



THE MAILBOAT

VOLUME 10 NO. 1 1st QUARTER 2004

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.

10th Annual Malabar Day Celebration

April 24th is the date for the annual Malabar Day celebration. Rural Living at its Finest is the theme this year and we invite you to come out and enjoy the day with neighbors and friends. The event will begin at 11:00 am and there will be booths and family entertainment until 4:00 pm. Expect all the events from past years such as food, beer, music, vendors, arts and crafts for kids, face painting, kid games, and a clown. And we'll have demos, there will be Karate demos, a demo by the ever popular K9 Unit from the Brevard County Sheriff's Department and a demo by our own Malabar Volunteer Fire Department.

We invite local businesses to reserve a space to sell, advertise, and promote their trade. If you're a crafter and would like to reserve a space, or a vendor who would like to apply, please call Town Hall, 727-7764. All arts and craft spaces are \$10 and are available on a limited basis.

We want to extend a special invitation to the citizens of Valkaria, many who are receiving this newsletter for the first time, to come to Malabar Day, bring a lawn chair or blanket and plan to spend an enjoyable day! Proceeds from the day will go towards park improvements. Go to the town web site www.malabartown.org for updates on all special events.

"Browntosaurus" Improves View



Just Beautiful. This is the new look along US-1. Thanks to a modified backhoe called a "Browntosaurus" our view has greatly improved. Look for the north end of US-1 to be cleared soon.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Over the past six months the Planning & Zoning Board, along with the Town Council and concerned citizens, have conducted workshops on how to redefine Malabar and to produce a forward-looking vision. The work will result in changing the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The Town of Malabar is a laid-back rural residential community next to urban sprawl. Both Planning & Zoning and Council have unanimously agreed to fight to keep the bulk of the community rural residential. This is the only town in Brevard County that promotes 11/2-acre lots for single family homes. The new Comp Plan will continue to include homes with horse stables and to support our vast park and trail system. The changes will include further development along US1, such as adding a water and sewer line, and rezoning areas to commercial, or for condominiums. A 600-foot wide commercial zone running the entire length of Malabar Road will be included in the plan. The start of the redevelopment has begun with the beautification project along the river. I am told that it now has the appearance of the 1960's.

At the present time 30% of the land in Town is owned by the Environmental Endangered Lands program. The Town will support the use of these lands, but does not encourage any further purchases by the EELS. The Council passed a resolution stating this position.

We are preparing for the dedication of Malabar Park, which has been in the works for many years. The park has an exercise trail, restrooms, a soccer field, a baseball field, a volleyball court plus basketball and tennis courts. We already have a baseball league calling the park home. The soccer field will have sod by April and will be ready for use by the end of May. If you know of a soccer team looking for a home, please let me know.

The Public Works Department is busy cleaning out the many ditches in town. It has been some 10 years since the entire drainage system has been cleaned. Our goal is to clean all ditches once a year. This should help with the localized flooding we experience during heavy rain. In addition to the cleaning, some old culverts will be replaced.

Have a wonderful spring and we hope to see many of you, especially our neighbors to the south, at Malabar Day.

Ed

MALABAR REPLIES TO THE ORANGE ALERT LETTER

by Ed Booth, Town Administrator

A reply to the Orange Alert letter or as I call it the Agent Orange letter dated December 26, 2003.

I do not usually reply to letters sent anonymously, because they are cowardly and usually contain misleading or false information.

I am replying because this letter was sent to the citizens of both Valkaria and Malabar at considerable expense which leads me to speculate that the person or organization sending the letter has a vested interest in seeing Palm Bay annex the area. The recent three square mile annexation by Palm Bay is a good indicator of intent.

First, let me assure the public that the Town of Malabar will not annex unless the citizens of Valkaria will benefit as well as those in Malabar, and then it is left to a vote of the people of Valkaria. It has not yet been determined if an annexation will provide better services to both communities at a lower cost to the public. A study is being prepared by the Malabar Town Planner and will be presented to the Malabar Town Council in late June or early July.

The Town Council did not start this action, a group of citizens from the Valkaria area requested annexation into Malabar. The Town Council conducted an open meeting for the Valkaria citizens and inquired as to whether or not they were interested in a feasibility study. The citizens overwhelmingly were in favor of this. Council went forward in this manner due to the cost of conducting a study; Council was not inclined to spend money unless there was great interest.

