

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH • OCT/NOV 2025

MANAGER'S MONTHLY



MESSAGE FROM YOUR MANAGER



As we step into fall, our Three Miles of Paradise enters a season of subtle change. While much of the country prepares for crisp mornings and falling leaves, here in Highland Beach our seasonal shift is marked by slightly cooler evenings, fewer afternoon storms, and the first wave of seasonal residents returning to our shores. In South Florida, fall doesn't announce itself with autumn colors—it simply whispers with a gentler breeze and the promise of community life growing busier once again.

Fiscal Year 2025–2026: Investing in Our Future

This natural transition coincides with the start of a new fiscal year. The Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Budget Season concluded in September with the Town Commission's official adoption of a balanced budget that maintains one of the lowest total millage rates in Palm Beach County at 3.5875. The approved plan also authorizes a multi-year, \$8.5 million Capital Improvement Campaign—a responsible investment in the future of our Three Miles of Paradise.

The program represents a careful balance between strategic priorities and long-term fiscal discipline. Major projects include:

- Construction of the Police Department Real-Time Security Center and new entrance; and,
- New Fire Rescue Annex (Old Fire Station); and,
- Marine Docking and Rescue Facility; and,
- Townwide Sanitary Sewer Lining Project; and,
- Bel Lido Bridge Rehabilitation; and,
- Town Hall paving, landscaping, and ADA upgrades; and,
- New windows, doors, and roof at the Water Treatment Plant; and,
- Additional water treatment and distribution system improvements.

These capital projects will be completed without new loans, bonds, or tax increases—reflecting the Commission's ongoing commitment to sound financial stewardship guided by the Town's Five-Year Financial Forecast.

Staying Connected

Project updates will continue to be shared through email, the Town's website, and the My Highland Beach mobile app. The app allows residents to request services, report issues, and stay informed directly from their smartphones.

If you have not yet downloaded the app, we encourage you to do so through the Apple App Store, Google Play, or by scanning the QR code below.

[Download The App for Android](#)



[Download The App for iPhone](#)



Milani Park

Palm Beach County continues to advance planning and construction of Milani Park at the south end of Town. While the Town's legal efforts to stop the project have not prevailed, they resulted in a meaningful compromise—reducing the number of planned parking spaces on the west side of the park.

The County has agreed to phase in parking, with Phase 1 including 46 total spaces (38 general, 4 ADA, and 4 staff-only). County staff have indicated that the project budget has been approved, with construction anticipated to begin in summer 2026.

To learn more about recent developments, please see the November [Coastal Star article](#).

Save the Date

Mingle & Jingle: Join us for our annual Mingle & Jingle event on Thursday, December 4, from 5:00–8:00 p.m. at St. Lucy Catholic Church. The evening will feature live music, food trucks, local breweries, and the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season with your neighbors.

We thank Father Horgan and the St. Lucy community for their continued partnership and commitment to Highland Beach.

U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony: Please also join us for a U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony on Sunday, November 9, at 11:00 a.m., also at St. Lucy Catholic Church.

The retirement of worn or unserviceable flags is a solemn act that honors the dignity of the flag and the ideals it represents. The ceremony will be conducted in full accordance with the U.S. Flag Code and longstanding civic and veterans' traditions.

Regional Transportation Planning

At the county level, Palm Beach County has initiated a Countywide Transportation Master Plan (CTMP) to establish a coordinated regional vision for mobility. The plan emphasizes collaboration among municipalities to create a safe, multimodal transportation network that effectively connects communities across the region.

The Town Commission has appointed Commissioners Goldberg and Peters to serve on the intergovernmental coordination team, ensuring Highland Beach's interests are well represented.

For more information, visit pbcmoves.com

With gratitude and commitment,

Marshall Labadie, ICMA-CM

Town Manager



FDOT RRR PROJECT UPDATES

As the FDOT SR-A1A project nears its targeted completion, we want to take a moment to reach out personally and acknowledge what many of you are feeling. We know that challenges remain — from flooding and traffic disruptions to landscaping concerns, driveway issues, and unresolved claims. Like you, we share the frustration these ongoing problems have caused.

