



# The MANALAPANIAN

January 2026

## From the desk of the Town Manager—

As the Town returns to full swing this season, I hope you and your families enjoyed a wonderful holiday filled with time spent with friends and loved ones. Looking back on the past year, I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made on several key initiatives. Town staff, along with the Mayor and Town Commissioners, have worked diligently to move important projects forward, including the septic-to-sewer conversion, the new guard house at the Point, addressing flooding issues along A1A, and plans for a new Town Hall facility, to name just a few.

These efforts take time, but with the continued support of our community and the dedicated work of our Town Commission, I am confident we will see these projects through to completion.

I would also like to highlight our Opening Season Party, scheduled for January 23 at 6:00 PM. Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback from last year, we are keeping the format similar, featuring three food trucks and a dessert truck. I look forward to seeing everyone there and kicking off the season together!

On a personal note, I am happy to share that my wife, Marissa, and I are expecting our first child in early March. We are incredibly grateful and excited for this new chapter.

Onward, together.

Eric Marmer, Town Manager

## THE COMMISSION CORNER

By Commissioner David Knobel

When I first joined the Town Commission, Manalapan was in the middle of a major transition. Longtime Town Manager Linda Stumpf was completing her final year, and soon after, our police chief announced his retirement. Add in the fact that five of the seven commissioners were new, and it was clear that this was a pivotal moment for the town.

At the same time, several important projects had been waiting for momentum. COVID disruptions and leadership changes had slowed progress, and it was obvious that the upcoming workload would be substantial. Our new town manager, Eric Marmer, stepped in at a good moment to help move things forward.

Early on, I spoke with Eric about the need for a modern fire station, something that became even more urgent as I learned more about our contract with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. The County indicated it would expand staffing to meet the current guidelines if we provided an updated facility, and that reinforced how essential this upgrade is for our residents' safety. Whenever I pass a new fire station elsewhere, I'm reminded of the opportunity we have to do better here at home.

Eric quickly began a professional assessment of the town's space and operational needs, setting a strong foundation for future improvements. He also led the successful recruitment of our new police chief, Jeff Rasor, who has blended seamlessly into the community. Chief Rasor's approach is modern, effective, and fiscally responsible, exactly what a small town like ours needs.

Watching these efforts take shape has been energizing. I'm grateful for the teamwork, the professionalism, and the steady progress we're making. Serving as your commissioner continues to be a privilege.

David Knobel  
Commissioner, Seat 5, Point Manalapan

**Jeffrey Rasor, Chief of Police**  
**THE MANALAPAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**



**Message from the Chief — January 2026**

**Ending My First Year — Chief Rasor**

January 13, 2025, marked my first day as Chief of Police with the Manalapan Police Department. As I approach the end of my first year, I have taken time to reflect on the tremendous strides we have made together, and the relationships built throughout our community. It has been a year of progress, forward momentum, and meaningful connection.

In just twelve months, our agency has accomplished significant milestones that strengthen our service to the Town of Manalapan. We appointed our first Manalapan Detective, achieved full staffing, enhanced our equipment and training, and embraced an agency-wide shift toward a community-policing philosophy. Each of these steps ensures that our officers are better equipped, better supported, and better connected to the residents we serve.

As a 30-year veteran of law enforcement, I can confidently say that the residents of Manalapan are among the finest I have ever had the privilege to work with. The trust, communication, and genuine appreciation shown to our officers make this community truly exceptional. Likewise, the relationships formed within the department among the dedicated men and women who serve here have been both rewarding and inspiring.

It is an honor to work in such a beautiful town, surrounded by residents who deeply value their police department and the individuals who protect it. I am excited for the year ahead as we continue to grow, innovate, and set a standard of excellence. My goal is to further solidify the Manalapan Police Department as a leader in law enforcement within our county.

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust. I look forward to serving you throughout another outstanding year.

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**Holiday Season Crime Prevention**

Package theft continues to be a growing concern in communities across the country. The Manalapan Police Department encourages all residents to take simple, proactive steps to help safeguard their deliveries. Utilizing a combination of the tips below can greatly reduce the likelihood of thieves stealing packages from your home:



Track your shipments online. Most delivery companies offer real-time tracking tools that allow you to monitor where your package is throughout the delivery process.

Use available delivery notifications and scheduling tools. Many shipping services provide text or email alerts, estimated delivery windows, and options to reschedule or customize delivery times. These features can help ensure someone is available to receive your package.

Plan delivery times when you will be home. If you know you won't be home during an expected delivery, you may contact the Manalapan Police Department to request assistance in having your package moved to a secure location.

Report suspicious activity immediately. If you see something unusual or concerning in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to call the Manalapan Police Department at (561) 585-4030.

