

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH • JAN/FEB 2024

MANAGER'S MONTHLY



TABLE OF CONTENTS



PAGE 1

*MESSAGE FROM YOUR
MANAGER*

PAGE 4

*WHAT'S HAPPENING IN
HIGHLAND BEACH?*

PAGE 5

*COMMUNITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT*

PAGE 6

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

PAGE 7

TOWN CLERK

PAGE 9

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

PAGE 12

LIBRARY

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MANAGER

Let me ring in 2024 by wishing all our residents a year of prosperity, health, and happiness. This will be a landmark year for Highland Beach as we end our longstanding contract with the City of Delray Beach and go live with the operation of our independent Fire Rescue Department, an undertaking not seen in this county in over 30 years. This monumental achievement is a testament to the steadfast leadership of our Town Commission and their dedication to providing the residents of this Town with the highest level of service and care possible. Allow me to share some important updates and upcoming events with you, as well as an overview of key strategic priorities that will define 2024 in our Three Miles of Paradise.

Milani Park



We understand that Milani Park has been a topic of concern for many residents. The Town Commission and I continue to assert our position that the development of Milani Park would have a negative overall effect on our community, citing concerns of increased traffic, disruption of sea turtle nesting, and increased risk of trespassing and/or property crime. In response to the community's feedback, Palm Beach County will be holding a public meeting in the Town Library Community Room on **February 1st at 6 PM** to discuss the development of Milani Park and address any questions or concerns Town residents may have. Your voice matters, and we strongly encourage you to participate in the dialogue of this meeting. Together, we can shape the future of our beloved Town in a way that reflects the wishes of the majority. We understand that attendance for this meeting may be high, so overflow parking will be available at St. Lucy Catholic Church. Town Staff is currently working to provide a transportation solution from the overflow lot for those with accessibility needs. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks via the Town [website](#) and [general information email list](#). If you are not already registered with both the website and email list, I encourage you to do so to stay up to date with important Town news and events.

SR A1A RRR (Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation) Project

Maintaining our Town's infrastructure is paramount. The repaving and reconstruction of A1A are crucial projects that will provide direct benefits to our daily lives. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be holding a pre-construction meeting regarding the SR-A1A RRR Project on March 7th. There will be a virtual session held from 5 – 6 PM and an in-person meeting from 6 – 7 PM. We value your input, so please mark your calendars and join us to ensure that your concerns and suggestions are heard.

Focus on Capital Improvement Plan

Our commitment to enhancing Highland Beach continues with a dedicated focus on the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. These critical projects are essential for the overall development and prosperity of our community. Rest assured, we are working diligently to see these projects through to completion and make Highland Beach an even better place to live. Some upcoming capital improvement projects include:

- New generation Motorola portable radios for the Police Department;
- Water treatment plant blower and media scrubber replacement;
- Lift station #3 rehabilitation;
- New town entry signage.



Fire Rescue Department Implementation

There have been two main aspects to founding our independent Fire Rescue operation: Fire Station Construction and Departmental Development. I am pleased to report that both are right on track to meet our go live date of May 1st.

Fire Station #116 has begun to take its final shape with window installation, exterior stucco/painting, and roof placement capping off progress made in 2023. The bulk of the remaining work



will take place in the building's interior, where the majority of drywall and painting has already been completed. We are expecting delivery of the elevator and station bay doors, two of the final major components, in the coming weeks. As with any major construction project, there have been unexpected delays and roadblocks along the way, but I would like to commend Kaufman Lynn, our construction management firm, and PGAL, our architect, for their flexibility and collaborative efforts that have allowed us to adapt and overcome any obstacles we have faced. This modern facility will enhance our emergency response capabilities and ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

We are in the final stages of staff recruitment, having received offer acceptance from multiple captains and both firefighter drivers and paramedics. Once the staff

roster is solidified, Chief Joseph will employ a tiered onboarding system, meaning he will bring in the crew of captains (the secondary level of leadership) approximately a week before the firefighter drivers, who will then be followed by the firefighter paramedics. This approach allows the different levels of leadership to train on their policies and procedures and establish operational protocol and best practices before bringing the entire unit together.

We have constructed a state-of-the-art building and assembled a top-notch team led by Chief Glenn Joseph and Assistant Chiefs Tom McCarthy and Matt Welhaf. I am supremely confident that the Town of Highland Beach Fire Rescue Department will serve this community with dedication and integrity for years to come.

