



Town of MALABAR

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Welcome to the Town of Malabar's Page

MALABAR'S NEW EQUIPMENT

Over the last few years, your Town has been steadily replacing and improving the equipment in our various departments. In June of 2017, the Malabar Fire Rescue Department was given approval to replace their 21-year-old fire engine. The truck had seen better days — with a bent frame and a pump that could barely pass inspection. The Town Council voted 5-0 on June 19th, 2017 to approve the purchase of the new Engine 99, a Pierce truck. One year later, the truck was put into service! On June 6th, 2018, the truck was given its ceremonial “Wet Down” and was commissioned for service. Malabar has also recently purchased a new slope mower. The purchase of the John Deere tractor was approved on June 5th, 2017. This machine is used to clean the slopes of our Town's drainage ditches. The John Deere tractor can also support several other attachments. One of those attachments is the Alamo Boom Ditcher. This attachment is like a snow blower for ditches. It scoops the dirt from the bottom of the ditch and ejects it through a chute at the top. This piece of equipment has been used to great effect on many of our Town's roads, such as Elaine Ln., Duncil Ln. and Kelly Ln. Another new piece of equipment is the Town's new Gradall XL4300 excavator. The purchase of this machine was approved by the Town Council on July 16th, 2018, and it was delivered that September. This large piece of equipment is used to clean the Town's deep ditches, as well as improve and



add additional ditches throughout the Town. When cleaning out existing ditches, the Gradall lowers its bucket into the ditch, and scrapes out anything that would obstruct the flow of water. The Gradall takes such large scoops out of the ditches, it is almost always accompanied by a dump truck to take away the waste. If you see the Gradall, please drive carefully — it is very bulky and slow moving, so be aware of the machine itself and other drivers that may try to pass it. Also added recently to the Town is the new Public Works building. This new building has four garage doors, and stores much of the Town's heavy equipment. Both of Malabar's dump trucks, the Caterpillar Road Grader, the Gradall, as well as several of the Town's tractors. This new building helps keep these expensive pieces of equipment shielded from the harsh Florida weather. Hopefully the addition of this new building will extend the life of our Town equipment.



HISTORY OF THE MALABAR SCHOOLHOUSE

In 1927, the Brevard County Board of Public Education built a two-story building to act as the new Malabar Schoolhouse. The building was constructed of masonry and stucco with tall windows for light and to allow the cool breeze to come in off the Indian River. The school was heated by wood burning stoves, with the wood being provided by the students. There were two classrooms downstairs, and a large auditorium upstairs. The teacher was Miss Louise Rogero, a graduate of both Eau Gallie High School and Florida State University, she taught students from first to eighth grade. Mrs. Rogero would ensure the students kept the school clean and, during the Great Depression, would prepare lunches for her less fortunate students. The school was closed in 1935 due to the depression.

In the 1940s, the building was transformed into a restaurant and night club called Nan's Chateau. The establishment had to have room darkening curtains to avoid being spotted by German submarines patrolling the Florida coast. In the 1970s, the schoolhouse building was turned into a wood mill. Eli Leone opened Malabar Millworks and later sold it to Jim Noble, who renamed it Brevard Hardwoods. Mr. Noble did extensive restoration to bring the building back to its original beauty, as well as adding new A.D.A. compliant bathrooms and an entrance ramp.

About 3 years ago, the school house was purchased by locals Thomas and Joanne Murdoch and converted into Banyan Estates, a high-end venue for weddings and celebrations. The building is situated on more than 3 acres of lawns and trees.

It also backs up to over 400 acres of a protected nature preserve. The Banyan Estate offers several indoor and outdoor spaces that can be used for Wedding ceremonies/receptions as well as family gatherings such as birth-



days, bridal and baby showers, and memorial services. Please visit their web site at www.banyanvenue.com, as well as their Instagram and Facebook posts to see pictures from recent events that have been hosted at the venue. Recently the owners began hosting live music, the first Wednesday of the month, in an event called “Live at the Banyan” check out the Facebook posts for specific dates and times. This beautiful building is listed on the Brevard County Registry of Historical Places and is located right next to the Sandhill trailhead along Marie Street. For extra information, or to set up a time to visit, call or text 321-536-9080.