



# THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 18 NO. 2 4th QUARTER 2012

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.

## ELECTION RESULTS

### MEET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The results of the recent election have brought new Town representatives for District 1 and District 2, as neither seat was challenged by an incumbent. Your new Council Member for District 1 is Jim Milucky and District 2 Council Member is Wayne Abare. District 3 was challenged and the winner is Steve Rivet. These officials will serve a term of two years and the seats will be up for election again in 2014. The Mayor's seat is a four-year term and Carl Beatty was the winner in that race.

The Town would like to thank all candidates for their efforts in supporting their Town by stepping up to participate in the process.

We also had nine questions on the ballot for voter's consideration.

- 1) Shall the Town continue to participate in the Brevard County Law Enforcement MSTU?
- 2) Proposes clarifying language in Charter for petition signers changing the word "residents" to "qualified electors"
- 3) Requiring candidates for Mayor to also submit a petition signed by 15 qualified electors.
- 4) Allowing a majority vote on resolutions instead of a roll call vote.
- 5) Provide updated language in Charter to acknowledge Town's payments via electronic methods.
- 6) Shall the Town pursue land acquisitions for future Town purposes as identified in the Capital Improvement Plan of the Town of Malabar Comprehensive Land Use Plan by funding of said purchases through the imposition of an additional 1 mil for a period of two years beginning in 2013?
- 7) Should the Town of Malabar support future land acquisition for town hall?
- 8) Should the Town of Malabar support future land acquisitions for community center?
- 9) Should the Town of Malabar support future land acquisitions for river front access?

**Question 1** was approved. When Council voted to join the MSTU, they wanted the voters in Malabar to reconsider that decision every two years.

**Questions 2 and 3** were approved about qualified electors and petition requirement for Mayor.

**Question 4** was rejected and Council will continue to do roll call votes on resolutions.

**Questions 5** allowing electronic payments was approved.

**Question 6** was rejected regarding a voted debt of 1 additional mil for a period of two years.

The non-binding **questions 7-9** were also rejected about specific purchases.

## FROM YOUR COUNCIL

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### District 1

Well, the signs are gone and the robo-calls have stopped. I know we're all a bit wearier from this election season but thank goodness we live in a great place like Malabar where our residents are active in the civic process. Well enough of that. Even though land acquisitions and new town halls weren't on the voters wish lists there's still plenty to do. Whether you're in district one or not, please feel welcome to drop me a line or make an appointment if you have a particular topic you'd like to air. Oh, and there are several boards that could use an extra set of eyes, ears and legs, so if you're so inclined let us know.

James [Jim] Milucky, CPA

### District 2

In 2010 I unsuccessfully ran for the Town Council District 2 seat against David White. During the 2010 campaign at a "meet the candidates" forum at Town Hall I stated that if I lost the election I would get more involved with Malabar in other capacities. On January 2011 I was appointed to the Malabar Planning and Zoning Board. I have served since January 2011; however I had to resign this month since I won the election for Town Council District 2 against Brian Vail. I also was appointed to serve on the last two Malabar Citizen Budget Review Committees. I believe I am much better qualified to serve the Town of Malabar today than I was in 2010. I look forward to serving the Town of Malabar and encourage citizen participation.

Wayne Abare

### District 3

"Friends and neighbors: as you read this, a new council has been recently seated; some of the seats have been filled by people new to the council. Please be involved, come to council meetings as you can, and understand the goals and motivations of the people you've elected to represent you. You deserve a council and mayor composed of sober representatives who represent you and not their own parochial interests. If no one pays attention, those who seek to further their personal agendas may come to power. Only an informed voting populace can prevent that."

Steve Rivet

### District 4

Residents of Malabar, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for you and yours this holiday season. I have been your councilman for the past five years and have one challenging year remaining before I term out. I implore all of you to become involved in your community at some level and keep a close watch on what is going on.

Despite my continued efforts to keep this beautiful Town rural and free from corruption, it is obvious that consortiums behind the scenes continue to press their own agendas. One of my primary concerns is a fast-tracking of our comp plan. It is of my opinion that slow and transparent government is good government. When attempts are made to expedite governmental issues when there are no visible driving forces, that is exactly when every attempt should be made to insure that the issue is being handled fairly and to resist the pressure to accelerate a decision.

