



THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 8 NO. 2 3rd QUARTER 2002

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.

TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

Candidate Qualifying

Malabar continues to grow and is changing rapidly. If you have a desire to guide Malabar into the future now is the time to act. If you live in either District 1, District 2, or District 3, and you are eligible, you can become a candidate for Council Member. The Council Member seats for Districts 1, 2 and 3 are up for election this November, and candidate qualifying begins on August 23rd and ends on September 6th.

To be eligible to qualify you must be at least 18 years of age and able to prove that you have lived within the town limits for the past six months. Qualifying consists of obtaining 15 signatures of registered voters from your district and filling out the necessary paperwork. Confused about what district you live in? Check out the article on redistricting and look at the map in this newsletter to determine your district.

The Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month with additional workshops and special meetings during the year. Each term is for two years and has a limit of three terms. For more information and to pick up a candidate qualifying packet, please stop by the Town Clerk's office.

Remember that though you need to live within Dis-

tricts 1, 2, or 3 to qualify as a candidate for one of the open seats, in Malabar we vote 'at large' which means that all registered voters in Malabar (regardless of what district you live in) will vote on all seats on November 5th.

Malabar Redistricts Council Member Seats

The Malabar Code of Ordinances provides for redistricting of Council Member districts when the population in those districts vary by more than 10%. During the 2000 Census we learned that our population is now 2,645, and that our districts no longer meet the 10% rule.

On July 15, 2002 the Town Council passed Ordinance 02-04, Redistricting of Council Member seats. The new districts are described in the ordinance and are shown on the map on the back of this newsletter. Your Council representative may have changed so please take a look at the new boundaries. And if you are considering running for one of the open district seats on Council be sure to understand what district you live in. If you are unsure about your district or have questions, please call town hall.

Town Happenings . . .

New Dates for Candidate Qualifying

Candidate qualifying is two weeks earlier than normal this year. The reason for the early qualifying has its roots in the 2000 Presidential election. After the problem with the 2000 Presidential election the Florida Legislature passed the "Florida Election Reform Act of 2001". The reform act changed the date of the first primary election to the second Tuesday in September and eliminates the second primary for the year 2002 only. It also was passed in order to allow time for absentee ballots to reach overseas and out-of-state voters in a timelier manner. The schedule set forth in the Florida Election Reform Act of 2001 states that all ballot issues will be finalized no later than September 6, 2002, which is 60 days prior to the November 5, 2002 General Election.

Malabar's Code states that candidate qualifying is held begins on the 60th day and ends on the 45th day prior to the general election, which is in conflict with the Reform Act. In order to comply, the Town Council passed an ordinance last year allowing for candidate qualifying to begin on August 23rd and end on September 6th for this year only.

The Town Council Steps In

As soon as the former Town Administrator resigned from office the Town Council began taking a more active role in the town administration. The citizens and staff at town hall want to thank these elected, and unpaid, volunteers of our community. The town charter states that, "all powers of the town shall be vested in the elected council." Which means that Malabar has a strong council form of government and this Council is indeed strong in caring for this community. In the absence of a town administrator the Council will keep the town moving forward and will work on defining, and filling, this position. Being elected as a Council Member takes dedication and commitment to our community. Now that dedication has taken on a new definition and we owe them, more than ever, for volunteering to represent and direct the town.

MALABAR EAGLE CORPS

By: Tom Eschenberg

The response to the request for volunteers to staff the Malabar Eagle Corps patrol car has been somewhat under-whelming. Only four people have actually filled out applications and there is one verbal commitment. I had written in the previous Mail Boat that the goal would be coverage by the patrol car from 8 AM to 4 PM on Monday through Friday. While six of us cannot provide this coverage, we will do our best with random times when we finally get underway. The Sheriff's Dept. has offered assistance, however the deputy in charge of their citizens patrol is busy in Titusville until the end of July with a summer youth camp. Since we are now looking to at least mid-August for a training session, the opportunity to serve your town in this program and be among the first group to patrol our roads still exists. This is not hard work. The car rides very smoothly and the air conditioner blows very cold air. All you have to do is be observant as to anything suspicious. We won't pull anybody over or write any tickets or directly interfere in anyone's activities. Our job is simply to observe and report. Call me any evening or weekends at 724-1007 to volunteer. I can e-mail the application to you. Fill it out and e-mail it back to me or to town hall (franklin@malabartown.org). If you don't want to talk to me, stop by town hall and fill out the application there. As my grandmother used to say: Many hands make light work.

We Missed a Thank You

In the last newsletter we left out important contributors during April's Trash Bash. We'd like to thank the Malabar Mariners for all their assistance. They play a major roll in cleaning the shore line in Malabar and surrounding areas every year and the town wants them to know that we appreciate all they collect and clean.