Once this study is completed it will be available to the citizens of Malabar and Valkaria. The allegation that Town Council is keeping the citizens in the dark is false and meant to mislead.

If there are any additional Agent Orange letters sent and you have concerns, or if you have any other questions, please contact me at 727-7764.

GOPHER TURTLES IN MALABAR PARK

by Hans Kemmler, Parks and Rec Board Chair

The Parks and Recreation Board is on a roll, this spring the soccer field and ball field will be ready for play. Part of the plans for Malabar Park included a parking lot to accommodate those using the ball and soccer fields. We found some tortoise burrows in the scrub pine stands where the parking lot was planned and they looked abandoned. Upon further investigation, we found that turtles remain inactive during the winter months. We counted nine burrows, and there may be more. The Fish and Wildlife Commission was a great source of information, and they determined there are probably 6 or more turtles living in these burrows. Later, the park maintenance man, Bill Withers, stated that he has seen 8 turtles active during the summer time.

The Parks and Recreation Board reported their findings to the Town Council, and the legal options included paying to have the turtles relocated, or plowing over their burrows and paying a price for the estimated number there. Since neither of those options seem fair to the turtles, the Parks and Recreation Board recommended changing the shape and location of the new parking lot and to leave the turtles where they are, Council agreed this was the best decision. During our investigation, we found interesting facts about these ancient creatures that gave us a good feeling about our decision to let the turtles keep their homes.

During the depression, when there was little else for many people to eat, gopher turtles were known as "Hoover Chickens." These days, most of the decline in the turtle population is caused by habitat destruction. Gopher turtles are known as "landlords of the sand hills" because over 300 other organisms, including snakes, frogs, mice, beetles and crickets inhabit their burrows. Many turtles are killed when people pour gas into their burrows to force snakes out. If you are interested in learning more about gopher turtles, you can go to <http://www.nbbd.com/godo/ef/gtortoise/> which is maintained by the Friends of the Enchanted Forest. And as they say, if we value our natural resources as much as we value economic growth, with a little care and forward thinking, we can have both.

OLD PHOTOS WANTED

Do you have access to old photos of the area? We would love for you to share them for display on our website. We will borrow them long enough to scan in and then return to your doorstep. Please remember us when looking through those old photo albums.

EAGLE CORPS CITIZEN PATROL

by Tom Eschenberg

In the last article, I asked for volunteers to expand the Eagle Corps patrols into the evening hours in response to the Malabar Town Council request. One would think there are enough working people in the Town who would volunteer to serve their community, and that by now we would have evening patrols. However, this has not happened. Five people came forward. Four of the five are retired. Training sessions were held in November and December and daytime patrols have now expanded. It is understandable that some families, particularly those with younger children, are involved in various activities and time is at a premium. However, there must be many working people in Malabar who do have some time available in the evenings. The Eagle Corps does not require a volunteer to serve a minimum number of hours. Most of the daytime volunteers patrol nine to twelve hours per month. Even as few as three or six hours, are appreciated very much. As in any organization, the more volunteers there are, the less work for any one person.

During the first year of patrols the Eagle Corps members volunteered 304 hours on 123 patrols covering 4426 miles. Patrols varied from 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours. Many reports such as street signs down, vegetation blocking driver's view or various road problems were made and sent to the proper town department for attention. No criminal activity was reported. I like to believe that the presence of the patrols plays a major part in discouraging criminal activity in our town.

The Town Council recently declined to pay the county \$172,000 per year for Sheriff Dept. service. The Brevard County Sheriff's Dept. will respond to calls in Malabar but we should not expect the full range of services from them that a town gets from their own police department. The Eagle Corps patrols provide a valuable service that helps fill the void of not having our own police. A fully-staffed volunteer citizen patrol is a very low cost way to provide the presence to discourage criminal activity and reduce the burden on regular law enforcement agencies.

Volunteers for the Eagle Corps must be residents of Malabar over the age of eighteen. They must have a valid driver's license, complete a 20-hour training course and are subject to a background check. The training course is given on a series of Saturday mornings at Town Hall.

