



THE MAILBOAT



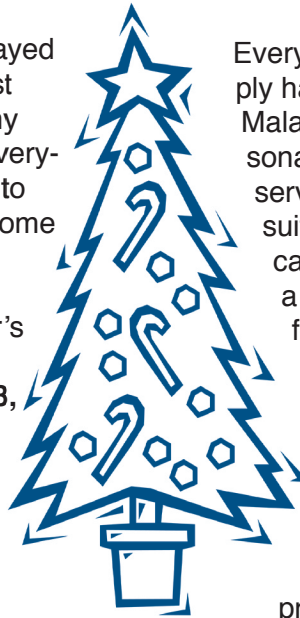
VOLUME 11 NO. 4 4th QUARTER 2005

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.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Coining the phrase from one of the most played Christmas songs in our history, "It's the most wonderful time of the year". This is, truly, my favorite time of the year. It's a time when everyone comes together to lend a helping hand to neighbors and friends, and quite possibly, some people we don't know.

We, once again, invite all of you to this year's annual Malabar Christmas Tree Lighting. The date for the lighting will be **December 3, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.** Mayor Eschenberg will throw the switch and light the tree. Grab your family and friends and come and join us in the festivities. For those of you who may be new to Malabar, this would be a great way to meet your neighbors.



Everyone is welcome! Public Works will supply hay bales for seating and the choir from the Malabar First Baptist Church will lead us in seasonal singing. Cookies and warm cider will be served. And let's not forget the man in the red suit! Santa Claus will arrive on a fire truck with candy for the children. This has turned into a fun community event over the years. Look for the signs around town the week before announcing the event.

From our families at the Town of Malabar to your families, we want to extend the warmest and happiest of holiday wishes to each and everyone. May your holidays be filled with the gift of love, laughter and precious time spent with your loved ones.

By: Cindi Kelley

Election Results – Meet our newest Council Members

The elections are now over. Candidate qualifying ended on September 23, 2005. The candidates for District 4 were Bobbi Moccia and Jeff McKnight. Council Member Bobbi Moccia was re-elected to serve the Town for two additional years. Pat Dezman, who ran unopposed, will continue to represent District 5.

These two members were installed into office at the Town Council Special Meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2005.

Congratulations to you both.

Letter from the Town Administrator

By Ed Booth, Town Administrator

A Message to the Parents of ATV Riders

The Town Council and Staff have received numerous complaints about the conduct of the drivers of ATVs. Most of the complaints identify the drivers as being teenagers. The recent complaints are in regards to damage to the roads that the Town's Public Works crews are re-building. You can understand the anger of the citizens of Malabar. They have lived with mud roads for a long time. Public Works is now re-building the roads in Malabar. The residents of Malabar would like to keep their roads in tact. The ATV riders are spinning on the roads, creating great damage. If you are out and about on your ATV, please keep to the sides of the roads. This will keep the damage to the roads to a minimum.

The one thing that Town Council does not want to do is restrict your children from driving their ATVs within the Town's limits. However, they may not have any choice in the matter if the public demands it. We all know what it means to be young. So, please speak with your children regarding this matter.

Board Members are Needed

We have a couple of positions available that need to be filled on two of the Town's boards. The Planning & Zoning Advisory Board needs two alternate board members. The Parks & Recreation Board also has two alternate positions available. The Planning & Zoning Advisory Board typically meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The subject matter of each meeting will determine the day of the week. The Town's attorney may not need to attend a meeting. If that is the case, then that particular meeting would be on Wednesday evening. If the attorney does need to be present, then the meeting would be held on Monday evening. The Parks & Recreation Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Anyone who is interested in serving on either of these boards, and can volunteer a few hours each month, should stop by Town Hall to complete an application.

Malabar Springfest

The actual date for the Springfest has not been set, but it looks like it will be the 8th of April for 2006. We are looking for volunteers to work booths and also to be on the Committee. Committee members are needed to help pull everything together to make the day's events happen without any hitches. If you can spare some of your time and would like to be a part of this fun-filled day, please call Cindi Kelley at Town Hall. The success of the day depends on people like you helping with the activities.



Holiday Schedule for Town Hall

Town Hall will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!!!

Due to the Christmas holiday falling on the weekend, Town Hall will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 23rd. Since Christmas Eve and Christmas Day fall on the weekend, we will not be back in the office until December 27th. FROM OUR HOMES TO YOUR HOMES, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL FROM THE TOWN OF MALABAR.