Referendum Questions on 2024 Municipal General Election Ballot

I would once again like to turn your attention to the Town Commission's initiative to establish three referendum questions for the upcoming Municipal General Election. After extensive and thoughtful deliberation, which can be reviewed by [watching past Town Commission Meetings](#), the Town Commission has presented the three following questions to residents:

Question No. 1: Shall the Town of Highland Beach undertake and fund a sanitary sewer lining rehabilitation project for a cost not exceeding \$3,500,000 and issue bonds not exceeding such amount, in one or more series, bearing interest not exceeding the maximum legal rate, maturing not later than 30 years from issuance, pledging the town's full faith and credit and ad valorem revenues collected to pay such bonds, all as described in Resolution Number 2023-031?

Question No. 2: Shall the funding limitation of \$350,000, established in 1992 and set forth in the Town of Highland Beach charter at Section 2.01(30), be adjusted to \$900,000 to account for the past 32 years of inflation and be adjusted annually thereafter on June 1st (beginning in 2025) in accordance with the regional consumer price index?

Question No. 3: Shall the Town of Highland Beach amend its charter at Article I, Section 1.06(7) to provide the Town Commission the discretion to designate, by resolution, the Palm Beach County canvassing board to serve as Highland Beach's canvassing board during uniform municipal elections?

State statute limits me from discussing this topic in further detail, but I strongly encourage residents to visit our website's [Referendum Questions webpage](#) or contact me or any Commissioner to learn more about the referendum process and why these questions were selected.

In Closing and Looking Ahead

Finally, let me wish a warm **welcome home** to our seasonal residents, whose presence adds vibrancy and warmth to our little Town, and extend my **congratulations** to Mayor Natasha Moore,

Vice Mayor David Stern, and Commissioner Judith Goldberg on their re-election to new three-year terms. Your continued dedication and service to Highland Beach exemplifies the spirit of community leadership. I look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our shared vision for our cherished Town. As we embark on these exciting developments and projects, community participation and feedback are vital. Let us continue to work collaboratively and move forward together as a unified Town to shape the future of Highland Beach. Thank you for your ongoing support, and here's to a prosperous and fulfilling year ahead!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HIGHLAND BEACH?

Upcoming Agenda Items (Subject to Change and Additional Items may be Added)

- Strategic Priorities – Quarterly update
- Discussion on zoning density review
- Continued discussion of Sea Turtle Lighting Ordinance
- Continued discussion of marine facilities
- Updates to zoning map
- Temporary Sign Ordinance review
- Seawall Ordinance review

Board Vacancies

Board of Adjustment & Appeals – One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending September 21st, 2024, and one (1) upcoming vacancy for a three-year term.

Financial Advisory Board – One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending April 30th, 2024.

Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board – Upcoming vacancies for three-year terms.

For additional information, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at (561) 278-4548 or email lgaskins@highlandbeach.us (Lanelda Gaskins) or jdehart@highlandbeach.us (Jaclyn DeHart), Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Milani Park Public Input Meeting

Palm Beach County will be holding a public meeting in the Town Library Community Room on **February 1st at 6 PM** to discuss the development of Milani Park and address any questions or concerns Town residents may have. The Town Commission strongly encourages residents to attend this meeting and participate in the dialogue. Overflow parking will be available at St. Lucy Catholic Church and Town Staff is currently working to provide a transportation solution from the overflow lot for those with accessibility needs.

Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board Workshop

Penthouse Towers is inviting Highland Beach residents to their building on Wednesday, January 17th at 3 PM for an open house event (coffee and cookies included) to view their rejuvenated beach dunes! An overview of what is required to remove dune exotics and allow the dunes to return to their natural habitat for very little money will be provided. Please confirm attendance by emailing officepenthouse@comcast.net with your name and building. Carpooling is encouraged!

COMMUNITY



Board Member Spotlight: Todd Weiss

Todd is one of the newer residents of Highland Beach, having moved here in January 2022. He has two sons – his older son is currently in Physical Therapy School after graduating with his B.S. in Kinesiology and his younger son is a student at UCF working towards a degree in Finance and Accounting.

Todd is currently engaged in a diversified real estate business. He invests in active fix and flip projects, represents buyers and sellers in the luxury division at William Raveis Real Estate, and builds cabins in Gatlinburg, TN, capitalizing on the region's demand for vacation homes. He currently serves on the Board of Adjustment & Appeals and is looking forward to working on various boards in the future.

