



# THE MAILBOAT

VOLUME 23 NO. 1 2nd QUARTER 2017

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.

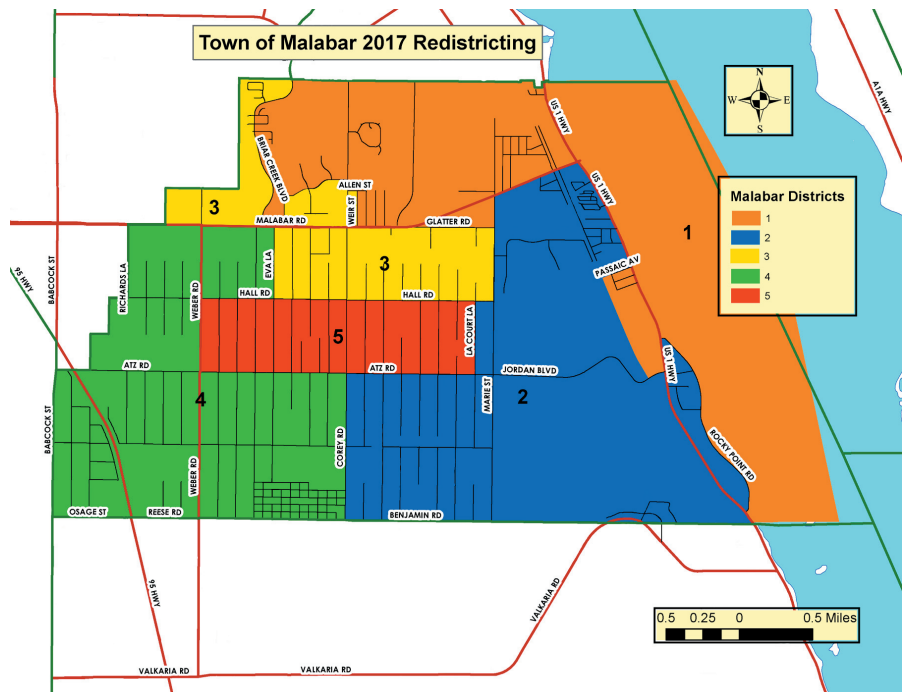
## NEW VOTING DISTRICTS in NOVEMBER 2017

The voters approved a referendum question last November that required five (5) separate precinct districts. This November District Seats 4 and 5 are up for election. With the passage of the Referendum, only those electors living in the newly redrawn districts 4 and 5 will be eligible to vote for their representatives this November.

This map shows the newly redesigned district lines with no deviation of more than ten percent of the population.

The existing Census Block population from the 2010 census was used for this redistricting. In addition, Building Department records for new construction since April of 2010 through March 2017 were included. Chapter 7 of the Malabar Code requires Council to redistrict after each decennial census if there is a deviation of ten percent between any district.

District 1, now contains portions along Highway 1, part of Brook Hollow subdivision, part of Stillwater Preserve subdivision, all of Country Cove subdivision as well as those areas between Township Drive south to include the Southern Comfort MHP.



District 2, continues to include portions in the southeast part of Malabar, including Century Oaks and Camelot RV park and Rocky Point Road.

District 3, now includes a portion of the central area of Malabar south of Malabar Road and north of Hall Road, a part of Brook Hollow subdivision, the Enchanted Lakes MHP, a part of the Stillwater Preserve subdivision and those properties west of Weir Street.

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## NEW DISTRICTS con't

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District 4, includes the western portion of Malabar south of Malabar Road including Weber Woods subdivision around District 5 and south to the southern boundary.

District 5, includes all properties east of LaCourt Lane, west of Weber Road, south of Hall Road and north of Atz Road. With the newly drawn district lines, the current Council Member for District 5 now lives in the new District 1 area. He will not be eligible to run for re-election for District 5.

In November 2017 the seat for District 5 is open for representation by a resident that lives within the above described district that has resided in Malabar for at least 6 months and is a registered voter. The qualification paperwork is provided by the Clerk's office and once completed must be submitted to Town Hall along with at least 15 signatures of registered voters within the district.

