



THE MAILBOAT



VOLUME 9 NO. 2 3rd QUARTER 2003

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.

District 4 and District 5 Seats on November Ballot

The time for candidate qualifying is upon us once again. If you have a desire to guide Malabar into the future now is the time to act. The Council Member seats for Districts 4 and 5 are up for election this November. If you live in either District 4 or 5, and you are eligible, you can become a candidate for Council Member. Candidate qualifying begins on September 5th and ends on September 19th.

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? Look at the map on the back of 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, 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 Districts 4 or 5 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 4th.

The Future of Police Coverage in Malabar

Currently Malabar uses the Brevard County Sheriff's Department for police protection. For many years, in lieu of tax-payer dollars, Malabar provided a sub-station in Town Hall for police use, you may have noticed the sign at Town Hall. The Brevard County Sheriff's office recently informed us that Malabar's portion for the cost of protection is not being paid and they cannot continue to provide services in this manner. They state that in order to provide 'fairness and equity' to all citizens who use the Sheriffs' services, Malabar must pay for their portion of coverage. Below are the three options that were outlined for us.

Option 1

All the other citizens using the County Sheriff for police protection pay a MSTU (Multi Service Taxing Unit) on their annual property tax bill. The MSTU is based on the value of your property. In dollars this translates to \$1.2097 per thousand dollars of property value. i.e. a \$100,000 home with a \$25,000 homestead is calculated as follows: $\$75,000 \times .0012097 = 90.73/\text{year}$.

This option maintains our current Sheriff Coverage and charges each property owner for that coverage.

Option 2

Malabar could hire its own police department with a minimum of 8 officers and starting salaries from

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From Ed Booth, Town Administrator

One question in the last MAILBOAT was about growth. We can improve on our responses when you and your neighbors let us know how you feel. The current topic: Beautification on US1, how do you think it should be done? The first person to respond gets a ... we'll keep that a surprise. I enjoy talking and meeting with our residents and I am always looking for your opinions.

From our last newsletter I have three updates: First, removal of the pepper trees is showing more and more of the shoreline. We've cleared about 1/2 mile to-date and the County is supplying prisoners to do the work. Soon, after Town employees are trained, we will be able to use the prisoners from the day-prison program. These people must report to the prison in the morning but go home each night. The Town is responsible for transporting the day-prisoners and a van will be purchased for that purpose. Currently two days a week are devoted to the clearing of the pepper trees.

Second, regarding drainage, you can come in to Town Hall and see the map showing which areas are complete and/or being done, if you have a concern about your area, please call Town Hall.

Lastly, the roads that need attention after this rainy season will shortly be attended to, we know that there are many roads in bad shape and public works will be working diligently to take care of those problem areas. If your road needs attention please call us and let us know that you are in need of service.

Watch for Next MAILBOAT Shortly Before November Election

Look for the next Mailboat newsletter to arrive shortly before the November election. Over the past year the Town Council, along with two citizens chosen by each Council Member, comprised the Malabar Charter Review Committee. The Committee made recommendations for updating the Charter and, with Council approval, those recommendations will be on the November ballot. In order for you to make an informed decision you will receive a newsletter devoted to the revisions. Please watch for it prior to the election.

Resolutions and Ordinances

These are the Resolutions and Ordinances that were considered since the last newsletter.

Resolution 02-03 repealing resolution 1-89, which restricted the time line for comprehensive plan changes (was more strict than the State which has time lines in place) - passed.

Resolution 03-03 revision of building department fees (minimal increase) - passed.

Resolution 04-03 revision of road improvement application fees (no increase) - passed.

Resolution 05-03 to adopt a new employee manual - tabled until after the election (our new employee manual mentions a town administrator but the position is not in the Charter yet - look for info on this in the next newsletter) - tabled.

Resolution 06-03 increase in water rates (minimal increase) - passed.

Resolution 07-03 schedule to pay back the general fund for water line extension at the west end of Malabar Road - passed.