We are happy to have Todd as a member of the Town!

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Two of the most common ways that criminals can victimize residents are through **phone scams** and **vehicle burglary**.

Phone Scams

Telephone scams are increasing, and they're often enabled by caller ID spoofing. The name and number that appears when someone calls you can be faked, so you can't place all your trust in it. Protect yourself – do **not** trust what caller ID says. If you see a number like the local police department, a bank, a legitimate business, or a government agency, remember that the displayed number could be fake. Don't trust the caller just because of the number that appears on their caller ID.



If you're ever in doubt, just assume you're being scammed, pranked, or otherwise tricked, and hang up! If you think it might be a legitimate call, you should try calling back, using the phone number that you know is legitimate. For example, let's say your bank calls you about a problem with your bank account and wants personal information. Rather than giving it to them, hang up, and find the bank's official phone number — on their official website, for example. Then call that phone number back so you're sure you're actually talking to your bank.

Don't be fooled into trusting a scammer just because a legitimate number appears when they call you!

Vehicle Burglary

Burglary to a vehicle and stolen vehicles are most often a crime of opportunity. You can minimize your chances of being a victim by taking away the opportunity. Remember – an unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief! Always **lock your vehicle** and **take your keys** with you. If you ever see any suspicious persons or activity, please report it to the Police Department at 561-276-2458 and call 911 for any crimes in progress.

Let's do our best to keep Highland Beach safe and crime free in 2024!

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Dear Highland Beach Residents,

I hope everyone had a safe holiday and start to 2024! I wanted to bring to everyone's attention an issue I have received numerous inquiries about, the use of **BBQ Grills** in multi-family dwellings (apartments, condominiums, and townhouses).

Per the current edition of the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC), the following applies to the use and storage of cooking equipment on balconies/patios and within 10 feet of any structure other than one- and two-family dwellings within the jurisdiction of Highland Beach Fire Rescue. Below are the appropriate code citations from The Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC) – NFPA 1 – Chapter 10.

FFPC NFPA Chapter 10 – 10.10.6 Cooking Equipment

10.10.6.1 - For other than one- and two-family dwellings, **no** hibachis, grills, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose shall be used or kindled on any balcony, under any overhanging portion, or within 10 feet of any structure.

10.10.6.1.1- Listed electric portable, tabletop grills, not to exceed 200 square inches of cooking surface, or other similar electrical appliances shall be permitted.



10.10.6.2- For other than one-and two-family dwellings, hibachis, grills, or other similar devices used for cooking **SHALL NOT** be stored on a balcony.

10.10.6.3- Listed equipment permanently installed in accordance with its listing, applicable codes, and manufacturer's instructions, shall be permitted.

A10.10.6.3- It is not the intent of this section to allow the permanent installation of portable equipment unless it is permitted by its listing.



Summary: No gas, wood, or charcoal "flame Producing" cooking appliances are to be used or stored on any upper or lower floor balcony/patio.

Additionally, the storage of propane cylinders must be outside of the building and shall be a minimum of 5 feet from any doors and/or windows. A locked cage type storage unit is recommended.

For any additional questions, please email me at: mwelhaf@highlandbeach.us. Thank you.

-Matt Welhaf, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal

TOWN CLERK

March 19th, 2024 - Municipal General Election

The Town of Highland Beach qualifying period ended on November 28th, 2023, at 12 PM. Candidates Natasha Moore, David Stern, and Judith Goldberg filed their qualifying papers with the Town Clerk and are qualified for the offices of the Town Commission. Each candidate ran unopposed and is deemed to have voted for himself or herself at the general election according to Section 105.051, Florida Statutes. Therefore, their names will not appear on the ballot.

Congratulations, Mayor Natasha Moore, Vice Mayor David Stern, and Commissioner Judith Goldberg! The Town Commission Special Meeting/Swearing in Ceremony is tentatively slated for March 26th, 2024.

The Municipal General (Referendum) Election will be concurrent with the Presidential Preference Primary Election (PPP) on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM at the Highland Beach Library located at 3618 South Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, FL. The precinct number is 2801.

The purpose of the referendum election is for Highland Beach registered electors to cast their vote on three (3) ballot questions. Please visit the Town Clerk's webpage at

<https://highlandbeach.us/322/Referendum-Questions> for more information on the ballot questions or contact Town Clerk's Office or Town Clerk Lanelda Gaskins at lgaskins@highlandbeach.us or 561-278-4548.