The Town of Malabar needs you. We need people with integrity and dignity to step forward and protect our rights, privacy, and sovereignty. It is a thankless, tiring, and frustrating job to serve the Town. The more you learn, the more challenging and frustrating it will become. I will not advertise it as otherwise, but it is a necessity. I can honestly state that every decision that I have made for this Town was based upon the good of the Town and never anything else. Please help and get involved, or, someone else will that may not have your interests at heart. — Jeff McKnight

### District 5

Happy 50th Birthday Year to the Town of Malabar! What a great time to be living in and serving the Town of Malabar. I have been honored to serve 2 terms on Town Council for the past 3 years where I have enjoyed being part of such a wonderful community. This year has been especially remarkable with the Celebrations of Springfest, the Cow Bell 5K race, as well as the New Town Flag that was designed by Malabarians to proudly fly in front of Town Hall. We can even boast that we have a Town Song...."The Little Town of Malabar". My most proudest moments come from wonderful spirit of my neighbors when just a few people started a small project that turned into the beautification of our Town Hall. It warms my heart every time I drive by or attend functions at Town Hall to experience such generosity from everyone who stopped by to lend a hand, and donate their time, talent and treasures. Not one penny of the Town's money was spent on the front yard. What a wonderful testament to the goodness of the folks that we have as neighbors. Times can be tough right now but we can always serve each other and our Town in some way. I will always remember and I miss Mayor Tom Eschenberg. He truly lived his life serving his family, church and the Town of Malabar. I encourage everyone to get involved in some way... whether it is helping your neighbor, volunteering, coming to town meetings or serving on one the Town's Boards or Council. I will always be passionate about the safety of our citizens and I try to balance fiscal responsibility with making sure we are doing our best for safe roads, parks and home security. I love living and serving the little Town of Malabar!

Marisa Acquaviva.

# News Around Town . . .

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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The Town of Malabar has a Citizens Patrol that is called the Eagle Patrol. We are looking for volunteers to be the “eyes and ears” of the Town. If you would like to be a part of your Town and help keep it safe, please stop by Town Hall for an application or go on the website under forms. We would be very happy to have you join the group that goes out a couple of times a week for two hours or so and rides through the Town. They also keep a watch on people’s homes that may be on vacation. We even have some who like to report the various animals that are out in the yards of the residents around town. If anything is amiss, just call 911 on the phone that the Town provides to you during your “watch” time.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

Grant Ball of Grant’s Auto Marine Service, has the oldest continually operated business in Malabar. He started his business in 1967 by planting a sign in the front yard of the family home. Town officials were reluctant to issue an occupational license due to his age but he persevered and has been continually operating his business from this address since then. He told a great story recently about another long time Malabar resident who had provided credit for him when he was too young to get it on his own at the parts store. This is the type of person that calls Malabar home. They are ready to help their neighbor. Mr. Ball has a long history with the Town besides his business. He also volunteered with other residents to help lay the block for the building we use for Town Hall.

## **VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE**

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The website is at [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org). Once on the site, you can check meetings, events and minutes just by clicking on the designated tab on the left of your screen. You can also submit an automated service request form if you need Town Services. This year, to comply with the State Law, we have added a tab for Budget Revisions. 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 at 321-727-7764.

## **Teen Council**

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The Teen Council was started in April of 2009 by Mayor Eschenberg. His goal was to have students from the ages of 13 to 19 become involved in civics and become involved in the community. The Teen Council meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm here at Town Hall in the Council Chambers with the exception of the months of June and July when school is not in session. Teen Council members have discussed such issues as the MSTU which they voted against and purchasing the old school house to be used as a community center which they voted for. At the latest meeting of October 16, 2012, they discussed Amendment 4; a referendum question on the November Election Ballot. After much discussion from the Council and hearing from the “public”, the Council unanimously voted against Amendment 4. They believe that everyone should be paying the same taxes across the board and not have such a vast difference in the amounts that the tax payers pay; which affects the amount of funds that the local governments received to provide services needed to the communities. If you are between the ages of 13 and 19 and are interested in civics and would like to join the Teen Council, please make contact with the Town Clerk’s office at 321-727-7764. An application will be provided to you for completion. We would love to have you join in the fun that they have going over the issues and giving their viewpoints.

## **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR TOWN HALL**

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Town Hall will be closed for THANKSGIVING on Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!!!

Due to the Christmas holiday falling on Tuesday, Town Hall will be closing at noon on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be back in the office on Wednesday December 26<sup>th</sup>. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL FROM THE TOWN OF MALABAR!!!

