



THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 7 NO. 1 1st QUARTER 2001

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.

MALABAR DAY IS HERE!! MARCH 24TH FROM 11 am - 4 pm

It is that time of year again! Time to come out, enjoy the sunshine, meet old friends, make new friends, and have a good time. The annual Malabar Day Celebration is set for Saturday, March 24, 2001 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Malabar Community Park. Local businesses will again be a key highlight for this year's event. We invite all local businesses to come out and sell, advertise, and promote your business. Arts and crafts, including Folklife demonstrations in woodworking, weaving, and more, will also be featured. It's not too late to reserve a space!! If you are interested, please call Town Hall at 727-7764.

Malabar's own **Yellow Dog Cafe**, located on US 1, will prepare and serve the food for the second year in a row. This is a tremendous contribution on their part and the Park Board is grateful for this donation to the Park Fund. Live music by local bands **Up the Creek**, **Polkats**, **Kindred Spirits**, and the **Mighty Scrub J's** will entertain you.

The mixed class car show is always a hit, with judging set for 3 p.m., for 1st, 2nd, and Best in Show. Call Ron Garrison to pre-register for \$15.00, or \$17.00 the day of the show. The Space Coast Model Sailing Club is a member of the American Model Yachting Association and will give hands-on demonstrations between rac-

ing events. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places (standard regulations).

Malabar's Boy Scout Troop 37, along with Pack 37, will not only do the event's opening and closing flag ceremonies, but will hold their Pine Wood Derby, operate the children's games, and supervise the fishing contest for kids 12 and younger. Remember to bring your fishing poles! Bait will be provided compliments of Palm Bay Fishing Outfitters, 1663 Georgia Street NE. This is the second year in a row they have contributed to the success of the fishing contest! Staff from the Brevard Metropolitan Planning Organization will provide a bike safety rodeo, and local stables will offer horse rides through the park. Another popular attraction is the Okinawan Shortin-Ryu Karate School's demonstration, led by Renshi Jack Webster. The climbing rock, known as the Monolith, is back and will test your mountain climbing skills! The Monolith is again being sponsored by the Brook Hollow Community Association. The



Malabar Volunteer Fire Department will demonstrate a jaws of life rescue, and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office will conduct a canine unit demonstration. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and plan to spend an enjoyable day! Proceeds from the day will go to the Malabar Park and Recreation Fund.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Carl Beatty and Mike Brown, Public Works employees, recently attended a Florida State Department of Transportation motor grader school. This class was both classroom text and hands-on grader experience. Attendees ranged from those with 6 months' experience to 20 years' experience. Items covered were: proper repair of rutting or washboarding roads, maintaining crowns with proper movement of windrows, and clearing ditches. We are happy to report that Carl and Mike passed with high honors.



It has been 5 months since we surfaced Atz, Hall, and Marie roads. We are impressed with the improvement and results and have had positive citizen feedback. We are now looking forward to completing LaCourt and the west end of Hall Road this October.

INDY Construction of Sanford has been awarded the contract to construct tennis courts and a basketball court in the community park. The courts should be ready for play April 1, 2001. Now is the time to get your partners and plan to play at the park!

We were fortunate to receive 40,000 yards of dirt from the Turkey Creek dredging project for use as fill in our park. There was no charge for the dirt or trucking, complements of the St. Johns River Water Management District. This equates to a savings of \$141,000.

Sincerely,



Bill Hall, Town Administrator

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS...

Ordinance 01-01, Right-of-Way Improvement Ordinance. This passed on its second reading on February 5, 2001. This is a comprehensive ordinance. One of the items this ordinance addresses is building on a 25-foot right-of-way.

Ordinance 00-11, Lot Split Ordinance. This passed on its second reading on January 22, 2001. This ordinance deals with splitting a lot.

A Note from Council: The Town Council thanks Richard Cameron for all his involvement with the Trails and Green ways project. The entire Town will benefit from his energy and community involvement in this worthwhile endeavor. Please see his article on page 5.

VOTED DEBT FOR PARKS AND RECREATION?

Last November Brevard County placed a referendum on the ballot regarding the issuing of bonds in order to develop and maintain park and recreational facilities throughout Brevard. Malabar was included in the South Brevard area of this proposal. Overall, the referendum passed in the South Brevard area but when the votes within only Malabar were tallied, the referendum failed by 38 votes. After the November vote the Town Council was required to make a decision: would Malabar participate in the Special District created by this referendum? This decision would determine whether or not the citizens of Malabar would be taxed for the next 20 years to pay for the bond issue. At the January 9, 2001 Council meeting the Town Council unanimously voted not to participate in the Special District.

