



# THE MAILBOAT

VOLUME 4 NO. 1 3rd QUARTER 1998

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.

## Election '98: Candidate Qualifying September 4th - 18th



Incumbents: Liz Ritter, John Detwiler, Julane Kikla  
Dist 1 Dist 3 Dist 2

**T**he beginning of the school year reminds us that it is once again time to get ready to head for the polls. The general election will be held on November 3rd this year, and in Malabar there are three Council Member seats up for election. The District 1 seat has been held by Liz Ritter for the past year; she completed a seat vacated when Cheryl Morey moved. District 2 has been held by Julane Kikla for the past two terms, and John Detwiler has been in the District 3 seat for the past two terms.

Each term is two years long, and council meetings are usually twice a month with additional workshops a few times during the year. Our Town charter states that we have a strong Council form of government, so your participation in the election process is critical in voting into office the representative for your district. You can

determine what district you are in by looking at the back of this newsletter.

Candidate qualifying this year begins on September 4th and ends on September 18th. To qualify for Council Member you must be a registered voter and must have been a resi-

dent of the Town for at least six months prior to the date of qualification. You also must present the Town Clerk's office with 15 signatures of registered voters in your district. Call the Town Clerk's office if you are interested.

From the Supervisor of Elections Office: There are several races in this year's election. Depending on your party, you may have several ballot cards to cast your votes on. It is important to remember to flip the cards over and vote on both sides of each ballot card.

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Hats off to our Fire Department!

Our Fire Department has purchased a 1993 Jeep Cherokee in excellent condition. This vehicle will replace a worn out Chevy Blazer that is used as a command vehicle. The cost of the Jeep was \$9,000 and was paid for entirely with Fire Department fund raisers such as the Halloween Hayride. Our firefighters work very hard at these fund raisers, and they are to be commended for their dedication.



Malabar Road resurfacing was finished in July. This was quite an improvement and included upgrades that added wider shoulders for bicycles, new culvert pipes to enhance drainage, improvements to the railroad crossings, and new traffic lights at US1. The cost of this project was 1.7 million dollars paid for entirely by the Florida Department of Transportation.

El Nino rains this past spring left us with an unusual amount of rainfall; the Town experienced flooding everywhere. Our Council stepped up to the bat by authorizing \$60,000 to be spent for the cleaning of ditches. We went to work immediately by hiring two contractors and placing our Public Works Department on overtime. We realize that not all the drainage is in order yet, but we have made a noticeable difference.

Federal Emergency Management (FEMA), through the efforts of Congressman Dave Weldon, awarded

the Town \$225,000 to make emergency repairs to the Camelot Ditch. Funding will be forthcoming to pipe the ditch from the railroad tracks to US1. A big thank you to those residents that helped us gain access to this drainage system and others throughout the Town when we had to go on private property. By your actions you expressed a deep sense of concern for your neighbors.

We have been also awarded an additional \$100,000 by the Florida Department of Recreation to construct ball fields, soccer fields, a volleyball court, basketball courts, tennis courts and a playground. We hope to begin in October.

We were saddened during this past spring by the death of our Building Inspector, Carl Boyer, and of our retired Town Clerk, Rosalie Lasky. They both gave a lot to Malabar, and we will miss them.

Additional thanks go out to our Fire Department for their untiring efforts during the rash of brush fires this past July. They assisted in fighting fires in our Town, our County, and throughout the State of Florida.

Welcome to Jim Phelps, our new Building Official. Jim is a State Certified Building Official. He has thirteen years' experience as a building official with the city of West Melbourne. Jim is our first full-time building official and will also be responsible for code enforcement. We feel Jim is a great asset to the residents of Malabar and we look forward to working with him. Welcome Jim!

Sincerely,



Bill Hall  
Town Administrator

## Proposed Budget and Millage Rate for 98/99

At the July 20th Council meeting the Town Council voted to direct the Brevard County Property Appraiser's office to send out the tax notices with a 5.75% increase in the millage rate, arriving at a millage of 1.5 mills. This is now the cap the Council will work with for this coming year. Public hearings will be held on September 9th and 22nd to further discuss and vote on this proposed increase. How did Council arrive at this amount? 1.5 mills. was the millage that was approved by referendum by the citizens of Malabar in a special election held on December 13, 1977. In subsequent years, as property values increased, the Town took the roll-back and the millage rate fell. The current Council believes that the amount the citizens voted in as the millage in 1977 should be the cap. And this year, instead of raising taxes to the 9.9% maximum allowed by law, the Council

voted to begin discussing the tax issue at no greater a value than 5.75%, or 1.5 mills. You can attend the public hearings to participate in continuing dialog and inform the Council of your opinion regarding this issue.