Due to the New Year’s holiday falling on Tuesday, Town Hall will be closing at noon on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be back in the office on Wednesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. HAPPY NEW YEAR’S TO YOU ALL FROM THE TOWN OF MALABAR!!!

# MALABAR VOLUNTEER BOARDS

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## Planning and Zoning Board

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The responsibilities of the P&Z board are to advise the Town Council on matters concerning the Land Development Code, Comprehensive Planning, and future Zoning and Land Uses in the Town of Malabar. We had a busy year with rewriting the Fence Ordinance, Pond Ordinance, and Setback Table 1-3.3(A) to give land owners more freedom with their property. We also relooked at the R/LC Land Use designation and established the maximum densities of the residential and commercial uses within the property. We are presently looking at creating a new Zoning and Land Use designation called Light Industrial. The board created proposed Land Use maps changes that will go before Council early next year as the future vision of the Town.

We would like to thank Wayne Abare for his service to the board the past year and to welcome Leeanne Saylor to the Board!

Have a safe and Happy Holiday season.

## Park and Recreation Board

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One of the highlights of the Town of Malabar is our parks. Nestled throughout the town are some of the quaintest hideaways that are enjoyed by our residents, cyclists, sports fans and the like. We have the Cameron Wildlife Preserve Trail Head, the Malabar Community Park, Fern Creek Crossing Park, the Trailhead off of north Marie Street and the newest addition is the Disc Golf Park. Each one of our parks is unique, offering special features to the visitors who take time out of their busy schedules to enjoy them. The Cameron Wildlife Preserve Trail Head, located north of Corey Road, has the northern border paved for bicyclists, hikers and wheel chairs; along with many unpaved trails that lead to Turkey Creek, the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary and the Audubon Society sanctuaries. Malabar Community Park offers a covered play area for the children and an array of sport fields. This park is also used for the annual Malabar Springfest held each year in the spring. The Disc Golf Park is the newest addition; located across the street from the Malabar Community Park. This park is in constant use as this is the fastest growing sport around. Come out and learn this unique sport. If you are a die-hard fan, sign up for the many games and tournaments that are always being offered. The Fern Creek Crossing Park is located on the SW corner of Corey and Malabar Roads. It is used by many of our cyclists as a resting point. The Sand Hill Trail Head located off north Marie Street offers trails for our equestrian friends. Start at this trail and work your way to the Malabar Community Park and the back side of the Cameron Wildlife Preserve. Or

you can finish at the Sand Hill Trail Head and take a break to water your horse. There is plenty of space for trailers to park while you are out riding and enjoying the scenery of Malabar. We also have Huggins Park located on Johnston Avenue and is a perfect place for a quiet day with a place to relax and enjoy the sun. There may be some changes coming to Huggins Park. The Park Board has been discussing the possibility of making this park in to an adult park with shuffle board and bacchi ball courts. Take a day and enjoy the many wonderful parks that the Town of Malabar is so proud to offer!

## Board of Adjustment

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This Board meets on an as needed basis to consider requests for variances to the Land Development Code or appeals to the administrative decisions of the Building Official.

## Trails and Greenways Committee

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On Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Malabar Trails & Greenways Committee (T&G) held it's first of now regularly scheduled meetings held on the second Monday of each month, starting at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. Attendees included Chairperson: Drew Thompson, Members: Bob Wilbur, Murray Hann, and Hans Kemmler. Dick Korn, member, was absent. Also in attendance were Bob Slegmann, from the Town of Malabar Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, participating in a liaison role. The group identified numerous ideas, resources, possible projects and approaches that the committee plans to refine, organize, and pending Town Council approval, bring to fruition. A major consideration of all was that T&G optimization would depend on early adoption of a big picture perspective – in geographic, time and potential resource dimensions. Connectivity was acknowledged as the key to future success, a simple concept that some other originally rural Brevard County communities have learned too late. Accordingly, the T&G discussion included consideration of surrounding area efforts, organizations and plans that have and/or will impact Malabar trails and greenways. Pedestrian, bicycle, horse and even possible canoe / kayak trails were discussed. Paved and unpaved trails, trail heads, traffic patterns / volume and park property boundaries were frequently mentioned in discussion topics. It was acknowledged by all that T&G success would depend on promoting solutions that positively impact the ambience and property values of nearby developments, as well as Malabar as a whole. On a Saturday (TBS) prior to the next meeting, the T&G plans to meet in the field to inspect one or more trails and/or do some limited trail enhancements. The T&G also looks forward to its next scheduled meeting of December 10, 2012.