But the Town Council did recognize that almost half of the voters in Malabar were interested in voted debt to pay for park and recreation items. Now the Council is interested in knowing what you think about a possible voted debt for a short period of time (one or two years only) to be used to fund park and recreation projects here within the Town.

At this time the Council has asked the Park and Recreation Board to develop a list of park and recreation items that would be useful to the citizens of Malabar. Once a plan is developed, and the cost calculated, then the Council can discuss the amount of the proposed voted debt. Council has discussed a cost of one mill or less. One mill of tax revenue for one year would be \$124,176. If Council moves forward with this plan, the citizens would vote on this issue in the November, 2001 election.

This process is only just beginning. If you have ideas for recreational facilities or comments regarding this process, please call Town Hall or your Council representative. If you plan to attend Malabar Day, please stop by the ticket booth and fill out a survey. Information for this project will be gathered from the survey.

VOICE YOUR OPINION

Council Member Charlene Horton, District 2, wants to know what you are thinking. Come by and voice your opinion, tell her your concerns, and meet in an informal town meeting.

When: March 27, 2001, 7:30 pm.

Where: Town Hall.

Town Happenings . . .

MALABAR DAY SURVEY

The survey is back! Please stop by the ticket booth at Malabar Day and fill out a survey card. The information gathered will assist the Town Council in making decisions that affect all of us. If you cannot attend Malabar Day but would like to fill out a survey, please stop by Town Hall!

SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

For Persons Age 65 and Over

Even though the filing deadline for this year has passed, you can file for an additional \$25,000 exemption for the 2002 tax year. If you are 65 or older, or if you know of someone who is 65 or older, then this exemption is worth looking into. You must show proof of age and residency, you must be approved for the \$25,000 homestead exemption, and have an adjusted household income not exceeding \$20,000. Even if you make slightly more than \$20,000 a year you should come by Town Hall and pick up an application, or call the Brevard County Property Appraiser's office at 264-6700.

A NOTE FROM HARRIS SANITATION...

To better serve our customers, we have developed a program which works directly with association officers to provide them with verbal and/or written information on the do's and don'ts of solid waste disposal.

We have found that even Harris Sanitation, Brevard County, and the Town of Malabar have from time to time published information for residents, many customers are still surprised to learn that there are ordinances that cover proper preparation of garbage/yard trash/recycling for pickup. The majority of calls we receive in our office are from customers asking for information. It is our goal to provide you with the information you need so that you can pass it on to your members at meetings, in newsletters or in flyers.

We can also schedule a group, made up of our supervisors and route workers, to attend your association meeting so that your residents can ask questions and express their service concerns directly to us. Tours can be arranged of our facility here at Harris which can include one-on-one meetings with our residential and recycle supervisors and our operations manager.

If you want more information on the Association Program, please call Lois at 723-4455 x1205.

RECYCLE YOUR PHONE BOOKS

April – May 2001

Phone books WILL NOT be accepted in your recycling bin! Please put your old phone books in the outdoor dumpster-style container with the bright yellow sticker at Town Hall. For more info call the Brevard County Recycling Hotline at 633-2043.

ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

Did you know...

If you own your own home and receive less than \$36,000 per year in income (for a family of 3) you may be able to receive assistance through Brevard County's Housing and Community Development office to make home repairs.

You may be able to receive assistance through Brevard County's Housing and Community Development office to purchase a home (if you have not owned one within the last 3 years).

That Brevard County's Housing and Community Development office may be able to provide you with assistance to 'weatherize' your home.

Contact Town Hall for more details and applications.

BABCOCK STREET CORRIDOR STUDY

The Babcock Street Corridor Study is in the next phase. The study encompasses Babcock Street (SR 507) from Valkaria Road to NASA Boulevard. A previous study has identified the need to four-lane or six-lane certain segments of Babcock Street. It may be necessary to acquire additional right-of-way in selected areas. The next step toward implementation is the Project Development and Environment Study. On March 6th a public meeting was held to discuss the scope and schedule of the PD&E Study. If you would like more information you can visit the web at <http://www.sr507.com>.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) volunteers, trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service will provide FREE income tax assistance and FREE e-file to the community. Individuals seeking assistance should bring pertinent documents such as a copy of last year's income tax return, forms showing income earned, copies of social security cards and the current tax information package mailed to them by the IRS. To find a VITA location near you call 1-800-829-1040.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

On January 29, 2001, Council held the first in a series of workshops to discuss Malabar's five-year plan. During the brainstorm session the following ideas were named as possibilities for projects in the next five years. Now Council wants to know what you think. Do you have any comments or any items to add to the list? If so, please call Town Hall or your representative. Also, information for the five-year plan will be gathered on the survey taken during Malabar Day.