Due to the New Year's holiday falling on the weekend, Town Hall will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30th. Since New Year's Eve and New Year's Day fall on the weekend, we will not be back in the office until January 3rd. MAY YOU ALL HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Town Happenings . . .

Passed Resolutions and Ordinances

These are the Resolutions and Ordinances that passed or failed since the last newsletter:

Ord 2005-03	Adopting the Millage Rate
Ord 2005-04	Adopting the Budget for year 2005/2006
Ord 2005-05	Adopting Water Utility Connection Fees
Res 09-2005	Adopting a Budget Adjustment for year 2004/2005
Res 10-2005	Changing the Candidate Qualifying Period for 2005
Res 11-2005	Allowing the Mayor and Town Administrator to execute certain instruments
Res 12-2005	Amending the Employee Manual
Res 13-2005	(evolved into Ord 2005-05)
Res 14-2005	Purchase a new Dump Truck
Res 15-2005	Adopting Automatic Withdrawals for Utility Customers
Res 16-2006	(not presented to Council so far, Water Utility Rate Increase)
Res 17-2005	(number accidentally skipped)
Res 18-2005	Adopting the Stormwater Utility Assessment Roll for year beginning October 1, 2005
Res 19-2005	Purchasing a new Ditch Mower
Res 20-2005	Repealing Res 09-2005, Budget Adjustment
Res 21-2005	Adopting a Budget Adjustment for year 2004/2005

DID YOU KNOW . . .

The average ear of corn has eight-hundred kernels arranged in sixteen rows.

At last count there were about 226,000 trees in New York City's Central park.

Bamboo can grow up to three feet in a 24 hour period.

Oak trees do not have acorns until they are fifty years old or older.

Important Information About What is Happening in our Town

It has come to our attention here at Town Hall that there has been some theft going on in our town. Equipment has been stolen from various tack rooms in our community. Please, if you see anything suspicious like this going on, or any other suspicious activity, call 911. Let the Sheriff's Department know what you are seeing and the address of where this is happening. If we all do our part to keep our community safe, then we can assist in keeping this type of activity out of our community. Don't be afraid to stand up for the community that you live in.

Changes to Phone Extensions at Town Hall

Please be advised that there have been some changes made to the phone extension list for the new phone system at Town Hall. You may now reach the following people/departments at these extensions:

Telephone Extensions for the phone system:

(321) 727-7764 – Dial "0" at anytime for the Operator. You will reach the desk of Cindi Kelley.

Extension:

- 10 – Cindi Kelley – (Deputy Town Clerk & AP/UB Clerk)
- 11 – Sharon White – (AR/CE & Town Admin. Asst.)
- 12 – Susan Kabana – (Town Clerk/Treasurer)
- 13 – Ed Booth – (Town Administrator)
- 14 – Rose Futch – (Permit Technician)
- 15 – Norm Smith – (Building Official)
- 16 – Debby Franklin – (Admin. Assist. to Building Official)
- 18 – Park Reservations (Recording)
- 19 – Nancy Conklin (Eagle Corp)

FOR ISSUES REGARDING DITCHES, DRAINAGE AND/OR ROADS, PLEASE CALL PUBLIC WORKS ON THEIR DIRECT PHONE LINE. THE NUMBER IS 321-723-2471.

Averting Disaster – Please, Share the Road

By: Jeanie Potter

While it is the responsibility of every rider to practice careful road safety while on horseback, drivers have a big responsibility, too. Whether you are driving a licensed vehicle, a tractor, four-wheeler, or a bicycle, chances are the horse you come upon will want to check you out. What happens next is up to you.

When you see a horse and rider on the shoulder of the road, please slow down as you pass by, move over if you can, and DO NOT honk your horn! I assure you, the rider hears you coming and is concentrating on keeping the horse calm and controlled. Even the well-trained mount will startle and react negatively from a sudden loud noise such as a blaring horn, a revving engine, or a loud exhaust.

Horses are a “fight or flight” animal – most often FLIGHT. They can spin on their own powerful haunches and launch themselves forward in an instant, sometimes taking them directly into the path of your moving vehicle with no concern for their own safety or that of their rider. It takes a rider with incredible balance and a very good seat to be able to stay in the saddle and keep control of their horse under those conditions. Most likely, the rider will be spun off the horses back and onto the asphalt. Nobody wins in a situation like that.