Applications may be obtained at Town Hall. If being at work prevents you from going to the Town Hall, give them a call at 727-7764. The staff is very friendly and helpful and can mail you an application. You may also call me at 724-1007 and I will deliver an application to you evenings or weekends.

A NEW WEBSITE - A NEW LOOK - A NEW NAME

We have heard your cries for an updated, more informational website and we are happy to say that it's close to becoming a reality. There will be more Board minutes, more current events, a direct link to our town code, forms you can fill out on-line and either email or fax back, and more old photos of the Town. Our new site will be at www.townofmalabar.org, look for it soon. You let us know what you thought of the old website, so please let us know how we are doing with the new one!

ANNEXING VALKARIA?

The question on many concerned minds lately is what exactly is Malabar doing in regard to annexing Valkaria?

Let's go back to the beginning... About a year ago, several citizens from Valkaria approached Malabar Council Member Bob Rossman and asked if he would talk to the Council about annexing Valkaria. He brought it up at a meeting and there was some discussion on the topic.

After the voluntary annexation of a parcel of land into Palm Bay along Babcock took place, the request from the Valkaria residents was backed with more concern. Last November the Council invited the Valkaria Homeowners Association members to attend a Council meeting to hear their ideas and concerns. At that meeting it was determined that a gathering on a much larger scale was needed between a greater number of Valkaria residents and the Town Council. This meeting took place on December 9th (minutes are on the web). Approximately 100 Valkaria citizens showed up at the Malabar Fire Station. Council wanted to know one thing from the group as a whole, is there truly interest in annexing into Malabar? Some of the people were interested, some were not. Council's next question was: would you like us to do a feasibility study as to whether or not Malabar can provide for both Malabar and Valkaria? With an overwhelming show of hands in favor of this, the Council decided Malabar would pay for a feasibility study.

So the answer to the above question is that Malabar is paying for a feasibility study and the results will be ready in late June or early July. On a side note, if there is an annexation, the name Valkaria would remain intact for that part of Malabar.

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING IS TWO WEEKS EARLIER

August 20th to September 3rd

Due to a choice by the Florida Legislature our candidate qualifying will begin two weeks earlier this year. Since Florida does not want to be in the same position as the last Presidential election regarding ballot counting, all ballot information must be turned in by September 3rd. This will allow the absentee ballots to be mailed earlier and returned earlier. This change only affects those municipalities that have qualifying after the cut-off date and Malabar just happens to be one of those municipalities. Therefore our qualifying will begin at the open of business on August 20th and end at the close of business on September 3rd.

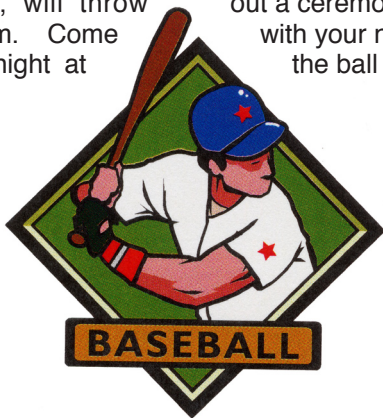
In Malabar there are four seats up for election this year. The Mayor, currently held by Phil Crews, District 1, currently held by Jane Havet, District 2, currently held by Brian Hunter, and District 3, currently held by Steve Rivet. You can find your district on the back of this newsletter if you are interested in serving your community. The Council meets the first and third Mondays of each month with occasional workshops during the year.

DO YOU NEED A PERMIT TO BUILD?

Thinking about that weekend project you've been putting off? Maybe adding a new slab to the driveway, or perhaps building a luxury dog house for rover? You may need a permit from the Town in order to build that 'week-end' project. Choosing to build such an item without a permit and claiming ignorance of the law is risky and could end up costing you not only the total removal of the project but also a double permit-fee fine. It is better to call Town Hall and ask if a permit is needed than to take a chance on being discovered and dealing with the consequences. Permits are in place to protect not only you and your investment but also your neighbors and future owners of your home. The time between submitting your project to Town Hall and receiving your permit can be 10 days to 2 weeks, so plan ahead.