### Election 2017 – District Seats 4 and 5

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Candidate Qualifying opens on August 9 at 8:30AM and runs through August 23, 2017 at 4:00PM. In order to qualify for a seat, you must have lived in the district for at least six (6) months. Then you pick up a qualifying packet from the Clerk's Office, you fill out a few forms, gather at least 15 signatures of registered voters living within your district, and turn it all in before 4:00PM on August 23, 2017.

District 4 will have an incumbent, Dick Korn, running for his second term.

District 5 has no incumbent since the district lines were redrawn, that council member no longer lives in District 5.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to call the Clerk at 321-727-7764.

## News Around Town . . .

### News from the Mayor

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*by Patrick T. Reilly*

My wife Kathleen (who passed away in 2007) and I got married in March of 2001 and settled in the Town of Malabar. She operated the J Bar E Horse Boarding stables and I am an Antenna Engineer at Harris GCSD in Palm Bay. I worked with Tom Eschenberg and he asked me to become involved with the Town and be a member of the Planning and Zoning Board. I have spent the past 15 years on the board, and was elected vice chairman in 2006 and then chairman in 2013. I always did my homework on every agenda item, and I was well prepared to discuss and vote on the action items. I tried to do what was best for the Town even if I had to vote against what I believed in, for the betterment of the Town.

Being the Mayor for the Town of Malabar, I will represent the Town as I did on the Planning and Zoning Board. I attend the monthly Brevard County Space Coast League of Cities and Civilian/Military meetings along with the quarterly Mayor's luncheon. I network and interface with other government officials at these meetings. As the Chairman of the Town Council, I facilitate the Council meetings and workshops.

Since the Town voted this past November to create 5 separate voting districts within the Town, we had to perform a redistricting of the 5 present districts to get the population of each district be to less than a 5% delta between districts. We also are required to have 2 voting precincts to accommodate the 5 districts. The Supervisor of Elections is presently working this issue.

I love living in, having a business and being involved with the Town of Malabar!



## From the desk of the Fire Chief

*Leonard Thommasen, Fire Chief*

NON-EMERGENCY Business line: (321)-725-1030  
**ALL EMERGENCIES 911**

With Malabar ever growing and people wanting to live in the rural settings of nature, the threat of wildfires and the risk of an urban interface brush fire increases every time a new home is built.



The Malabar Fire Department recognizes and affirms the unique and intrinsic worth of living in such a setting and will strive to train and equip each of the firefighters to the highest standards available to us to protect your home from these wildfires. We will treat all those we serve with compassion and kindness, while maintaining the highest standard of safety and service. However, we can't do it alone. We need your help!

A good place to start is by removing any wood piled up along side of your home (firewood), cleaning out the gutters of debris and clearing pine needles off the rooftop, and trimming back any vegetation along the property line. Doing these few things will give us a defensible space to work in if a fire should break out. Also, please keep the pastures and fields well maintained and trimmed.

If you see a fire, please call 911 immediately. Your best defense is for an early activation and response time from the Fire Department. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Malabar Fire Department at 725-1030 or Town Hall at 727-7764.

## Calling all photographers!

Where is your favorite view in Malabar? We would love to see it and share it with the rest of the community. The Town of Malabar is looking to add to our archive of photo stock to be used in upcoming pamphlets, brochures and other materials. Help us show off our beautiful town by submitting your original photos. All photos submitted by the deadline will be screened and judged. The top five submissions will be posted to our website with recognition and the best in show

## Nana's House

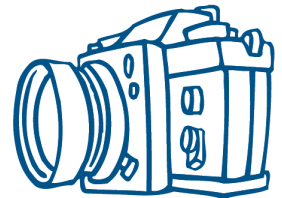
Have you ever wondered what that little yellow house on Malabar Road, 2 blocks west of Malabar Town Hall and the railroad tracks, that has a big white sign stating Nana's Thrift Shop, is all about? It is one of the best kept secrets in Malabar.