Also, the physical shape of the equine eyeball differs from that of a human eyeball. Being more oval in shape, it causes images to come into their view in a rush. So, even with their almost 360° field of vision, horses do startle often and rather easily. They are prey animals and are always on the lookout for lions, and tigers, and bears – OH MY! In their world of thinking, any rustling bush could have a horse-eating monster lurking behind it. After five thousand years of domestication, these reactions are still deeply ingrained.

It is the owner’s/rider’s responsibility to thoroughly train their horses and to understand their tolerances and abilities, as well as their own capabilities. But, even under the best of circumstances, with the well-trained team, the unexpected does happen. Dogs bark, bees sting, leaves rustle...By treating every horse and rider with consideration and courtesy, and by giving yourself more reaction time by slowing down, disaster can be averted.

Malabar is a wonderful place to call home. We still have some of the best riding trails available. However, in order to get to some of these trails, riders must travel beside the roadway for varying distances. Let’s adopt the cyclists’ slogan of “Please, Share the Road”. Let’s treat every horse and rider as though they may be family, because – who knows, here in Malabar you might be right.

Saving Water Outdoors

By: St. John’s River Water Management District

More than half of residential water use occurs outdoors. One of the most important ways to help meet our water supply needs for today and in the future is through conservation, which is the efficient and effective use of water. Watering wisely outside the home promotes healthier lawns and landscapes, and conserves our precious water resources.

Water your lawn only when it needs it. Typically, Florida lawns need water up to two times per week in the spring and summer months, less if it rains. This amount drops to even less in the fall and winter months. Over-watering the lawns can result in shallow root systems, which means that your lawn is less drought and stress tolerant. Over-watering also promotes weed growth, disease and fungus.

Water lawns during the early morning or early evening hours when temperature and wind speed are lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation that can occur during the middle of the day. This also allows the water to seep into the ground to the grass and plant roots, promoting healthier plants with deep root systems. Watering early also reduces the potential for disease development. Become familiar with the watering rules in your area. District rules allow watering only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

For more information regarding saving water outdoors, please visit the website for the St. John’s River Water Management District at www.sjr-wmd.com.

News from the Malabar Volunteer Fire Department

By: Bob Rowan

It looks like we made it through a hurricane season with only minor damages. Your Malabar Fire Department was fully staffed round-the-clock. Two trucks were relocated to Assistant Chief Bob Rowan's house on Corey Road to cover the South end of town. This also minimized our risks in case the station got damaged with all of our assets in the building.

A Town of Malabar Emergency Operations Center (EOC) run by Chief Joe Gianantonio was set up on the 2nd floor of the station and a Fire Operations Center (FOC) was set up by Deputy Chief Mike Foley on the 1st floor to direct emergency vehicle traffic and handle any call volume.

Ten vehicles were spread out as the winds diminished in an organized zone search to report back to the FOC and relayed to EOC for damage assessment, people in need, downed power lines, etc. Every single house in Malabar was visually assessed within three hours of the storm's completion. One propane tank was found leaking and shut off on Hard Lane by one of our search/rescue crews.

To ensure even better coverage in future storms and ever better "normal" call volume during the year, we are seeking Malabar residents to join our

cause. You don't have to volunteer for just fire-fighting. We have openings for people that want to support any of the following tasks: firefighting, emergency medical services (ambulance), support service (bringing supplies to the scene), and radio dispatch. Please consider volunteering your time. We currently have about sixty members in the department and only about six people from the Town of Malabar. Volunteers are asked to contribute a total of forty hours a month at the station, a couple of trainings a month, and availability to respond to calls when paged.

We fully understand that all cannot contribute time. Perhaps some can consider a financial contribution. We got a very disappointing 10% return on our fund-raising campaign this year. We are in the process of soliciting Malabar businesses and any residents that feel they can contribute to raise funds to procure an EMS vehicle. This vehicle would respond to all medical calls with an EMT, oxygen, full medical bag, and heart defibrillator. Currently, crews must wait to respond with a fire engine or ambulance until a sufficient number of people are on-hand to roll that piece of equipment. You could be that one extra person that could get that vehicle out of the station. Please give us a shot – as a member or financially.