Ordinance 03-03 new requirement for culvert and driveway installation - passed.

Ordinance 03-04 this number accidentally skipped

Ordinance 03-05 amending the road improvement ordinance (corrected an inconsistency in the code) - passed.

Ordinance 03-06 allowing the Town to 'piggy-back' on other awarded government bids - passed first reading.

Ordinance 03-07 providing for questions for the November ballot regarding changes to the Charter - passed first reading.

Town Happenings . . .

Senior TranServe

This new program, designed to benefit our home-bound seniors, is still in need of volunteers to drive those in need to doctor and dental appointments, visit loved ones in the hospital, food shop, etc. If you have a little spare time that's unaccounted for and you wish to warm a heart, please call 726-6465 or 543-8020. From our last newsletter request they did receive calls. More volunteer drivers are needed.

Malabar's Sandhill Cranes

Were you fortunate enough to see our family of Sandhill Cranes these past few months? They always stay together and are a graceful sight to behold. The parents walk slowly so the little ones can keep up on the walk. One Malabar resident tells us that the babies are growing by leaps and bounds, probably "teens" by our standards. Remember they do walk on the sides of the road, if you see our Sandhill cranes, please slow down to avoid a fatality and/or just to observe. We are fortunate to have these beautiful creatures in our area and we want to keep them safe. Recently a Malabar citizen called to say that a sandhill crane was in her yard with a wounded wing, possibly from buckshot. If you find a wounded crane, please the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission at 888/404-3922. For more information, log onto their website at www.floridaconservation.org, under "critter information". Note: it is illegal to feed sandhill cranes, raccoons, and alligators, to mention a few.

Board Members Needed

Currently three alternate members are needed on the Park and Recreation Board and one alternate member is needed on the Board of Adjustment. The Park Board meets once a month and some of its current responsibilities include organizing a group to run Malabar Day and management of the parks and trails. The Board of Adjustment meets as needed, often only a few times a year, and sits in a quasi-judicial capacity. They mainly rule on variance requests to the land development code.

ATV Riders attend Council Meeting

At a recent Council meeting a group of ATV riders voiced their concern about the future of ATV riding in Malabar. The group had concerns about Council member Brian Hunter and his effort to keep the scrub free of motorized vehicles. Mr. Hunter informed the group that while he is all for ATV riding, it can't happen in the Jordan Scrub. Mr. Hunter stated that Brevard County makes the rules regarding the use of the Scrub, which allows passive recreation such as horses and hiking, but prohibits all motorized vehicles. Mr. Hunter has volunteered his time to be a "Guardian of the Scrub" and therefore has permission from Brevard County to ask people to leave the area if they are on motorized vehicles. There was some clarification given regarding a road that runs to the west of the Scrub, this road is in the Jordan Scrub and therefore ATV's are not permitted there. Mr. Hunter feels the entire situation will be clear to all when the EEL's erect a fence, which should be complete in September.

As to the future of ATV riding in Malabar, the Council encourages the riders to band together and contact their local legislator's to request funding for an ATV site. Council Chair Bobbi Moccia stated that she will speak for the group if they should want to approach the County Commission. The Council agrees that Malabar is big enough for all types of recreation and they are willing to work toward a solution.

Finding Malabar History Can Mean Money

Council Chair, Bobbi Moccia, is looking for old photographs and information about the Malabar Mail Boat Dock. We really need your help! We are applying for a grant from the State of Florida to restore the dock which will be a beautiful asset in Town. What we desperately need are a few good pictures of the dock to attach to our grant application. When the application is being reviewed a picture would certainly help explain the "what and where" of what we want to accomplish. We will pick up and return all pictures. If you can help us, or know someone who can, please call Town Hall at 727-7764 and ask for Susan or Debby.