	<u>97/98 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 98/</u>
	<u>(Amended)</u>	<u>99 Budget</u>
General Fund	936,108	823,888
Park and Recreation	80	133,356
Impact Fees	12,925	16,245
Stormwater Grants - St. Johns	0	91,345
Stormwater Grants - FEMA	268,096	5,000
FEMA Grant - Camelot Ditch	0	189,560
Utility Fund	<u>68,640</u>	<u>70,700</u>
	1,285,849	1,330,094

# Town Happenings . . .

## HARRIS SANITATION - RATE INCREASE

Effective October 1st the rate for trash pickup will increase by 1.7%. For residential customers the breakdown is as follows:

<u>Previous Rate</u>	<u>Increased Rate</u>	
Recycling	2.13	2.17
Yard Trash	.92	.94
Household Trash	<u>7.09</u>	<u>7.21</u>
	10.14	10.32

Harris cites increased operating costs as the reason for the increase.

Harris notes that if you have a CONTRACTOR doing work at your home (tree surgeons, tile/carpet, a/c plumbing, fencing, etc.), you or they must remove the debris or pay Harris an extra fee for the removal of the debris.

## Malabar's Cub Scout Pack 37 Is Looking For Boys Interested In Scouting

The Town of Malabar sponsors a cub scout pack that offers a scouting program uniquely tailored to the activities our kids enjoy. Our activities this past year included historical trails hiking at Fort Clinch and St. Augustine, camping in local scout parks, a bike rally, Malabar Days, Florida trail hiking, Scouting for Food service project, along with the usual Pine Wood Derby, Space Derby and Rain Gutter Regatta. The pack now has openings for boys in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. If you and your boy are interested in joining a dynamic scouting organization without the hassle of driving to Palm Bay, then contact the Committee Chairperson at 725-3593 or the Cubmaster at 724-9353 for more information on becoming a member of Pack 37. Pack meetings are held at the Malabar Baptist Church on Malabar Road.

## Malabar Sponsors a Boy Scout Troop

The Town of Malabar has recently added Boy Scout Troop 37 to its scouting program. The new troop will be starting its regular meetings on Monday evenings in September at the Malabar Baptist church on Malabar Road. The troop is offering a program specifically tailored to activities that boys in Valkaria and Malabar will enjoy. A number of the charter scouts have already earned their Horsemanship merit badge and are working on the Small Boat Sailing merit badge. These skills will be used in the activities planned for the year. If you are interested in joining a small but active group of scouts that meet right here in Malabar, then call the Troop Committee Chairman at 724-8691 or the Scout master at 728-4566 for information on joining or transferring to this new troop.

## In Memory Of ...

Those of you who have been living here awhile would remember our previous building inspector, Carl Boyer. Carl had been in construction since 1956, and he worked for the Town from March, 1987 until his death this past March. Carl was often seen riding around while working on his inspections, and sometimes to listen to him talk was like taking a lesson in local history. Off the top of his head he could chronicle a piece of property, he knew the names of the current and past owners, the features of the parcel and what it had been used for in the past. The Town lost a walking history book and a man who truly loved this Town when Carl died. He will be missed by many.

Rosalie Lasky, who retired from the position of Town Clerk/Treasurer also died this past year on May 13th. "Rosy" began working for the Town in January, 1987 and retired March, 1995. She was instrumental in setting up the office which we use today. When Rosy began, there was a closet filled with minutes, permits, memos, and deeds all thrown haphazardly into boxes. She tackled the job of sorting and filing the paperwork, and that is what began the organizing of the Town records. Rosy was dedicated to the Clerk's position and remained in contact with citizens and the staff at Town Hall up until the time of her death. She enjoyed her tenure here and will be remembered in a special way.

## STANDARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE

The Town Council normally meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 pm. (See below for September's schedule.)

The Planning & Zoning Board meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

The Park Board meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

All meetings take place at Town Hall. All meeting notices and cancellations are posted on the sign in front of the Fire Department and at the Post Office and Town Hall.

**Special note: September's meetings have been changed. We will have our regular meetings, plus public hearings on the budget and millage, on September 9th and September 22 at 7:30 pm**

## Building Official's Report

By Jim Phelps, CBO

Hurricane Season is here and now is the time to make preparations. Don't wait until a storm is approaching to get ready, make your plans now. Last year, we were very fortunate, but we must be prepared for the worst, and if it does not happen, you and your loved ones can be safe and know you are prepared.