Nana's House (Nana's is an acronym for Neglected, Abused, Needy or Abandoned Children where Children can come and experience God's love). This Thrift Store, with another one off Pine Street on Garden Street, are the most wonderful Thrift Stores in the area. These two Thrift Stores, along with generous donations from individuals, groups, and companies, supply the funds to run a wonderful philanthropic effort to help children.

Children are turned in to the Director of Nana's House and are placed in a home, owned by Nana's, with a surrogate mother and father (Mommy stays home, Daddy has a job and his income is the couple's discretionary income). Siblings are never separated. This little nucleus family is supplied through Nana's with housing, food, utilities, a 7-passenger van, gasoline, clothing, and anything else they need so that these children can live in a family-oriented, happy, Christian-oriented home.

Everyone who works at Nana's, from the Director on down the line, are volunteers – there are no paid positions at Nana's. It is a 100% volunteer organization. Every penny of money is aimed at keeping these children safe, thriving, and giving them hope! It is a 501-3 (c) organization and accepts no money from the Federal Government, State Government, or Local Government. Nana's is accredited through the Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies (FACCCA).

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will receive a swag bag of Malabar goodies. Multiple submissions are accepted and encouraged; however, only one photo from each photographer will be allowed to win placement in the competition. To be considered for judging, the cutoff date will be June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. For questions or to submit a photo contact Matt Stinnett at [mstinnett@townofmalabar.org](mailto:mstinnett@townofmalabar.org)

**thanks!**

# Drainage Improvements on Tap

*Steve Rivet, District 3 Council Member*

Management of Malabar's storm water is one of the most important responsibilities of our Town's Council, administration, and Public Works employees. Timely removal of storm water in an environmentally sound manner is a major contributor to our residents' quality of life, and is a high priority for the Town Council, and my personal highest priority. Working with Mr. Hoyt, or Town Administrator, and the rest of the Council, we have developed a long term plan for drainage improvement that is broken up into bite sized chunks that can be implemented in phases. While the available space in this newsletter prohibits a complete description of that plan, I would like to take this opportunity to share the near term parts that are in the process of planning and implementation. I would also like to note that we are bound by environmental regulations from the Saint Johns Water Management District and the state, and that these regulation limit our options to address the removal of storm water in many cases.

The first part of our drainage improvement plan is something you have probably already noticed, the mowing and removal of vegetation from existing ditches. During the last several dry months, we have made significant progress in clearing ditches and easing the flow of storm water out of our yards and pastures. This has been accomplished without significant expenditures other than the normal costs of keeping Public Works running, and was planned for in the last budget cycle. This work will show benefit when the summer rains arrive. However, this is not the whole solution to our storm water problem.

Several other drainage projects are in the planning or implementation phase. The next area we are attacking is Atz Road, east of Candy Lane. The ditch running along the north side of the road meanders between town right of way and private property, and changes in ditch depths result in trapping of water (and creation of mosquito breeding areas) rather than movement out of residential areas. Improvements in this area will include creating a new ditch that will become a path for storm water to move east from the LaCourt/Atz intersection to the wetlands in the twin lakes area, rerouting the existing ditches to the town right of way, and correcting the ditch depth to eliminate high and low spots, further facilitating the flow of

water away from our residences. This project has been designed and will be put out for bids this month. The project will give back land to property owners who have the ditch inside their property line, and will improve the removal of water both north and south of Atz from Candy Lane and Smith Lane eastwards. The money to pay for this project will come from our storm water fund, which has sufficient funds to cover the project.

The residents of Smith Lane have decided to pay for the paving of their road; this will be funded by those residents, not by storm water funds or general funds from the town. In conjunction with the paving, improvement of the ditches on Smith Lane will also be done, coordinating with the Atz drainage project.

In the southwest corner of town, flooding that has been exacerbated by runoff from I-95 has been a major impact to many of our residents. The solution to this problem is a multimillion dollar project that the town simply does not have the funds to address. Mr. Hoyt has been working with several federal agencies and enlisting the help of Senator Nelson to find a source of federal funding to address this problem. Senator Nelson has indicated his support for improvements, and we will continue to pursue securing this funding.