## Meet the Manalapan Police – Dispatcher Dorothy Dulaj

Hailing from Baltimore, Maryland, Dispatcher Dorothy Dulaj brings a unique and valuable background to the Manalapan Police Department. A former elementary school art teacher, Dorothy successfully transferred skills in communication, patience, and problem-solving from the classroom to public service in law enforcement. She has proudly served the Manalapan Police Department for over six years.

Prior to moving to Florida, Dorothy graduated from Towson University with a degree in Art Education. After spending ten years teaching, Dorothy graduated from the Palm Beach State College Police Academy and was hired by the Manalapan Police Department as a part-time police officer.

During her time on patrol, Dorothy's favorite assignment was ATV beach patrol. Throughout her career with the department, she has served the community during unprecedented times, including COVID-19 lockdowns, hurricane evacuations, and daily efforts to keep Manalapan residents and visitors safe.



Three years ago, Dorothy transitioned from patrol duties to the dispatch center, where she now serves as a police dispatcher. Her calm demeanor and exceptional people skills make her a perfect fit for this critical role. When residents are experiencing stressful or emergency situations, Dorothy's steady and reassuring voice on the other end of the line can truly make all the difference.

Dorothy knows there is no place like Manalapan and takes great pride in serving both the residents and visitors of our town.

Outside of work, Dorothy enjoys spending time with her two black cats, Juno and Anakin, indulging in Maryland crab cakes, visiting with family, and exploring South Florida's vibrant art scene.

If you happen to reach the dispatch center and hear Dorothy's calm voice on the line, feel free to say hello.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at **(561) 585-4030**.

Thank you for your continued support. **Together, we make a difference.**

Stay safe,

*Chief Jeff Raso*

Manalapan Police Department

## 2026 Town of Manalapan Opening Season Party

FRIDAY JANUARY 23, 2026 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM  
AT THE J. TURNER MOORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN WITH  
FOOD TRUCKS, MUSIC, AND DRINKS!

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## New Sanitation Services Coming in the New Year

The Town of Manalapan is pleased to share an important update regarding our residential sanitation and recycling services. As part of our commitment to maintaining high-quality public services and ensuring cost-effective operations, the Town issued a **Request for Proposals (RFP)** for sanitation service providers this past September.

After a thorough review and evaluation process, we are happy to announce that the Town has negotiated a contract with **Waste Pro** to provide residential solid waste and recycling collection. Waste Pro is a Florida-based company that has been partnering with communities across the Southeast for nearly 25 years. Waste Pro is excited to bring the “Distinguishable Difference,” their local commitment to world-class service and investment in stronger, more sustainable communities, to the Town of Manalapan.

**Starting January 1, 2026 Waste Pro will officially begin providing sanitation services.** Residents can expect a smooth transition, and **no changes will be made to the current collection schedule** at this time. Pickup days and service frequency will remain exactly the same to ensure continuity and ease for all households. As a reminder, solid waste and recycling collection will continue to take place on Mondays and Thursdays. Bulk collection will remain scheduled for Thursdays, and vegetative waste collection will continue on Saturdays.

We appreciate your cooperation during this transition and look forward to continued high-quality service for our community. Please be on the lookout for flyers in your mailbox soon from Waste Pro which will include more information.



Located in Manalapan, Florida  
[www.goldenmemoriestravel.com](http://www.goldenmemoriestravel.com)  
Call us at 561-234-8860 or 561-889-2218

We are proud to support Lois Pope and her amazing work in the community. But more importantly we are honored to call her our friend.

John Deese & Steve Locante  
Owners

## Inaugural Tree Lighting & Menorah Display Event at Plaza del Mar

The Town of Manalapan was happy to join Garden Commercial, the new owners of Plaza del Mar, for their inaugural Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event welcomed members of the public along with Town Commission representatives, including Vice Mayor Bonutti, Mayor Pro Tem Bonner, and Commissioner Knobel.



Attendees enjoyed festive treats provided by Publix, helping to make the evening warm and family-friendly. A holiday tree and menorah are now on display for the community to enjoy at Plaza del Mar in the west parking area. We invite residents and visitors to stop by, take in the lights, and share in the spirit of the season.



# Library Season Events

The Library Committee and Town staff have been busy putting together a wonderful calendar of events this season. All events below will take place at the J. Turner Moore Memorial Library. To RSVP for an event, please email Erika Petersen at [epetersen@manalapan.org](mailto:epetersen@manalapan.org) or call 561-383-2541. For the latest information, please visit our website at: [www.manalapan.org/public-events](http://www.manalapan.org/public-events)

## January

January 6th	– Intro to Canasta at 4:00 PM
January 14th	– Book Club (Cloud Cuckoo Land) at 4:00 PM
January 23rd	– Opening Season Party 6:00 PM—8:00 PM
January 27th	– Basic First Aid at 5:00 PM

## February

February 10th	– Water Safety Class at 5:00 PM
February 19th	– Lecture Series (Author Harvey Oyer) at 5:00 PM
February 24th	– Intro to Mahjong at 4:00 PM
February 26th	– Read for the Record (children's event) at 3:00 PM