Please know that your concerns are being heard. We continue to communicate them directly to FDOT and to our state representatives, pressing for action and accountability. Our goal remains the same as yours: to see the commitments made before this project began fulfilled, and to ensure the final outcome meets the expectations and needs of our community.

As a reminder, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is solely responsible for planning, contracting, and executing all work along SR-A1A and within the state right-of-way. The contractor, The Stout Group, operates under FDOT's authority and oversight. If you have specific questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact the appropriate representatives below. Your continued engagement makes a difference — and we remain committed to advocating for you every step of the way.

Thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your continued support as we work through the final stages of this project together.

Please see the list of project contacts below:

Melissa Readling – Community Outreach Specialist

(772) 577-8803

mreadling@corradino.com

FDOT District 4 Office

(954) 777-4612

3400 West Commercial Boulevard

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421

FDOT State Office

(850) 414-4100

605 Suwannee Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Stout Group (Contractor – Handles Claims)

(305) 915-0696



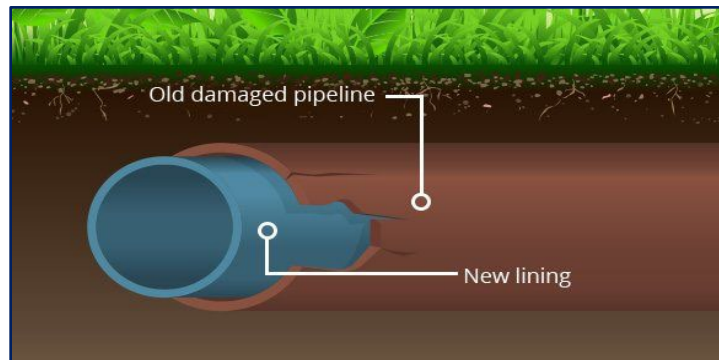
SANITARY SEWER LINING PROJECT: OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY

We are pleased to share that our Sanitary Sewer Lining Project officially began on Monday, October 27th. This project marks an important step forward in modernizing our Town's infrastructure, and I'd like to take a moment to explain what's happening, why it matters, and what you can expect over the coming weeks.

What is Sanitary Sewer Relining and Why Do We Need It?

The Sanitary Sewer Lining Project—approved by residents during the 2024 Municipal General Election—is one of the Town's most significant capital improvement efforts to date. We anticipate that the full construction phase will take about 60 days to complete.

Using trenchless technology, we will repair our underground sewer lines with minimal disruption to streets, driveways, and landscaping. A flexible, resin-coated liner is inserted into the existing sewer pipes, then hardened in place to create a new "pipe within a pipe." This modern process strengthens the system, prevents leaks, and extends the life of our sewer infrastructure by up to 50 years—all without the need for major excavation.



Current Progress

Work has already begun on our side streets, while the FDOT SR-A1A Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation Project wraps up its final phase. Once that work is finished, we'll move on to re-lining the Town's stretch of SR-A1A. During this phase, bypass pumping and a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will be in place to keep traffic flowing safely and minimize disruptions.

Staying Informed

We'll continue to keep residents updated as the project progresses. Expect to receive door hangers with information about temporary water usage limitations or work scheduled in your immediate area. Updates will also be shared through the Town's regular communication channels, email, newsletter, and the My Highland Beach App.

While some short-term inconveniences may occur, this project represents a major long-term investment in the health, safety, and reliability of our community's utility system.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the **Highland Beach Water Department** at **(561) 637-2038**.

We thank you for your continued patience, understanding, and support as we complete this vital improvement for Highland Beach.

SANITARY SEWER LINING PROJECT: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Impacts to Residents

- Will this project affect my water or sewer service?
 - No, but we ask that you limit water use when the vendor knocks on your door or places a door hanger, as any water you use during this time drains directly into the sewer work area.
- Can I use my toilets, sinks, and showers while work is being done?
 - Yes, but please limit water use when the vendor verifies that your home connects to the portion of sewer that they are currently working on.
- Will there be any odors coming into my home?
 - You should not experience any odors as we will be bypassing any possible sewer blockage.
- How long will work take place on my street?
 - Each street in the town has a one-day work plan, with the possibility of an additional day for final checks.
- Will there be noise or vibrations during the process?
 - The majority of noise will come from trucks running in the work area. There should be no significant vibrations that will affect your home.
- Will crews be working at night, or only during daytime hours?
 - The approved work hours are Monday through Saturday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.
- Do I need to be home while work is being done?

