



Welcome to the Town of Malabar's Page

FUTURE MALABAR NEWSLETTERS

The Town of Malabar will be moving our monthly Newsletter to an online format beginning in September of 2020. There will be 2 more articles published in Hometown News, as well as one final Mailboat mailed to residents to inform them of the new format. On the 1st of each month, a new newsletter will be uploaded to the Town website, Townofmalabar.org. A new feature to help residents is the new subscription option on our website. Residents can subscribe to receive an emailed notification whenever a new newsletter is uploaded. Please help us spread the word by telling your neighbors!

FERTILIZER ORDINANCE AWARENESS

Brevard County has made a determined effort to help preserve the Indian River Lagoon. One key step taken by the County to help this cause is a ban on nitrogen rich fertilizers during the rainy summertime between June 1st to September 30th. Nitrogen rich fertilizer run-off can be brought through the area stormwater systems into the lagoon, harming the fragile ecosystem. In a 2011 study, fertilizers were shown to be the second largest contributor to nitrogen in waterways, behind only sewage. These fertilizers can cause harmful algae blooms that can devastate the delicate ecosystem. Malabar has gotten on board with this movement by passing Resolution 06-2019. This resolution accompanies Brevard County's Ordinance, which requires stores that sell these fertilizers to place signage informing consumers of the ban. Brevard County will provide the signs to retailers, and they will be paid for from the County's half percent sales tax which was designed to protect the lagoon. Retailers who do not comply with this ordinance will face a maximum of a five hundred dollar fine. In the first year of the ban, 2013, Brevard County retailers sold two-thirds less fertilizer during the effected months. Hopefully, this ban, along with the added signage, will reduce the run-off toxins into our precious lagoon.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION QUALIFYING

It's election season again! This year, the Town of Malabar will be holding elections for 4 seats. Districts 1, 2, & 3 as well as the Mayoral office are all up for election in 2020. The Town of Malabar will hold its municipal election on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at which time the three (3) Council Members (Seats 1, 2 and 3) will be elected to serve a two year term from the first regular Council meeting in November following the election (November 16th, 2020) until the special Council meeting on November 6, 2022. Due to the approval of the referendum question on the 2016 ballot, the candidates for Districts 1, 2 and 3 must not only qualify from their respective Districts but now must be voted on ONLY BY those electors residing in their respective Districts. Also up for election this year is the Mayoral office. A Mayor will be selected to serve a four year term from the first regular Town Council meeting in November following the election (November 16th, 2020) until the special Town Council meeting of November 7th, 2024. Unlike Council Members, the mayor may obtain their required signatures from electors in any district and will be voted on by residents at large.

Last year, due to Florida Senate Bill 6077 the qualifying period for candidates was shortened from two weeks to one. This year,

with the passing of Ordinance 2020-05, Town Council has extended back to a two week period from 8:30 AM on July 28th to 4:00 PM on August 11th. Forms will be available from the Office of the Town Clerk and online during this time period and may only be filed during this period. All original forms are to be filed with the Malabar Town Clerk or her designee. Faxing or emailing these documents is not acceptable.

REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY AS A CANDIDATE

All persons desiring to announce and qualify as a candidate for office in Malabar must meet the following criteria:

- Mayoral candidates must be a resident for one (1) year
- Council candidates must be a resident of Malabar for six (6) months.
- Candidates for Districts 1, 2 and 3 must reside within their District at time of qualifying and throughout the election and term of office.
- Candidates for the Mayoral office must reside within the Town at the time of qualifying and throughout the election and term of office
- Complete the Qualifying Paperwork and Oath of Candidate
- Select a Campaign Treasurer and name a bank for campaign financing before gathering signatures
- All candidates must collect signatures from a minimum of 15 registered voters within their District.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROAD PAVING PROCESS

If you live in the Town of Malabar, chances are you live on a dirt road. A recent study conducted by Town Staff showed that just under 60% of roads maintained by the Town are dirt roads. The Town Council has made it a priority to provide a path for residents to get their roads paved. With the passing of Ordinance 2020-06, Malabar has provided that option. The Town will assume the cost of bringing the road back up to its original accepted standard using funds from the budgeted monies in the road maintenance fund. With the passing of the new Ordinance, the Town will also pay 40% of the actual paving costs. The Town is using the county implemented Transportation Impact Fees Tax (T.I.F.T.) funds to pay for the up-front costs. Residents can reach out to the Clerk's office for a petition to improve an accepted road. If residents of a specific road gather the signatures of more than 2/3rds of the affected road frontage, the Town will get a preliminary cost and send that information along with a Not to Exceed Cost to each property owner to continue support for the Special Assessment. Upon receipt of the required signatures, the Town will proceed with the paving on a first come first serve basis until the T.I.F.T. funds have expired. The special assessment will be paid back based on the rates described in Resolution 15-2012. A house with less than \$2,500 will be required to be paid back inside of one year, a house with between \$2,501 and \$6,000 will be paid back in 2 years, and any house with a cost of over \$6,001 will be required back inside of 3 years. A recent estimated cost for a 1100-foot local lane was \$26,000 total, or about \$11.82 per linear foot. A great example of how this process works can be seen on Smith Lane. Several years ago, the residents on Smith Lane applied for and were granted a Road Paving Assessment. Now they live on a beautifully paved local lane. For more information on the Road Paving Assessment, please call Town Hall at (321)-431-3846.