

The Navy has landed in Highland Beach, Station 120

John Shoemaker

Well, we have worked and waited for several years and now Highland Beach has its own Fire/EMS Department with Chief Joseph at the helm.

In continuing support of recognizing those who live or work in Highland Beach, the Town of Highland Beach has a tab on its website: www.hIGHLANDBEACH.US, and for veterans under the “Community” tab: [Veteran Heroes of Highland Beach | Highland Beach, FL](#). Please visit this tab to read stories and profiles of our citizens who have served or are serving our country and our town.

This is about welcoming Megan Cyr as a new member of our brand-new Fire Department.

Megan Cyr, 32, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our Fire/EMS Department. Her serious credentials not only significantly enhance the skill level, competence, and capability of our new organization but also instill a sense of confidence in our community.

Originally from Somonauk, Illinois, Megan's journey to Highland Beach is a testament to her unwavering dedication to service. After high school, she attended the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, as a star soccer player. But she was at a crossroads and was not sure what path to follow, so she joined the U.S. Navy in 2012. Her commitment led her to boot camp at the Naval Station Great Lakes Training Center, the largest training installation of its kind.



Megan was in top physical condition and easily passed the 9-week course while learning key lessons by 1) paying attention to detail and 2) being an ambassador for the Navy. She became an aviation electronics technician and was stationed at the Naval Air Station in Lemoore, CA. She worked on F-18 Super Hornet fighter targeting systems.

After a couple of years, she was transferred to the Jacksonville Naval Air Station to work on anti-submarine sonar detection systems.

After four years, Megan left the Navy and spent a couple of years learning about the role of a pharmacist at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston, FL. She then decided to spend four months in Fort Lauderdale at EMT school, followed by more intensive training to become a Paramedic.

During the COVID crisis, Megan went to New York City to work at the huge NY Presbyterian Hospital. There, she lent a sorely needed hand to the nursing crews, who were overwhelmed and

exhausted from the Pandemic. Working 72 hours a week for months, she assisted nurses during a most difficult time, and due to the emergency, she literally acted as a registered nurse in her duties to save lives.

Coming back to Florida, she worked as a Paramedic at the Delray Hospital ER. This is where she saw a variety of medical problems on a daily basis, from superficial wounds to serious trauma requiring time-vital attention.

Incredibly, the next step was for Megan to endure six more months of training to become a firefighter at the Fire Academy in Broward County, Davie, FL. While looking for the right opening to join a fire department, she went back to the Presbyterian Hospital to work. After a while, she heard about the new department in Highland Beach.

She described her interview experience as very “purposeful,” without the fluff and with a focus on substance. Clearly, the goal was to create a working team, a family, of first responders to ensure the safety, health, and security of our residents.

Megan’s future plans are to ensure the effective establishment of our new Station and to personally continue her education to earn a nursing degree as an RN.

Highland Beach is very fortunate to have Megan on the team to serve our community for many years to come. We welcome her and all the Fire/EMS team to make our little piece of Paradise safe and secure operating out of Fire Station 120, in Highland Beach.





Megan Cyr and fellow Highland Beach Firefighter and Paramedic Cale Brader