Land Acquisition

- Town Hall/Municipal Complex
 - library
 - community center
- Well water sites
- Stormwater
 - Corey and Malabar \$300,000
 - Recharge Areas
- Parks and Recreation
 - Riverfront (FRDAP grant, boating grant)
- Industrial
 - Babcock area
- Right-of-Ways
 - Marie to Leghorn

Facilities

- Town Hall
- Community Center/Library
- Public Works storage
- Recreation
 - pavilions

- trails
- piers
- Expand water treatment facility

Equipment

- Mower/Slope mower
- Tractor & Accessories
- Dump Truck
- Pick-up Truck \$17,000
- Office Equipment
 - computers

Infrastructure

- Roads
 - 12 miles of collectors
- Pave dirt roads \$65,000/yr
- Water/sewer/stormwater
- Beautification
 - lighting
- Neighborhood revitalization
 - rehab
- code enforcement

Fire Safety

- Vehicles
 - tanker
 - utility
 - squad
 - engine refirb
- Building
 - paint
 - overhead doors
 - replace concrete
- EMS
 - upgrade to BLS
 - add defibrillator
- Radio Communications
 - replace obsolete packsets
 - radio headsets
- Fire Fighting Equipment
 - fire hose
 - Scott Packs
 - Cascade air system
 - Bunker gear

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that we have a magazine published here in Malabar? Well, we do, and it's one that really pertains to many of us since it's the only magazine that is just for Florida gardeners. The magazine is called Florida Gardening and is published six times a year. The publisher is Wae Nelson, his wife Kathy is the editor. Kathy also creates most of the cover pictures for the magazine, and they get moral support from their dog Kodi. Wae and Kathy are avid gardeners that decided to make career changes about 5 1/2 years ago. That decision led to this wonderfully informative gardening magazine.

Florida Gardening contains four topics in each issue; places to visit, cooking articles, an almanac, and ornamentals, edibles and trees plus specialty articles. They also feature a calendar of events for the upcoming two months and sections on central, north and south Florida growing tips. Their articles include the botanical names as well as local names for the plants they discuss so anyone can find the correct plant.

Wae and Kathy feel it's their charter to help people gar-

den in Florida and to have fun doing it. They hope their readers will regard the magazine as a friend that comes to visit every two months. They provide many neat tips, some on soil improvement to help hold water, which are especially useful during drought conditions like we are currently experiencing. And they tell us where to get free mulch to help our plants last through the summer heat, cut down on weeds, and keep the soil from drying out.

Wae and Kathy have a website that is useful to those of us with gardening issues. If you have any gardening questions, you can post them at www.floridagardening.com, and other gardeners having the answer will respond to your question.

There are two ways to get this magazine: one is to subscribe directly to PO Box 500678 Malabar, FL 32950 and the other is to purchase it at Publix, Home Depot or Barnes and Noble. I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the contents of this magazine. It's certainly worth reading.

Building Official's Report

By Jim Phelps, CBO

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING SAFETY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS CODE ENFORCEMENT

If a builder builds a house and does not make its construction firm, and the house collapses and causes the death of the owner, that builder shall be put to death. That excerpt from the code of Hammurabi serves as an example of what building code enforcement was like almost 4,000 years ago.



Today, building code enforcement is the job of professionals who work at your local town hall, fire department, county building or at the state level. Thanks to the building code regulations enforced in the Town of Malabar, you can be sure that the home you buy or rent or the building where you work is a safe structure. Building codes regulate construction as well as electrical, plumbing and other mechanical systems to ensure they operate safely. But safe buildings don't happen by chance.

During the week of April 8 - 14, the Town of Malabar's Building Department will promote International Building Safety Week.

International Building Safety Week recognizes the importance of safe buildings and the professionals who make sure buildings are safe in our community; public safety is our number one concern. We enforce building codes

that result in the safe construction of all types of buildings.