MALABAR NIGHT AT SPACE COAST STADIUM

Mark your calendars! The Space Coast Stadium will sponsor Malabar/Palm Bay night on June 7th. All residents who show proof of residency at the ticket window will receive a special \$2 admission. Group tickets will be available to local businesses, churches, organizations, etc. These group tickets should be purchased in advance by calling 633-9200 and speaking to Calvin Funkhouser regarding Malabar/Palm Bay Night. Our Mayor, Phil Crews, and the Mayor of Palm Bay, John Mazziotti, will throw out a ceremonial first pitch at 7:05pm. Come with your neighbors and enjoy a night at the ball park!



PETS AT MALABAR PARK

Malabar Community Park is a beautiful area where many people come to enjoy the open peacefulness. Some people come to share the openness with their pets, which is permitted as long as they are on a leash. Brevard County Ordinance 14-56 states that all pets are required to be on a leash when not on private property or you could face a \$50 fine. There is also a \$50 fine for not disposing of your animals' waste. These laws are in place for the benefit and protection of all park users.

RECYCLE AND REDUCE YOUR TAXES

Waste Management gives the Town of Malabar 100% of the money they receive for selling your recyclables. That means your discarded newspapers, cans, glass and plastic bottles can add to the town income, which, in turn can reduce your tax burden or be earmarked for community projects.

Malabar received \$3,719.19 for fiscal year 2002/2003 with only 33% of households recycling. Newspapers and glass made up the bulk of the recyclables collected. Imagine how much we'll receive if 100% of households recycle 100% of their recyclable materials.

Waste Management collects the following every Saturday in Malabar:

Newspapers (including shiny inserts)
Plastic Bottles and Jars - #1 (PETE) and #2 (HDPE)
Glass - food and beverage (clear, brown, green),
Tin, Steel, Aluminum Cans (including lids) and clean foil

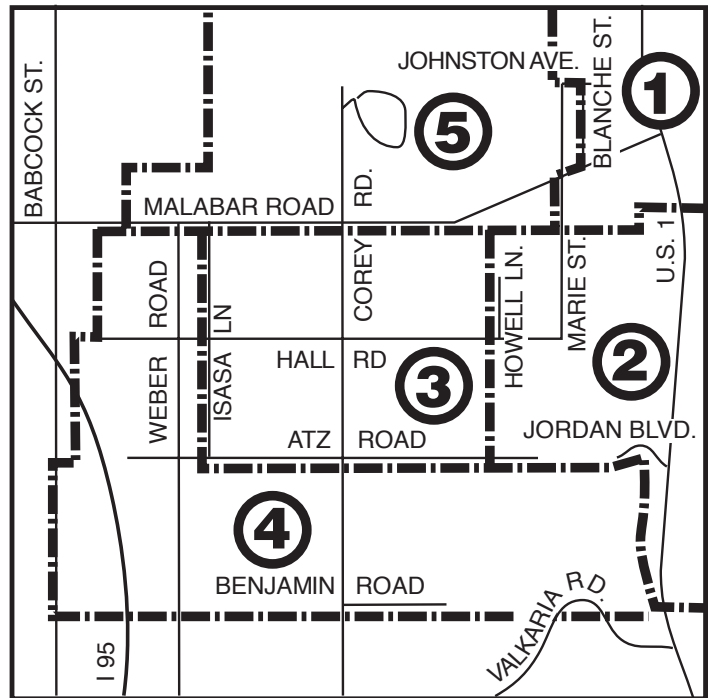
Please rinse your food containers and place all recyclables at the curb in the 3 bins (Newspapers, Bottles, Cans) provided by Waste Management. If you need recycling bins, call the company and request them. You pay for recycling collection anyway. Why not make these discarded items work for you and your town?



Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Jane Havet 1125 Marie St.	733-6413
District 2	Brian Hunter 2825 US 1	956-2014
District 3	Steve Rivet 2005 Rivet Lane	956-6551
District 4	Bobbi Moccia 3135 Kramer Lane	722-3447
District 5	Bob Rossman 1635 Country Cove Cr.	729-9444
Mayor	Phillip Crews 2480 Johnston Ave.	951-0422
Town Administrator	Ed Booth Town Hall	727-7764
Town Clerk/ Treasurer	Susan Kabana Town Hall	727-7764
Town Fax		722-2234
County Comm.	Nancy Higgs, Dist. 3	952-6300



Editor - Susan Kabana www.malabartown.org

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