Some of the things we should check are as follows: Utility buildings - ensure they are properly tied down. Straps should go over the top of the building and be secured to ground anchors. Fencing should be sturdy and not move back and forth. Check privacy fences for deteriorated posts, stringers and slats. Remove miscellaneous items from your yard. The most common items are building materials, automobile parts, trailers and boats. They may become missiles propelled by the wind against buildings or people. Newer buildings are designed and constructed to withstand winds up to 100 M.P.H. in this area. However, when an object is blown against a structure and ruptures the outside walls, windows, garage doors, or eaves, it allows the pressures to change on or in the structure, and severe damage is probable.

Manufactured home residents should contact a licensed mobile home installer and have the blocking and anchor straps checked. Insure that aluminum additions are tied down to reduce the danger of being lifted. Seek shelter early when a hurricane is approaching. In manufactured home communities, the winds tend to damage the screen room and/or carport first. That damage will often cause siding and/or roof failure of the home which may lead to total destruction of the home.

Let's all work together to make this a safe year, and in the event of a storm, keep damage to a minimum. The Town is continuing to prepare so that in the event of a severe storm we will be able to provide the necessary services as quickly as possible.

We are here to help you, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us at 727-7764.

### OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL

Home Occupational Licenses and Occupational Licenses for business owners must be renewed on or before September 30th. Any payment received after September 30 will be assessed a penalty.

## Malabar Business Spotlight

Malabar is a small town, but it is proud to embrace over 80 businesses within its 11 square miles. Each newsletter will focus on one of Malabar's business establishments.

Five years ago when Nancy and Stuart Borton came to this area they thought the location of the Indian River Grille was unique, but, unfortunately, occupied. So the husband and wife team went ten miles down the coast and opened Stuart's Bistro in Micco. When the Grille closed its doors, the Bortons readily purchased the property. "I liked the location and the fact that it is a historical landmark," Stuart says.

The Yellow Dog Cafe is an unusual name, coming from Nancy's desire for the dog she has never had. Her love of stick people is the basis for the design. Stuart wanted a name that would be recognized nationally and easily remembered.

Nancy, whose family has a long history in the restaurant business and is the cafe's current manager; and husband Stuart, who owns a restaurant in Australia, have lovingly turned their cafe into a place where you can dine in one of three different atmospheres: on the porch, in the library downstairs or in an indoor area upstairs. The Bortons say that there was more to do than expected, and repairs have been extensive. Among other things they replaced the deck and turned the lower level into a dining area. Today the cafe can seat almost 80 people.

"Our speciality is foccacia bread, fresh fish every day, and excellent food. We search for the best foods and meats," says Nancy. She also says that "there are no rules in the restaurant industry any more." She describes the fare at the cafe as creative cooking. Their chefs take traditional classical cooking and recreate it, allowing them the opportunity to put their own signature on menu items.

They also have a local who stops by every day and who has been honored with a portrait in the lower level. The legend is that Harold the heron has been visiting for 20 years. "I watch him come in every day. You can almost set your clock by him," says Nancy, "It's such a beautiful area with all the different wildlife."

The Yellow Dog Cafe is located at 905 U.S. Highway 1. The dress code is casual dress, and they are open seven days a week, Monday through Friday 11 am - 2 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12 pm - 3 pm and every night from 5 pm - 10 pm. You can also call 956-3334 and order a meal to go.



## **MALABAR STORM WATER DRAINAGE**

By Council Member John Detwiler

### **THE PLAN**

The plan, as originally conceived, consisted of storm water drainage solutions for two primary problem areas on the northeast and northwest sides of the town and other work to be done concurrently by the Town Public Works personnel. The proposed plan defined when each of these projects would start, who would perform the work, estimated costs, and goals for when these task would be finished. The plan also outlined additional effort required after the initial work was performed.

### **PROBLEM AREAS AND PRIORITY**

The first problem area to be focused on was the tributary that runs from the corner of Corey Road and Malabar Road southeast through to Hall Road, crosses under Hall Road through a parcel of private property to the north end of Hunter Lane. This effort was performed by prison labor with assistance from the Town's maintenance personnel. However this project was not completed due to our inability to access the parcel of private property.

The second problem area focused on was the tributary that runs from the south side of Malabar Road about mile east of Weber Road through private property and exits on the east side of Weber Road approximately half way between Malabar Road and Hall Road. An outside contractor performed this task.

The third problem area was the area around Candy and Hunter Lane. An outside contractor also performed this task. This action was required because the Town was refused access to the above mentioned parcel of parcel property between the end of Hunter and Candy and Hall Road.

The other areas concentrated on were: A) Waring Lane south of Atz Road and the ditch along the south side of Atz Road east of Waring Lane. B) Hard Way Lane through to Raising Kane Ranch. C) The replacement of crushed drainage pipes in Rocky Point.

### **PERFORMANCE**

As all of you should have noticed by now, we are still in the process of cleaning the drainage ditches; however, a tremendous amount of work has been accomplished. At the present time we plan to continue utilizing contractors on Saturdays to assist in this effort.