There are several other areas where ditches of varying depth, culverts at improper elevations, and other blockages are preventing the timely movement of storm water. Cason Lane ditches will be re-engineered to create a less impeded, gentle elevation drop to move water more efficiently, and similar work will be done on the west end of Hall Road to enable the flow of water to the Tillman canal. Ditches on Sandy Creek Lane will also be reworked to improve the flow of storm water out town.

While this is by no means a complete summary of our long term plans to improve our storm water management, I have tried to give some visibility into the near term plans that are being implemented. Drainage improvement is my number one priority, and I thank the rest of the Council, Mr. Hoyt, Public Works, and the rest of our staff for their support of this priority. Any residents with questions about the plans are encouraged to contact Mr. Hoyt or myself, we would be happy to provide further details, and listen to your inputs.



# You Need to Know Where to Go

by Drew Thompson, Chair, Trails and Greenways Committee (T&GC)

In a past *MailBoat* article, I asked: **“Why Don’t You Go Take a Hike?”** My intent then was not to offend but rather motivate you to take advantage of your town’s trail system – “some of the nicest trails in all of Brevard County, if not all of Florida.” I then provided some information about the various trails and trail enhancements recently done or underway by your T&GC. It was autumn then, a great time to get outside.

It is now spring, also a great time to get outside. So now, let me tell you where to go! It is an easy-to-get-to location, accessible from the trailhead at

The project was designed, marketed, funded, and implemented in less than six months. The structure was intentionally built during the cooler winter months through six intensive workday events. Funding was primarily sourced from the town (\$1,000 annual T&GC budget for 2016 & 2017 each). Additional contributions were from the Brevard Mountain Bike Association (BMBA). Material contributions, such as roof metal, heavy gauge hardware, framing brackets, screws, and bolts were provided by local businesses: Brush Busters Land Clearing / Bob Wilbur and Reasonable Auto Repair / Brian Vail and private citizens: Barbara & Richard Cameron. All labor supplied and equipment used was from members of the T&GC and other volunteers. The structure was mostly designed by Annelie Harvey and Brian Vail, with Brian recognized by all as the project’s foreman. Complete with stairs, railings and benches, the structure was built to meet applicable safety specifications yet be adaptable to ADA specifications. T&GC has the idea of one day pursuing a grant to connect a new ADA paved trail from the north Corey Road Trailhead to the Al Tuttle Trail, going past the CTS.



the north end of Corey Road via a short walk on the Green Trail. There you will find a new town enhancement that has been built for all trail users, whether equestrian, mountain biker, hiker, or birder. It is a wooden roofed and decked structure elevated about four feet that overlooks a wetland area within the Richard E. Cameron and Volunteers Wilderness Preserve. It will soon be recognized by the Town Council as the “Cameron Trail Shelter”, also to be known as the “CTS”. It is a great place to get out of the sun or rain, enjoy a breeze and a great view of local wildlife and natural terrain.

You can see the full CTS project photo chronology by visiting the last page of the T&GC website: [www.malabartrails.org](http://www.malabartrails.org). Along with additional project information in Adobe files, there you will even find a drone video recorded during one of the workdays. **Better yet, you now know where to go, so why don’t you go take a hike to visit the CTS in person? Please join me in thanking all those who put so much of their time, work, and contributions into this project that now benefits us all.**

# Special Assessment to Improve Our Fire Department?

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In the early morning of March 1, 2017 I was having chest pains. I could not sleep and the pains were getting worse by the hour. When I started to sweat I knew it was more than just heartburn.

I called 911 and reported my medical emergency. Malabar got the Alarm and arrived at my house just 9 minutes later. I live approximately 5 miles from the Malabar Fire Station. Two vehicles arrived. The three responders from Malabar were Lt. Barkley, FF Collins and Emmanuel Soto.