The Trailhead on Marie St. Grand Opening

Malabar sets the standard of Trailheads in Brevard County By Barbara Kibling

Newly Employed by the Town

Since the last newsletter we filled both help wanted positions. Contractor Bill Withers does a great job caring for our parks, and contractor Teresa Holland now keeps Town Hall nice and clean.

Malabar hired a new Building Official, Norm Smith, in May. And in August we hired a contractor, Bill Stephenson, as an in-house engineer. We will introduce both men in an upcoming newsletter.

T-Shirt Contest

Are you artistic, do you like to draw? The Town is sponsoring a t-shirt contest. For years we have been selling the same t-shirts on Malabar Day, and at our last Malabar Day many of you told us that it's time for a change! We have a \$35 cash prize for the best design. The deadline for your submittal is December 1st. Our only requirement is to include the Town seal somewhere on the shirt. Good luck!

Malabar Day Organizers Needed

The Park and Recreation Board is looking for a few good people to take over the reins that run our annual Malabar Day picnic. Since its inception ten years ago the event has steadily grown and now it's time to hand the reins over to a group of individuals who are willing to run this one-time-a-year event. If you are interested in helping to plan this fun-filled day please contact Town Hall and ask for Debby.



Meet Carlette chicken (named after our own Public Works Supervisor, Carl Beatty). Carlette decided that the Malabar Public Works building was the best place to lay her eggs, so the crew made her a comfy spot on our Malabar Day hay bales...it's great to live in a small town!

From November, 2002 to May, 2003 Richard Cameron, volunteer coordinator, organized eight work parties to complete the Marie Street Trailhead before the deadline of June 1, 2003.



The deadline for the grant was quickly coming to an end and in order to take full advantage of the funds available we all increased our dedication to the project. Until February we were unable to contract the work needed to bring the entire project together. The front fence was complete in January and we contracted the work on the picnic tables. Work began on the equestrian holding pens in February. The pavilion was contracted out to Triple T Barns in March and the kiosk was complete by the end of March. Bob Wilbur, Richard Cameron, and Barbara Kibling opened up a back entrance to the adjacent County preserve in May and our Grand Opening was May 31, 2003. What a schedule!

Rumor has it that Malabar has the best trailhead in Brevard County and to back up that claim we've been asked to help guide North Brevard County with their trailhead project. Which is a compliment that we are very pleased with!

Richard Cameron wants us all to remember that, first and foremost, this never could have happened without the help of several dedicated volunteers, and the help of many other volunteers as well. If not for them we would not be the icon for future sites. Many volunteers gave their time and effort no matter how hard the job and our work parties had a camaraderie unfounded in our corporate world. The Town is thankful to all the citizens who cared enough to make this happen, the trailhead is a visual work of art. Special "Thanks" to all who helped make this three year project become a reality, we encourage you to take a ride and check out our work. The trailhead is for equestrian, bike, and hiker use. Signs with directions and rules will be coming soon.

Eagle Corp - Eagle Eye

by Tom Eschenberg

The Malabar Town Council has expressed an interest in expanding the Eagle Corps Citizen Patrol. We currently have a small group of volunteers who randomly patrol between 8 AM and 4 PM, Monday through Friday. The Council would like to expand coverage to the late afternoon and evening hours. While it's understandable there's a limited pool of volunteers available during weekday working hours, the pool should be much larger for the evening. Working people will now have the opportunity to service their community.

Volunteers for the Eagle Corps must be residents of Malabar over the age of 18. 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.

Eagle Corps volunteers always patrol in pairs. They do not have any arrest power and are not authorized to take any direct action in a crime in progress. Their primary function is to "Observe and Report". They carry a cell phone to call 911 or to call the Sheriff's Department to report suspicious activity.

We must look to the future. Presently, the Brevard County Sheriff's Department responds to calls in Malabar. In return, the town provides a small office for them at Town Hall. However, as our town grows and the Sheriff looks for additional sources of revenue, new demands may be made on the

POLICE COVERAGE (con't from pg 1)

the low 20's to the mid 30's. Add to that the cost of vehicles, insurance, supplies (bullet proof vests can cost up to \$500 each), and a building to work from, and that makes this is a very expensive endeavor. This option hires our own police department.