We also understand that Congressman Weldon is helping us obtain FEMA grants that will provide funds for further work on storm water drainage and retention ponds. We are continuing to work with the St. Johns Water Management District on the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of our Storm Water Management Plan, which hopefully will provide grant money to complete the entire plan.

Future letters will be included in the Malabar Mailboat outlining our progress and tasks required to complete our Storm Water Management Plan.

## **MALABAR'S 5TH ANNUAL PICNIC MALABAR COMMUNITY PARK**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1998 11:00 AM - 6 PM**



**A FAMILY PICNIC WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS CAN JOIN OUR FISHING CONTEST (bring your own pole). COME AND WATCH CLOGGERS AND LISTEN TO LIVE BLUE GRASS MUSIC. FOR THE KIDS THERE WILL BE GAMES, A BIKE SAFETY RODEO (bring your bike and helmet), A MOONWALK, AND PONY RIDES. FIND YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE FOR THE BAKE OFF AND WATCH AS OUR FIRE FIGHTERS PUT OUT REAL FIRES (HOPEFULLY THOSE TWO EVENTS WILL BE SEPARATE!). WE ALSO WILL HAVE ARTS AND CRAFTS, MODEL SAILBOAT RACES, FOOD AND DRINKS, A MIXED CLASS CAR SHOW AND MALABAR'S CUB SCOUT PACK WILL SPONSOR A PINE WOOD DERBY.

TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE FISHING CONTEST, THE MODEL SAIL BOAT RACING AND THE CAR SHOW. ADDITIONAL AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE BAKE OFF. DOOR PRIZES, DONATED FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES, WILL BE GIVEN AWAY THROUGHOUT THE DAY. WATCH FOR A FLYER IN YOUR MAIL WITH MORE INFORMATION ON THE TIME SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENTS AND HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE DOOR PRIZES.

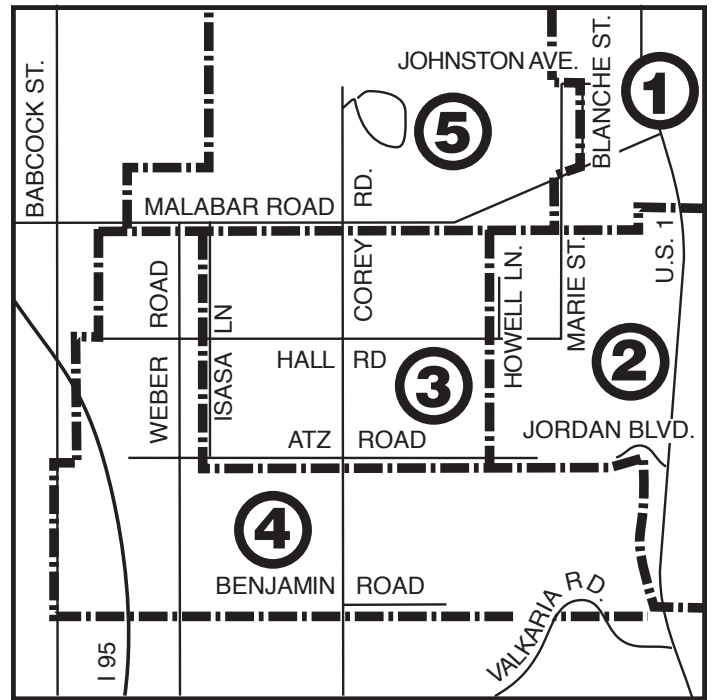
BRING A LAWN CHAIR, MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND ENJOY THE DAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A SPACE TO DISPLAY OR SELL, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES AND VOLUNTEER IN ONE OF THE BOOTHS, PLEASE CALL DEBBY AT 727-7764.

**COME JOIN THE FUN!!**

## Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Elizabeth Ritter 350 Camelot Circle	723-5845
District 2	Julane Kikla 2730 Rocky Point Road	676-3698
District 3	John Detwiler 1780 Eva Lane	725-7759
District 4	Tom Eschenberg 2835 Beran Lane	724-1007
District 5	Henry Dekker 1260 Hollow Brook Lane	722-9717
Mayor	Phillip Crews 2480 Johnston Ave.	951-0422
Town Administrator	Bill Hall Town Hall	723-3261
Town Clerk/ Treasurer	Susan Kilian Town Hall	727-7764
County Comm.	Nancy Higgs, Dist. 3	952-6300
State Senator	Patsy Kurth, Dist. 15	984-4951



Town Administrator - WILLIAM HALL 723-3261 FAX 722-2234 Editor - John Detwiler, Council Vice-Chairman

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