They quickly entered my home and started monitoring my heart with a portable EKG. I asked for oxygen which they quickly supplied. They helped get me into a stretcher and then into the back of the transport. I was also given chewable aspirins and nitroglycerine tablets under my tongue. I was asked which hospital I wanted to go to. I am closest to Palm Bay however, I wanted to go to Holmes since they have a large Heart Center.

I was informed that since my EKG did not currently show I was having a heart attack they would comply with my request. They told me If I was having a heart attack they would take me to the nearest hospital. When we were a few miles away from Holmes my chest pains and symptoms got worse. Emmanuel said I was now on Stemi Alert or more plainly I was now having a heart attack. Emmanuel called ahead to Holmes and summarized my condition. When the transport arrived the heart staff at Holmes was well prepared for my arrival and the on call Cardiologist was in transit to Holmes. I can tell you without the quick response from the Malabar EMS team I would have suffered more heart damage or potentially death.

I am proud of our Malabar Fire Department and I wanted to share my experience with other Malabar residents.

If you go back 3 years the Malabar Fire department had part time Lieutenants. During the day the chance of finding a Lieutenant on site was good, after sunset not so good. Many times at night, the building was empty. When a dispatch 911 call came in at night who if anybody was there to make the critical decisions? What vehicle(s) needed to go? What was the minimum number of crew to send

out? Who is qualified to operate the necessary equipment?

At that time a concerned Council member started talking to members of the Malabar Fire Department. He talked to several Lieutenants and Fire Fighters. He wrote a report summarizing his findings. After reviewing the report, the Council unanimously voted to change the status of the Lieutenants from part time to full time with appropriate benefits. The Malabar Fire department now has a full time Lieutenant there around the clock 24/7. From that point on it costs the Town an additional \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year. That Council member tried to get the Council to issue a Special Assessment to pay for the improved Fire Department coverage. He was voted down.

Several years ago the Brevard County Sheriff's department presented Malabar with a MSTU (to be funded by an addition Ad Valorem tax) to hire additional Patrol officers to cover the southern portion of Brevard County on a 24/7 basis. Three officers would rotate with 8 hours shifts each. In other words the County Sheriffs office said if you give us additional funds we can be more responsive to your police needs. Responding in minutes instead of hours or days. The MSTU vote passed with approximately a 2/3 margin. Every two years we have voted to continue this funding.

I argue that just like the above extra police coverage the Malabar Fire Department significantly improved their responsiveness by going to full-time 24/7 Lieutenants. Their 9 minute response to my medical emergency is proof. Since a special assessment for the Fire department upgrade was not funded it was and currently is paid for out of Malabar general funds. However this is diverting money needed for Malabar drainage improvements and road repair and/or repaving This should not continue.

Please call or Email the Town of Malabar or the Council member representing you district to show your support to properly fund this upgrade to our Malabar Fire Department.

**A thankful and concerned Malabar resident.**

The little yellow house on Malabar Road carries gently-used women's, men's, and children's clothing, as well as shoes, purses, jewelry, and knick knacks. The house on Garden Street carries small household appliances, kitchen-related items, has a woman's craft corner, books, artwork, knick-knacks, a kid's toy and game room, a linen room, and in the back are two barns packed with good, gently used furniture, kid's large toys, luggage, and just about anything your heart desires.

At the present time, Nana's is involved in building a "gated Community" with 8 more houses for

children, a recreation hall, ball field, playground, and pool at the end of Eber Road, just before it joins with Minton Road.

Nana's is looking for volunteer house parents, and volunteers to work in the Thrift Cottages. Nana's is open Tuesday through Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm, at both locations. For more information, please look at [nanaschildrenshome.com](http://nanaschildrenshome.com) or stop in at one of the Thrift Cottages and talk to a Volunteer. We look forward in volunteering with you! Together we are helping to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect.