Important Dates

To be eligible to vote on March 19th, 2024, you must be a registered voter in Highland Beach and in Precinct 2801. Below are important dates and deadlines:

- Deadline to register to vote: Tuesday, February 20th, 2024
- Early Voting: 7 AM - 7 PM, March 9th, 2024 - March 17th, 2024 (Palm Beach County Supervisor Links)
- Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be **mailed** to you: 5 PM on Thursday, March 7th, 2024
- Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Main Office: 7 PM on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024

Election Day: 7 AM – 7 PM, Tuesday, March 19th, 2024

Register to Vote Online

To register to vote online, visit Palm Beach County Supervisor of Election website at <https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/Voters/Register-to-Vote>.

Ways to Vote

The Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections offers three effortless ways to vote:

- Vote-by-Mail (mail in ballot)
- Early Voting
- Election Day (at your precinct)



Be aware that you can request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for a specific election or for all elections through the next general election. After the next general election, you will need to make the request again.

A Vote-by-Mail ballot is **not forwardable** by the U.S. postal service and a ballot returned undeliverable cancels a request for future elections and must be renewed.

For additional information about voter registration, ways to cast your vote, update your voter information, change your mailing address prior to election day or plan to be out of town, contact

the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office at (561) 656-6200, (561) 276-1226 or visit <https://www.votepalmbeach.gov>.

Lastly, if you have any questions regarding the Town's Municipal General (Referendum) Election ballot questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office or Town Clerk Lanelda Gaskins at lgaskins@highlandbeach.us or 561-278-4548 during business hours.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Exciting Updates in Our Permitting Process!

In the Town's quest to continually improve the services we provide to our community. Starting February 1, 2024, the Town of Highland Beach will adopt a new building permitting software platform, MyGovernmentOnline. This move marks a significant step forward in enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of our permitting processes.

Why the Change? MyGovernmentOnline is renowned for its user-friendly interface and robust features, making it a preferred choice for many municipalities. By switching to this platform, we're not just adopting a new software; we're embracing a system that brings with it a host of benefits:

- **Streamlined Processes:** Quicker and more efficient handling of permit applications.
- **Enhanced Accessibility:** Easy tracking of permit statuses and scheduling inspections online.
- **Improved Communication:** Better and more direct communication channels with our office.



Transitioning with Care: While change is exciting, we recognize it can also bring challenges. Transitioning to a new system might require some getting used to, and we are fully prepared to guide you through this process:

- **Training and Support:** Our team will provide the necessary guidance and resources to help you familiarize yourself with MyGovernmentOnline.
- **Open Communication:** We're here to listen and assist. Any hiccups? Let us know, and we'll work together to smooth them out.

Your Role: To make the most of MyGovernmentOnline, we encourage all contractors to create their accounts as soon as possible. Additionally, registering your license with the Town through this platform will expedite future permit processes.

What About Existing Permits? No need to worry! All active permits in our current system, SmartGov, will continue there until June 1, 2024. However, any remaining active permits will be migrated to MyGovernmentOnline after this date.

Looking Ahead: This transition is more than just a software change—it's a step towards a more efficient and responsive Highland Beach. We're dedicated to making this shift as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

We're excited about this new chapter and deeply appreciate your cooperation and support. Now let me turn your attention to our outstanding Building Department staff!

Celebrating Progressive Achievements in Professional Excellence!

The Town of Highland Beach Building Department proudly announces a landmark achievement: With Katerina Jaddaoui's recent accomplishment of becoming an ICC Certified Permit Technician, we have reached a pivotal milestone where every member of our permit technician team holds this esteemed certification. This accomplishment symbolizes our department's unwavering commitment to excellence in building safety and service.

A Journey of Continuous Professional Development: This milestone didn't happen overnight. It's the result of a concerted effort over time, reflecting our department's dedication to continuous professional development. Carol Holland, our Office Manager, has been a beacon of knowledge and experience, leading the team with her ICC certification. Rochelle Smith and Molly Gaughan, both skilled Permit Technicians, have also achieved this certification, bringing their expertise to every project.

Katerina Jaddaoui - Completing the Circle of Excellence: Our newest team member, Katerina Jaddaoui, has recently completed her ICC certification, making our team 100% ICC certified. Katerina's achievement is not just a personal triumph; it's a capstone to our department's ongoing pursuit of professional excellence.