Beautification Efforts Begin

A common topic at Town Council meetings is beautification. What can be done to beautify the US1 corridor and along Malabar Road is a common question. One of the first steps Council took toward beautifying Malabar was to have the Brazilian pepper tree at the end of Malabar Road at US1 cleared away. What an eye-catching site awaits the car first in line at the stop light on Malabar Road. The Indian River Lagoon is a natural and beautiful resource and the Council wants to use that beauty to enhance the Town.

The Council plans on pursuing the clearing of all the pepper trees and invasive plants along US1 to open the entire corridor to the charm and beauty of the river. Another idea is to install decorative lights and desirable plants along the river. There are many more ideas that are in the infancy stage but there is one item common to all ideas: all ideas require funding. This is where Council is working the hardest. Finding funding can be difficult but the Council is dedicated to doing the majority of funding with grants. If you have thoughts about how to enhance our town, please call your Council representative and share your ideas.

Staff news

After almost 14 years at Town Hall, Vivian Murray has retired from her position as Deputy Clerk in the building department. We wish her all the best and want to welcome her replacement, Jennifer Mansur. We will all be working with a learning curve due to Vivian's absence, she is taking with her years of experience and an intimate knowledge of the Town. So we ask for your patience with building department questions and services for the next few months.

We also want to welcome back Susan Kabana, Town Clerk and Treasurer, after an extended medical leave. It is good to have her back.

Malabar Boards

All boards are made up of volunteers who are residents of Malabar and are registered voters who have lived in Malabar a minimum of six months. Applications are available at Town Hall if you are interested. Terms vary from one to five years on the boards. Background or a working knowledge of what the boards do is helpful.

Park Board: Deals with park issues, beautification, annual trash bash, annual Malabar Day celebration, annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony and other new projects throughout the year.

Planning and Zoning Board: Acts as the local planning agency and formulates the comprehensive planning program for the Town. It makes recommendations to the Council on zoning matters and land use issues.

Board of Adjustment: Meets on an as needed basis. It meets to hear and decide on requests for variances and administrative appeals if a party believes an error has been made in a decision involving enforcement of any land development code or regulation.

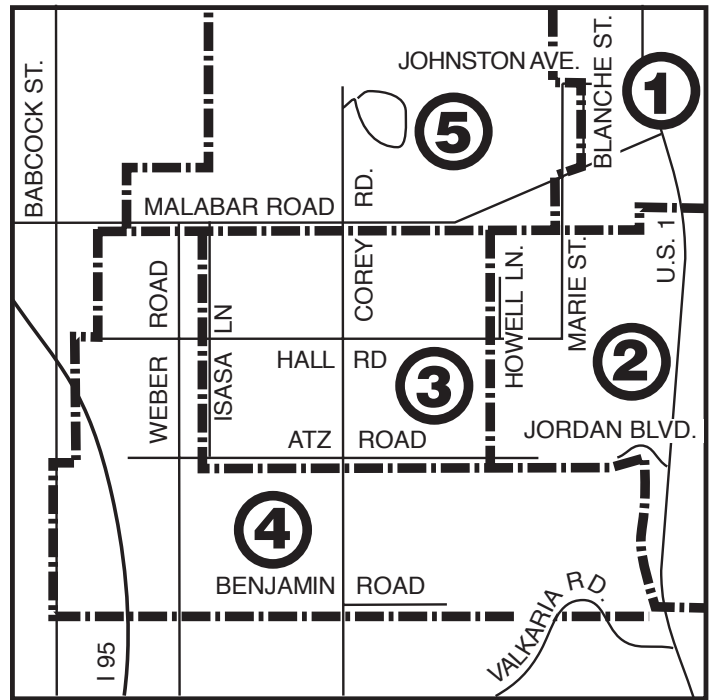
At the time of printing of this newsletter the current need for board members is as follows: The Park Board has three alternate positions open. The Planning and Zoning Board has one alternate position open and the Board of Adjustment has one alternate position open.

Being an alternate is the best way to learn about how the board works and allows you to be familiar with the issues prior to moving into a board member seat. Natural attrition due to moving and personal issues open seats on the boards and a recommendation to move an alternate into the open seat typically follows.

Know Your Representatives on Council

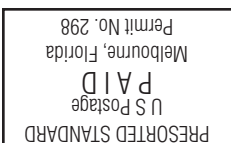
The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Nancy Tinio-Borton 141 Riverview Drive	724-2986
District 2	Charlene Horton 2175 LaCourt Lane	727-2194
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 Clerk/ Treasurer	Susan Kabana Town Hall	727-7764
Town Fax		722-2234



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