## The Liberty Bell Memorial Museum

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The story of the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum began with the conversion of a former 1930's concrete water storage tank and pump house of the original Melbourne Water Works; thus it's round shape. Honor America, Inc. transformed the facility into a museum in 1985 as a memorial to United States history. Heritage Hall was constructed to house the Liberty Bell replica which was donated by the school children of South Brevard County. The bell was brought to Melbourne as a symbol of freedom to be enjoyed by future generations of school children and their families.

The Liberty Bell Memorial Museum exhibits full-scale photographic reproductions of: the Mayflower Compact, America's first written Constitution, Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, and the Instrument of Surrender in the Pacific at the end of World War II. In addition, the facility hosts the "Circle of Presidents," flags of the Revolutionary War, models, uniforms, and artifacts spanning 300 years. Historic and patriotic reading materials, videos, and other visual aids are also displayed. Freedom Hall, added in 2005, pays tribute to our armed forces and illustrates the history of major wars that we fought for our freedom.

A visit to the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum can be a moving experience for people of all ages and an educational one for school children. Tours by volunteer docents may be arranged free of charge in our air-conditioned, fully accessible museum with ample free parking provided. Through the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum, we share the traditions

and principles upon which our founding fathers established our country and our freedom. Likewise we honor the patriots and heroes who have protected and defended that liberty and freedom for nearly 250 years. Our purpose is to provide a better understanding of American ideals and traditions and instill pride in American citizenship.

Our goal is to be the premier civics education resource to the children, youth and young families of our community, and that goal has never been more important than it is today. The museum is a non-partisan, non-profit (501.c.3) organization, whose income is derived from donations, grants and membership. Entrance to the museum and to our programs is always free so that no one is deprived the opportunity to learn "America's Story".

The Liberty Bell Memorial Museum hosted a Memorial Day Celebration after the parade in Downtown Melbourne on May 29<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day. There was a guest speaker, Color Guard and music by the Melbourne Municipal Band. The DAR displayed a Memorial Day remembrance at the museum throughout the month of May.

Thanks for the coverage!

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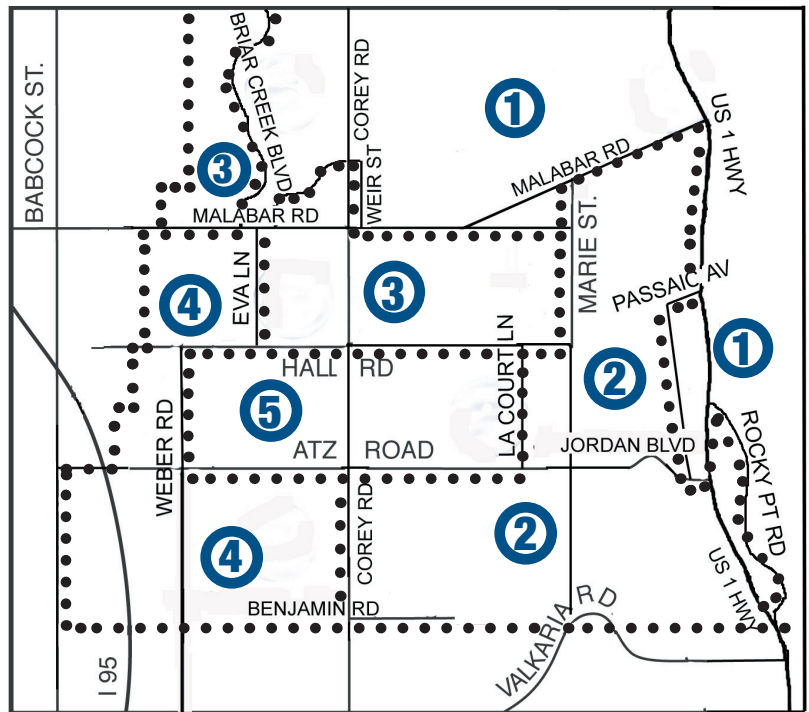
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The Council members to the left represent these districts:



Editor - Debby Franklin [www.townofmalabar.org](http://www.townofmalabar.org)

### Town of Malabar

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Every Door  
Paid  
EDDMRetail

**Local  
Postal Customer**