The importance of building codes, their regulation and enforcement, is often overlooked until a catastrophic fire or other construction-related tragedy occurs. By inspecting buildings during and after construction, Malabar's Building Department helps to ensure that buildings in the community are safe, sound and accessible places to work, play and live. Malabar also enforces life-safety regulations, reviews building plans and issues building permits.

International Building Safety Week began in 1980. Its objectives are to promote the use, enforcement and understanding of building codes. It also recognizes professional code enforcement officials who regularly attend educational training seminars to make sure they are aware of the latest code changes and technological advances in construction.

International Building Safety Week is endorsed by model code organizations include BOCA International, the International Code Council, the Council of American Building Officials, the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards, the World Organization of Building Officials, the International Conference of Building Officials and the Southern Building Code Congress International. With input from code enforcement officials, these organizations research and publish code books, provide professional training and technical information, and offer other support services to code enforcement officials, fire service professionals, architects, engineers and builders.

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS UPDATE

By Richard Cameron, Trails and Greenways Volunteer Coordinator

The Trail Head on north Marie Street is cleaning up nicely. The old house on the property was cleaned out during a four-hour work party in January. We filled a twenty-yard dumpster which Harris Sanitation was kind enough to furnish and then haul the debris to the dump. The house will soon be torn down.

In February a work party was held for pepper busting. The work party spent four hours cutting down and chipping pepper trees. Thanks to all the volunteer effort, and the Town's chipper, we were able to clean a large part of the south east section of the trail head. Thank you to Carl Beatty, Liz Ritter, Diane Williams, Laura Lee Orite, Barbara Ann Kibling, Murray Hann and for all their help. It was a hot day with plenty of hard work, but with a team effort we were able to accomplish our goal. Now you can see from Marie Street all the way back to some existing stables at the back of the property.

Another pepper busting/chipping party will be scheduled for April 28, 2001 from 8 a.m. until noon. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand is invited! You can sign up at the work party, or you can call Town Hall.

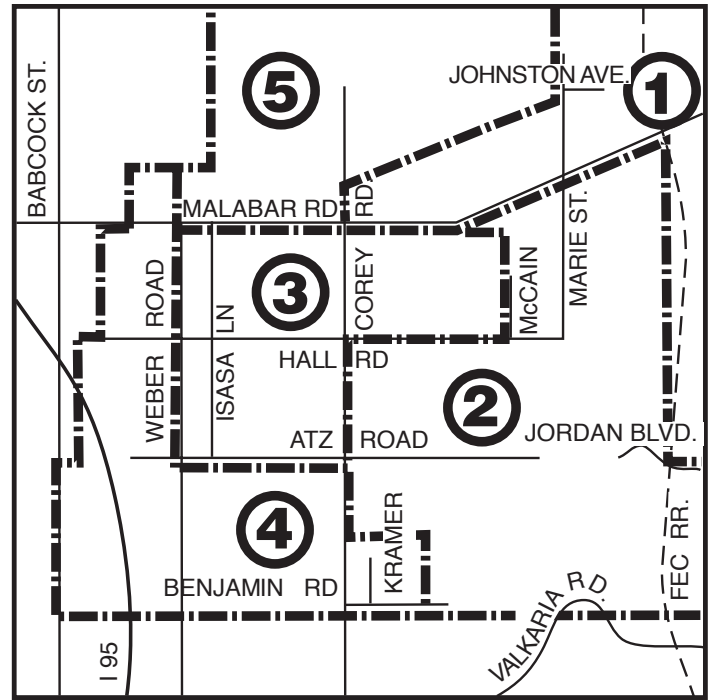
Also in February two volunteers and I widened the gate on the southeast entrance of the Scrub Preserve. The Preserve, adjacent to the fire station and at the end of Malabar Woods Boulevard, is a beautiful park to walk, bike, or ride, and the trails are marked to guide you. We widened the gate from 18 inches to 38 inches to allow for wheelchairs and equestrian access. Thanks to Laura Lee Orite and Barbara Ann Kibling for all their help.

Thank you to all of our past volunteers that have helped make headway on the Malabar Trails and Greenways project. We are working for the good of all Malabar residents, as well as visitors, so that everyone may enjoy the pristine outdoors that Malabar has been graced with.

Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Nancy Tinio-Borton 141 Riverview Drive	953-3912
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 www.malabartown.org

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