Why ICC Certification Matters: Attaining ICC certification is a rigorous process that ensures our staff is proficient in the latest building codes and safety standards. This expertise is crucial for the safety and sustainability of our community's buildings, ensuring that every permit and inspection is handled with the highest level of professionalism and knowledge.

The Community Impact: For Highland Beach residents and builders, this means every interaction with our department is backed by a team



of fully certified professionals. Whether it's a simple query or a complex permit application, our community can have complete confidence in the guidance and services provided.

Looking Ahead with Confidence: As we mark this significant achievement, we reaffirm our dedication to the safety and well-being of Highland Beach. Our fully certified team stands ready to meet the evolving needs of our community with knowledge, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence.

Congratulations to Carol, Rochelle, Molly, and especially Katerina, on their individual achievements and collective contribution to making our department a model of professional excellence and safety!

Code Tip of the Month: Temporary Signs

Highland Beach Ordinance 23-9(e) prohibits the placement of temporary signs, other than government signs displaying government messages, on public property and public rights of way. The public right of way is typically defined as 50ft on either side of the crown of the road (highest point) along A1A and 25ft on either side of the road for all other streets within the town. This means any temporary sign, including real estate signs, political signs, or any other free speech signs, must be placed on the private property of the resident or homeowner. This reduces the visual clutter along the roadway and removes additional distractions for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

For any temporary signs placed in the right of way, the Town may issue a Notice of Violation or the signs may be removed by the Town and will be disposed of. If you are wanting to put a temporary sign on your property, but you are not sure where your property line ends and where the right of way starts, you can check the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser website to get an idea of where the right of way is. You can also check where your utilities are placed, as these are typically in the right of way and of course you may always check with the Town's Code Compliance Department at 561-278-4540 and they can advise you of acceptable locations to place your temporary signs.

LIBRARY

This year, resolve to make the library your home away from home. We've got great books, DVDs, newspapers, and magazines for your enjoyment. Greet old friends and make new ones at one of our programs.

Our next art exhibit "Out of the Blue" features paintings by Adrienne Walker and photographs by Gary Rose. Meet the artists at the opening reception on Wednesday, January 10th from 5 - 7 PM.



The Book Discussion Group meets in person and online on Wednesday, January 17th at 5:30 PM. Author Michael V. Solomon will join virtually to discuss his book *The Scapegoat*.

Sue Mirra, certified Zumba instructor, is back to teach Dancercise starting Monday, January 22nd at 5:30 PM. This 45-minute class combines dance moves and stretching to improve posture and cardiovascular endurance, as well as to increase overall energy. All levels welcome – you can use a chair for balance and/or bring hand weights. Cost: \$5.00 per class.

Upcoming concerts (all at 5:30 PM):

- January 18th: Aurora (French horn/piano)
- January 25th: Mia's Sizzle Review (piano and more)
- February 8th: Sergei & Diana Skobin (classical piano duo)
- February 22nd: Flamenco (guitar/dancer)
- February 29th: Peter Fletcher (classical guitar)

Library Hours:	
Monday - Thursday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Other activities:

- Open eBook help: 5 - 7 PM on the first Tuesday of the month
- Current Events Discussion Group: Saturdays at 10:30 AM
- Small Fry Story Time plus Crafts on Wednesdays at 4:30 PM, ages 4 and up
- Toddler Time: Stories and Rhymes on Saturdays at 10:30 AM, ages 2 and 3

Call us at 561-278-5455 for more information!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MILANI PARK PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

Palm Beach County will be holding a public meeting in the Town Library Community Room on **February 1st at 6 PM** to discuss the development of Milani Park and address any questions or concerns Town residents may have. The Town Commission strongly encourages residents to attend this meeting and participate in the dialogue. Overflow parking will be available at St. Lucy Catholic Church and Town Staff is currently working to provide a transportation solution from the overflow lot for those with accessibility needs.





Mayor Natasha Moore
Email: nmoore@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 702-2650



Vice Mayor David Stern
Email: dstern@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 664-0426



Commissioner Evalyn David
Email: edavid@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 414-6109



Commissioner Judith Goldberg
Email: jgoldberg@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 718-3468



Commissioner Don Peters
Email: dpeters@highlandbeach.us
Cell: (561) 718-3470