleared parts of the land, brought in fill and purchased playground equipment and developed it as a neighborhood park for young children. The Malabar Park and Recreation Board is now discussing updating the park to provide activities for the seniors. The neighborhood has grown up and there is a need for recreation for seniors. They are proposing both Bacchi and Shuffle Board. There was also a suggestion for an archery area, although there may not be enough area for that. They have also proposed a pavilion and restrooms. The Board may submit an application for grant funding next year for the FY 12/13 or FY13/14. Any proposals would first be approved by Council to commit the financial match required by the grant.

Malabar being rural in nature permits dogs in their conservation designated parks. We do require they be on leashes. We have a pet waste disposal setup at the Disc Golf Park donated by Malabar's own Yellow Dog Café. The Malabar Community Park permits dogs on leashes and has signage advising owners are responsible for cleaning up pet waste promptly. In previous issues we have described how pet waste can add to the pollution issues of the Indian River Lagoon. We will apply for additional pet waste stations as grant funds become available.

Within the boundaries of Malabar are also appx 900 acres of land owned by the State and managed by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Please call Debby at 321-727-7764 if you would like more information.

## TOWN VOLUNTEER EAGLE PATROL

The Town has had a citizen patrol program known as the "Eagle" Patrol since its inception in 2002. It is made up of residents who patrol in a Town vehicle around the incorporated areas of Malabar during the day to provide extra eyes in the community. If you are interested in participating please call Town Hall at 321-727-7764. There will also be a booth set up at Spring Fest to display the vehicle and provide sign up applications.

Some of the Eagle Corp Safety Tips:

- Trim shrubbery below the front windows
- Install timers on interior lights while away
- Keep garage door closed even when home
- Request Post Office to hold mail when on vacation
- Request the Eagle Corp to do a "vacation check" on your property when you are away

## ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED

Malabar Council has considered many ordinances and resolutions since the last issue of the MailBoat. They can be found on the Town website [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org) and click on the Ordinance or Resolution tab. The numbering for ordinances is shown as yyyy-xx cumulative number of the ordinance. The numbering for the resolutions shows first the cumulative number followed by the year it was considered. Following is the series of both that have been considered since the last publication.

<b>Ordinances:</b>	<b>Resolutions:</b>
2008-13 thru	35-2008 thru
2011-47	102-2011

One of the issues the Council is working on is fire inspections. They have determined they no longer want to charge businesses for the fire safety inspections. They are still working out the details related to those inspections. Council also investigated having all the fire services provided by the County. Once the figures came back from the County the Council learned that the cost is less to keep the Malabar Fire Department.

## FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Town of Malabar's Building Department is made up of the Building Official Roger Cloutier and his Assistant Denine Sherear. The Department issues building permits for commercial and residential buildings, swimming pools, sheds, additions, re-roofs and all related construction projects. The Department reviews all required submitted documents for compliance with applicable State building codes as well as Malabar Codes. The applicant is responsible to ensure compliance with any other jurisdictional agencies such as the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) or the US Fish and Wildlife Division. Permits for land clearing, culverts excavation and ponds also require a permit but are also reviewed and inspected by the Town Engineer Morris Smith, P.E. The Building Department inspects, at predetermined intervals, different stages of construction, based on information contained on the approved plans and applicable codes. Compliance with current Florida Building Codes should help you to achieve a successful construction project. The Building Department will always work with permit holders to provide assistance on understanding Building code requirements through proper communication and education. Please contact the Building Department at (321) 727-7764 X 14 to request information or inspections or permits status. The Building Department hours are 8:30am to 4:30 pm, Monday, through Friday.

## SURVEY (con't from pg. 7)

23. If the Town must reduce services, which 2 should be reduced first? (List most important service first)
- #1 \_\_\_ Fire Service #2 \_\_\_ EMS Services #3 \_\_\_ Stormwater Drainage #4 \_\_\_ Road Maintenance #5 \_\_\_ Park Maintenance
- #1 10 Fire Service 11 EMS Services 6 Stormwater Drainage 6 Road Maintenance 55 Park Maintenance
- #2 8 Fire Service 25 EMS Services 22 Stormwater Drainage 12 Road Maintenance 13 Park Maintenance

### Future Budgets

Property values in the Town will decline another 20% in 2011. Since property taxes are bases on property values, the Town's property tax revenue for next year's budget will decline by 20% if last year's millage rate (tax rate) remains the same. Our Town Charter and State law require a balanced budget; we do not have deficits.