Option 3

Malabar can contract with the Sheriff's Department for a specific number of officers to be in the Town limits at certain times. (Option one provides for a Sheriff in Town as often as they can be here, or as they are needed. It is not mandatory that they stay in Malabar during their shift. Under this third option

town by the Sheriff's Department. As a point of reference, the City of Cape Canaveral contracts with the Sheriff to provide police service at a cost of \$1,687,092, this annual fee and does not include the cost of capital equipment. This amount is more than the entire annual budget for Malabar. Cape Canaveral is approximately 2 square miles in size with a population of 10,000. Malabar is about 11 square miles with 2700 residents. (If we had to pay what Cape Canaveral pays, it would average out to \$675 per resident per year. There's always the option of Malabar having its own Police Department. Apparently, Cape Canaveral believes they already pay the lower cost option.)

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. With enough volunteers, an individual should not have to give more than eight hours per month.

Applications may be obtained at Town Hall. If being at work prevents you from picking one up in person, give them a call at 727-7764. The staff is friendly and helpful and would probably mail an application if you ask. Or, call me at 724-1007 and I or one of the volunteers would be happy to deliver it.

Before You Consider Cutting Down a Tree
If you aren't sure which trees can be cut down WITHOUT a permit and which ones NEED a permit, stop by Town Hall for an information packet. The list is too lengthy to print here.

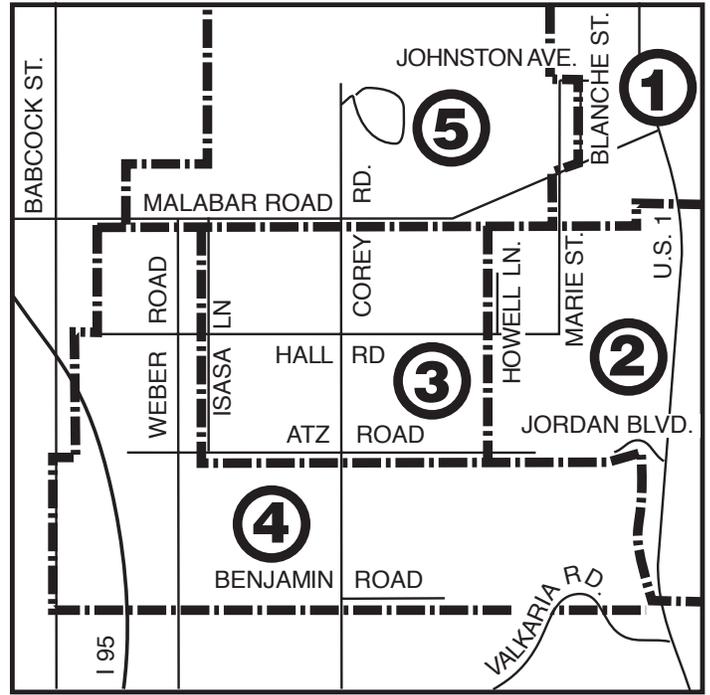
the officer(s) must stay in Malabar for their entire shift). This option would be at a cost equal to or above our entire annual budget. This option contracts Sheriff's to be in Malabar at specific times.

Though all options are costly the Sheriff's Department has stated that they cannot afford to continue providing coverage with no revenue from Malabar. Ed Booth, Town Administrator would like your comments regarding these options. Please call or write Town Hall, or send email to: ebooth@malabartown.org.

Know Your Representatives on Council

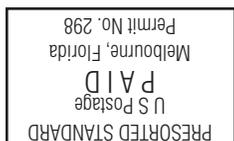
The following Council members represent these districts:

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



Editor - Susan Kabana www.malabartown.org

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Town of Malabar
2725 Malabar Road
Malabar, Florida 32950-4427