## March

March 12th	– Lecture Series (Boston Trio Performance) at 5:00 PM
March 18th	– Book Club (TBD) at 4:00 PM

## April

April 9th	– Lecture Series ( <u>House Love</u> book) at 5:00 PM
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## Town Hall Meeting and Event Calendar

**January 1st — Town Hall Closed (New Year's Day)**

**February 5th @ 10 AM — ARCOM**

**January 8th @ 10 AM — ARCOM**

**February 10th @ 9 AM — TCOM**

**January 20th @ 9 AM — TCOM**

**February 16th—Town Hall Closed (President's Day)**

**January 19th—Town Hall Closed (MLK Day)**

**March 5th—ARCOM**

**January 20th @ 2 PM — Code Enforcement Hearing**

**March 17th—Code Enforcement Hearing**

**January 23rd @ 6 PM — Season Opening Party**

**March 19th—TCOM**

**ARCOM = Architectural Commission | TCOM = Town Commission | CE = Code Enforcement**

## Resident Highlight



Manalapan is home to many remarkable residents, this *Manalapanian* we want to introduce you to philanthropist Lois Pope. Known nationally and internationally for her humanitarian leadership, Mrs. Pope has dedicated her life to advocating for the voiceless and vulnerable, particularly disabled veterans, children in need, and animals.

A longtime Manalapan resident, Mrs. Pope is widely recognized as America's foremost advocate for disabled veterans. She was the driving force behind the **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial** in Washington, D.C.—the nation's first permanent public tribute honoring disabled veterans—and helped establish October 5 as a National Day of Honor for America's disabled veterans.

Mrs. Pope has also made a lasting impact on children facing food insecurity. Through **Lois' Food4Kids**, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Food Bank, thousands of food-insecure children have received backpacks filled with healthy, nutritious food on weekends, holidays, school breaks, and during emergency school closures, ensuring they have access to meals when school cafeterias are closed.

Her compassion extends to animal welfare as well. A longtime champion of American Humane Society, Mrs. Pope has earned the title "First Lady of Compassion." Her philanthropic support helped establish the **Lois Pope Pet Clinic** at Tri County Animal Rescue and supported initiatives such as the **American Military Hero Dog Monument** and the **Pups4Patriots** program, which provides trained service dogs to veterans with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries.

Mrs. Pope's generosity has also advanced healthcare and medical research. She has contributed tens of millions of dollars to the University of Miami and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, supporting groundbreaking work in neuroscience, paralysis research, retinal disease, and the effort to achieve the world's first whole-eye transplant. Mrs. Pope also established **Lois' Vision4Kids**, an initiative that provides free vision screenings and glasses for children ages 2-18 from schools and youth organizations in Palm Beach County, in conjunction with the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

A mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mrs. Pope is also an accomplished marathon runner and lifelong animal rescuer. From her home in Manalapan, her compassion continues to touch lives locally and around the world—demonstrating how one neighbor's dedication can truly make a difference.

## Promote Your Business in the Town Newsletter!

Looking for a unique way to reach residents and grow your local business? The Town of Manalapan is now offering advertising space in our official newsletter! This is a great opportunity for local businesses, service providers, and organizations to connect directly with the people who live and work in our town.

For more information about ad specifications, pricing, deadlines, and how to reserve your space, please contact Erika Petersen at 561-383-2541 or [epetersen@manalapan.org](mailto:epetersen@manalapan.org).



**TOWN OF MANALAPAN  
600 South Ocean Boulevard  
Manalapan, FL 33462**

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#### **KNOW YOUR ZONE**

The Town provides flood zone determinations to let you know in which flood zone your building is located. You can contact Town Hall at (561) 585-9477 to find out:

- in what flood zone a property is located,
- whether it is subject to mandatory flood insurance requirements,
- whether there is an Elevation Certificate on file for a property,
- whether a property is subject to other special flood hazards such as being susceptible to coastal erosion,
- whether your property is in an area with a history of flood insurance claims,
- whether your property is in or near an area that should be protected for its natural floodplain functions.

#### **PROPERTY PROTECTION ADVICE**

Town staff members are available to provide property protection advice and to recommend options such as installing flood berms, walls or barriers, grading property to direct flood water away from buildings or permanently elevating or relocating buildings. Staff will make a site visit when needed to help you address flood issues on your property. Call the Building Department at (561) 585-9477 or visit Town Hall at 600 S. Ocean Blvd for more information.

#### **FLOOD INSURANCE**

Every property in the Town is exposed to the possibility of flood damage and should be protected with a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's, business owner's and rental insurance do not cover losses due to flooding! Contact your insurance agent to discuss types of coverage available to you. For further information about the importance of flood insurance visit [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov), or call Town Hall at (561) 585-9477.



**FEMA**