A Very Special Thank You from the Malabar Volunteer Fire Department

We would like to thank the following businesses for making donations to the Malabar Volunteer Fire Department. With your support, you have saved the Town of Malabar \$82,000.00. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated.

Tarmac—Concrete Pad for Shed	\$22,000
Palm Bay PD— 10 Hand-held Radios	\$25,000
Plainview VolunteerFD— Scott Air Packs	\$35,000

The Plainview Volunteer Fire Department, where Chief Bob Rowan served, is located in New York. The Air Packs have been received from New York and are ready to be used as the Fire Department needs them.

We want all of you to know how much we appreciate your donations. From all of us in the Town of Malabar, we send a huge **THANK YOU!!!**

News from the Building Department

... from Norm Smith's Desk

Construction of new single family homes within the Town of Malabar is at an all-time high. Stillwater Preserve, on the northwest corner of Corey and Malabar Roads has had final plat approval. Construction has commenced by custom home builders in this gated community. There will be seventy-four custom single family homes on 1.5 acre lots with city water. The site work is progressing for Oakmont Preserve, located on South Marie Street. The final plat submittal is expected in the near future. The developer has proposed fifty-four single family homes on 1.5 acre lots and served by well and septic. The subdivision along Weber Road at Malabar Road, Weber Woods, has received their preliminary plat approval from Council recently. This will allow the developer to begin making improvements to the subdivision. They are proposing fifteen new single family homes with city water and septic in this subdivision. Atlantic Coast Construction has submitted their site plan for 114 condominium units along South U. S. #1. This development, Paladin Shores, will be served by city water and sewer. The water and wastewater lines will run from the northern Town limits south for approximately three miles. If you are interested in hooking up to these new water lines, please call Town Hall and request an application. The Town Clerk's office will be glad to put it in the mail to you.

The Building Department has moved into a modular building immediately behind Town Hall. With all the new construction the department needed more space. The hours are 8:30AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday. If you are not sure if a permit might be required for work you are planning, please call the Building Department at 727-7764, ext. 14. We will be happy to assist you. New Florida Building Code requirements went into effect October 1, 2005. Our Town is certainly growing. The Building Department will continue to keep you abreast of all that is happening within our Town.

Operation Shoebox

By: Pat Lewis

The Malabar Fire Department has started "Operation Shoebox". We are asking for donations from members of the department and the Town to make up shoeboxes. We want to show our support to our troops and we want them to know that we care for them and appreciate all that they are doing and continue to do for our country and our freedom. We have a list of items that are needed (requested) for the troops. Please feel free to donate any item(s) on the list. If you do not wish to shop, a monetary donation would be appreciated. **Donated items can be dropped off at the firehouse any day during the week between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted. (Please see the information at the end of this article.) Each \$10 donation will purchase one shoebox for a member of the armed forces. The shoeboxes that are already supplied with items will be shipped to the troops before the Holiday delivery. Once we make up the shoeboxes from all the donated items we receive, they will be delivered and handed out to the troops.

What a great way to send some holiday cheer from home. Just imagine how it would feel if you were away from your family and friends at this time of the year and you received a gift box from home. If you have a relative or a friend of the family who is serving, please provide their name and address to us. We will be happy to get a box to those people.

Pre-paid phone cards are very huge item for our troops to receive. If you would like to make a monetary donation for one of these cards, the cost is \$40. When making out your check, please mark the check accordingly so that it is used to purchase a phone card.

Any and all items will be appreciated by our troops. If you would like to write a note and place it in the box, please feel free to do so. If you decide to do this, please include your name and address. You may receive a response from the recipient of your donation, but it is not guaranteed.

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Here is a list of the suggested items for the troops:

Candy

Candy (heat-resistant)
M & M's
Life Savers
Hard Candies
Fruit Breezes (throat drops)
Twizzlers

Dental

Floss
Mouthwash
Toothbrushes
Tooth Paste

Games

Board Games
Checkers (travel size)
Chess (travel size)
Crossword Puzzle Books
Playing Cards

Toiletries/Hygiene

Baby Wipes
Nose Spray
Cold Water Wash (Woolite)
Eye Drops
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene Products
Foot Powder
Hairbrushes
Hand Lotion
Hand Sanitizers (waterless)
Nail Clippers
Q-Tips
Razors (disposable)
Shampoo
Soap
Sunscreen
Tissues (heavy duty – Puffs)
Toilet Paper (include travel size)
Tylenol (individual packets)
Wash Clothes

Monetary donations may be made by mail to:

Operation Shoebox @ Malabar Volunteer Fire
Department
P. O. Box 500302
Malabar, FL 32950.

