



Town of MALABAR

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Welcome to the Town of Malabar's First Edition of the monthly update in the Hometown News. We hope you find it informative and enjoyable.

Some quick facts: Malabar's current Population is 2,866 finally regaining to the pre-recession population of 2,865 in 2006. The incorporated area is 11.5 square miles and of that 10 square miles is land area. Approximately 49% of the homes in Malabar are homesteaded. There are approximately 1076 single family homes in Malabar

We have several new businesses in Town this year: Route 1 Motorsports at 1300 Highway 1, Florida Maintenance Services, Inc. at 6525 Babcock Street, Watermark Grille at 1390 Highway 1, and MCGRAPHIX Printing at 2728 Malabar Road. Harris Corporation and Digital Graphics on Jordan Boulevard are both large employers. Health First Walk in Clinic at 730 Malabar Road is also a Malabar business.

Malabar – the Early Years

The early residents of Malabar fished, farmed, kept shops, taught, preached and were landlords. There was also a sawmill, a hotel and a general store that acted as the mail delivery. A sailboat, replaced later by a steamboat carried the mail down the Indian River Lagoon from Titusville and dropped it on a dock where it was hauled up and delivered to the Huggins General store for the early Town residents to sort through. Thus began the first "post office" in Malabar. President Chester A. Arthur officially recognized Malabar's post office in 1893 by naming R.A. Ward as the first Post Master in Malabar.

Malabar incorporated in 1927 by Special Law and Mr. E.B. Arnold was elected as the Town's first Mayor. For reasons unknown to us the Town was dissolved, again by Special Law, in 1935.

Years later in December of 1962, the qualified persons, registered free holders in Malabar voted to incorporate. Of the 120 registered voters, 108 voted in support of the incorporation. S.B. Brown was elected as Mayor and John Moeller, Charles Lang, Andy DeCaro and George Ackerman were the first Council Members.

Home Rule

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Home Rule becoming part of the Florida Constitution. We encourage residents to become involved in their local governments; join an advisory board, volunteer or just attend the public meetings at Town Hall.

The 3rd President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson has been credited (incorrectly) with this phrase: "the government closest to the people serves the people best" but it is nonetheless an accurate statement of why local government is important.

After the voters in Florida approved the creation of Home Rule the 1968 Florida Constitution incorporated the Municipal Home Rule authority and granted them the ability to levy taxes. The Municipal Home Rule Act later became law and is found in Florida Statute 166. Recently the State has attempted to make decisions on subjects such as tree protection, sign ordinances, business operations and vacation rentals at the State level instead of the local level.



New benches have been installed by the Malabar Public Works Department for the soccer field and the basketball court at the Malabar Community Park.

FEMA Assists the Town of Malabar

Malabar Town Hall's roof is being replaced after twenty some years. The last few years have been plagued with leaks and loss of shingles. The 2017 Hurricane Irma sounded the death knell for the roof and replacement became critical. Matt Stinnett, the Town's Deputy Clerk Treasurer was able to obtain assistance from FEMA for funding of the new roof. Several proposals were solicited and Florida Native Roofing, a Malabar business, was the low bidder and given the award. A light-colored energy efficient shingle was chosen to reduce the heat load on the building. Town staff is very satisfied with their performance and expect to see the project complete by the time you read this article. Thank you, FEMA. Thank you, Florida Native Roofing. - Douglas C. Hoyt, Administrator

Did you know, the State approved a tax abatement if your Homesteaded property was damaged by Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew or Irma. You can contact the Brevard Tax Collector's Office at 321-633-2000 for requirements to claim the abatement. Applications are due by March 1, 2019

SandHill Trailhead #1 Facility Damaged

Sometime between August 11th - 13th someone vandalized this shed for the third time by kicking in the door and damaging the hinges. It had previously had the hasps and locks broken off. If you see someone vandalizing public property please call Brevard County Sheriffs Office at 911 or to just report damage that you have noticed, call Town Hall at 321-727-7764.