24. About 9% of your total property taxes are paid to the Town. The remaining 91% go to County, School District, another taxing authorities. Example: Tax Bill of \$1650.12 - \$149.20 go to the Town of Malabar's General Fund to support services provided by the Town. Most Town of Malabar resident's pay two Non-Ad Valorem taxes which are \$36.00 – a Stormwater Fee and \$57.00 – a solid waste fee and a MSTU tax for police services. Do you believe you receive good value for the taxes you pay to the Town of Malabar?
- 90 Yes 20 No 15 No opinion
25. Which statement best reflects your preference for the next budget year (FY 11/12) and subsequent years with declining property values? (Select only one)
- 46 Continue to fund Town services at this year's levels (FY 10/11, and increase the millage rate from 1.6630 to 2.0651, which will generate the same revenues as this year.
- 69 Maintain the current millage rate of 1.6630, which will generate @291,132 in tax revenue that results in a \$67,640 (19%) decrease in property tax revenue, and cut the services where necessary.

What services would you cut?

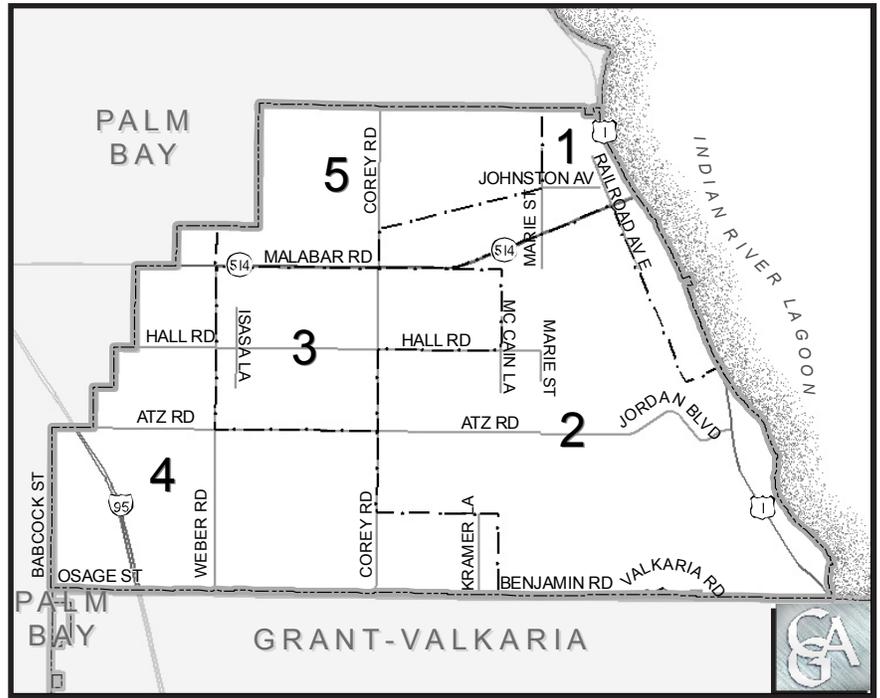
16 Fire Service 34 EMS Services 20 Stormwater Drainage 9 Road Maintenance 60 Park Maintenance

26. Other comments not addressed in this survey: **SEE SEPARATE COMMENT SHEETS**

**Know Your Representatives on Council**

The Council members to the left represent these districts:

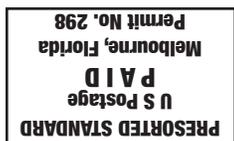
- District 1:** Carl Beatty  
837-1600 2944 Century Oaks Circle
- District 2:** David White  
231-0013 2110 Ivey Lane
- District 3:** Steve Rivet  
956-6551 2005 Rivet Lane
- District 4:** Jeffrey McKnight  
223-6723 2005 Flashy Lane
- District 5:** Marisa Acquaviva  
768-1127 1120 Baywood Court
- Mayor:** Tom Eschenberg  
724-1007 2835 Beran Lane
- Town Administrator** Bonilyn Wilbanks  
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.sjrwmd.com](http://www.sjrwmd.com)

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

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