Correspondence Utensils

Writing Paper
Envelopes
Pens/Pencils

Drink

Coffee (instant)
Coffee Creamer
Gatorade
Powdered Drink Mixes
Tea Mixes (sweet or tea bags)
Kool Aid Burst (to freeze)

Printed Material

Books (paperback,
novels, short stories)
Newspapers (local)
Magazines

Other

Plastic Utensils (spoons, etc.)
American Flags (small)
Baggies (with zip locks)
Batteries (AA, D, AAA, etc.)
Bug Spray (must be packaged in bag)
Duct Tape
Disposable Cameras
Flashlights (extra bulbs & batteries)
Fans (battery operated, small w/batter)
Fly Strips
Fly Swatters
Pre-Paid Phone Cards
Shoe Insole Cushions
Socks (cushioned)
Sunglasses (black – no brand name)
Sweatbands
Harmonicas
Kazoos

Food

(includes dry goods & snacks)
Sugar packets
Bars (clif or balance)
Beef Jerky
Canned Fruit (pop top cans)
Cereal (in small boxes)
Condiment Packets
Girl Scout Cookies
Granola Bars
Gum (no sticks)
Oatmeal (instant)
Pop-Tarts
Ravioli (pop-top cans)
Tuna Kits

Music

CD Fanny Packs
CDs
Tapes



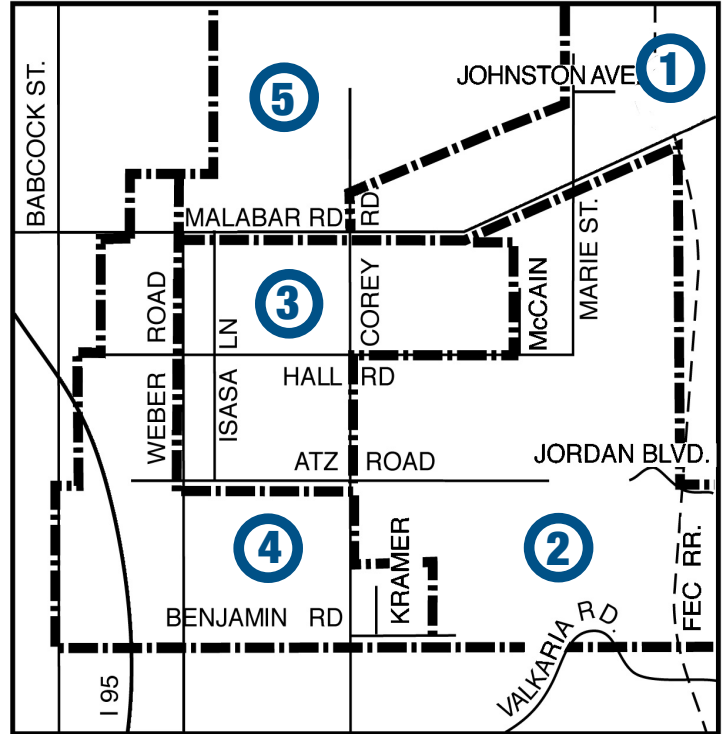
We appreciate all donations. Please pass this on to your friends and neighbors. Every little bit will help in this cause for our troops.

The Malabar Volunteer Fire Department members thank you.
The phone number to the firehouse is 725-1030.

Know Your Representatives on Council

The following Council members represent these districts:

District 1	Frank Hickson 2490 Nord St.	722-3882
District 2	Brian Vail 2700 Smith Lane	952-9110
District 3	Steve Rivet 2005 Rivet Lane	956-6551
District 4	Bobbi Moccia 3135 Kramer Lane	722-3447
District 5	Pat Dezman 1670 Country Cove	724-5817
Mayor	Tom Eschenberg 2835 Beran Lane	724-1007
Town Administrator	Ed Booth Town Hall	727-7764 x13
Town Clerk/ Treasurer	Susan Kabana Town Hall	727-7764 x12
Town Fax		722-2234
County Comm.	Helen Voltz, Dist. 3	952-6300
St. John's River Water Mgmt District	www.sjrwmd.com	



Editor - Cindi Kelley www.townofmalabar.org

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