## *From the Town Administrator*

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The Town has completed several important drainage projects since the beginning of this fiscal year, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The first one is the replacement of the culvert at Weber & Atz Roads, in which we enlarged the pipe circumference. This will aid in moving the water traveling north faster. The 2<sup>nd</sup> project is the rehabilitation of the 2 culverts under the bridges in Country Cove subdivision. These pipes had deteriorated very badly. These two projects were handled by outside vendors. In house, Public Works staff has undertaken resetting the culverts on the west side of Weber Road from Hall Road to Malabar Road. This was necessary due to elevation problems between the culverts. This will be going on until approximately February.

Once again I am asking for any residents interested in being added to my Town resident email list to please send me an email at [bwfree@townofmalabar.org](mailto:bwfree@townofmalabar.org). This list is not given to anyone. Its use is so that we can get important information to you regarding matters involving the Town.

Finally, I hope that each of you have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE TOWN OF MALABAR**

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Next month will officially recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decision of the Malabar residents to incorporate and establish their own regulations for the rural development they wished to preserve. In the last issue we mentioned some of the many businesses that claim Malabar as their business address.



In this issue we would like to recognize restaurants that we are proud to have in Malabar: the Yellow Dog Café on Highway 1 and Malabar Mo's on Malabar Road have both been operating at their respective locations for almost two decades. Restaurants are a leading small business employer and we wish them every continued success. We would also like to welcome a new restaurant to our community – Mo-Bay Grill, Inc. on Highway 1 south of Malabar Road.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

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Once again, the Town of Malabar held the annual Malabar Christmas Tree Lighting. This year the event was on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 6:00 pm. The choir from the Malabar First Baptist Church led us in seasonal song while we awaited the arrival of Santa on the fire truck.

The newly elected Mayor, Carl Beatty, flipped the switch on the Christmas tree at 6PM while we all enjoyed cookies and cider. This has turned into a fun community event over the years.

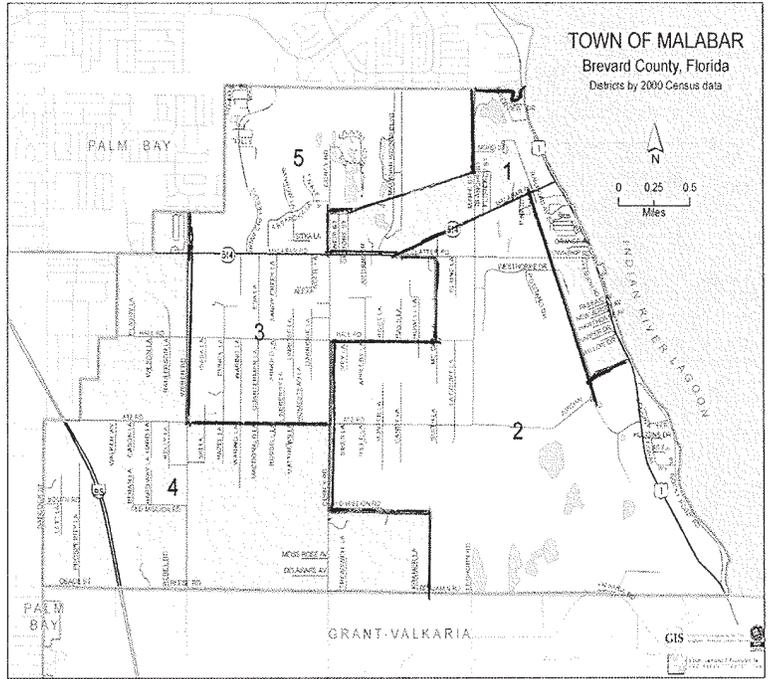
From our families at the Town of Malabar to your families, we want to extend the warmest and happiest of holiday wishes to each and everyone.



## Know Your Representatives on Council

The Council members to the left represent these districts:

- District 1:** Jim Milucky  
727-0882 1280 Highway 1
- District 2:** Wayne Abare  
727-8559 2530 Rocky Point Rd
- District 3:** Steve Rivet  
431-9878 2005 Rivet Lane
- District 4:** Jeffrey McKnight  
223-6723 2005 Flashy Lane
- District 5:** Marisa Acquaviva  
693-4172 1120 Baywood Court
- Mayor:** Carl Beatty  
514-8623 2944 Century Oaks Circle
- Town Admin/  
Code Enforc.** 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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