- No, all of the work will be performed outside within the right-of-way. No access to your home is required.
- Will my yard, driveway, or landscaping be disturbed?
 - No, trenching is not required for this project, so your property will remain undisturbed.

Traffic and Road Access

- Will the road be closed during construction?
 - No road closures will take place during construction, however we ask that you yield to any flagmen and use caution driving by any equipment located on your street.
- Will emergency vehicles still have access?
 - Yes, emergency services will not be impacted.
- Can I park in front of my house while the project is underway?
 - You can continue parking as usual, unless otherwise asked by Town Personnel or the Vendor.
- Will garbage pickup and mail delivery be affected?
 - No interruptions to garbage pickup or mail delivery should occur.

Technical and Environmental Impacts

- What exactly is “sewer lining” and why is it being done?
 - The process involves lining our existing sewer pipes with a hard resin material that is cured in place, which will extend the lifespan of the sewer pipes by at least 50 years.
- Why is the town lining instead of replacing the pipes?
 - Pipelining is more cost efficient and environmentally friendly than replacing the pipes entirely.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the **Town of Highland Beach Water Department** at **561-637-2038**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HIGHLAND BEACH?

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

- Introduction of Ordinance Providing Reasonable Accommodation Procedure for Certified Recovery Residences
- Reappointment to the Planning Board

Board Vacancies

Code Enforcement Board – One (1) vacancy for a three-year term

Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board – One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending April 2027

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.

Have you downloaded the My Highland Beach App yet?

Stay connected with everything happening in Highland Beach by downloading the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

[Click here to download the app for Android:](#)



[Click here to download the app for iPhone:](#)



Highland Beach



MINGLE & JINGLE

December 4, 2025

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

St. Lucy Catholic Church
3510 S Ocean Blvd.

Food Trucks, Breweries, Bartenders, Live Band

Trolley Transportation Provided

RSVP

[Click here or scan the QR code](#)





MEDICATION DISPOSAL

The Highland Beach Police Department is committed to providing a safe, secure and environmentally friendly way to help our community dispose of unwanted or expired household medication, including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and unused pharmaceuticals, and is pleased to announce that we now have a Med Return Box for our residents.

The MedReturn is located in the Highland Beach Police Department Lobby and is open during normal Town business hours, Monday thru Friday.

YES - Accepted

- **Prescriptions**
- **Prescription Patches**
- **Prescription Medications**
- **Prescription Ointments**
- **Over-the-counter medications**
- **Vitamins**
- **Samples**
- **Medications for pets**

**PLACE ALL PILL BOTTLES
IN A "ZIPPER STYLE"
PLASTIC BAG**

NOT - Accepted

- **SHARPS- (Needles, etc.)**
The Fire Department will accept the SHARPS
- **Hydrogen peroxide**
- **Inhalers**
- **Aerosol Can**
- **Ointments/Lotions or Liquids**
- **Medicines from Business or Clinics**

DON'T BE A VICTIM OF SCAMS



As we all know, scams continue to target everyone and anyone with a cell phone or computer, and it is important to know that someone does **not** have to wait to be a victim to contact us. Our Police Department is always available to answer any questions or provide information. If you know someone who is uncertain about some type of scam or suspicious activity, or could just benefit from us talking with them, we are prepared and willing to do so.

Together, we can have a greater impact on **preventing** someone in our community from falling victim to a scam.

These are some basic prevention efforts that will keep someone from being scammed:

Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an UNEXPECTED request — whether it comes as a phone call, a text, or an email.

Don't always believe your caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see are not always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up! If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.

Don't pay upfront for a promise. Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, or a job. They might even say you have won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear.

Consider how you pay. Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods do not. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That is also true for reloadable cards (like MoneyPak or Reloadit) and gift cards (like iTunes or Google Play). Government offices and honest companies will not require you to use these payment methods!

Talk to someone! Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert — or just tell a friend.

Hang up on robocalls!!! If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up! Do not press 1 to speak to a person or to be taken off the list. That could lead to more calls.

Don't deposit a check and wire money back. By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you are responsible for repaying the bank.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Remote Video Inspections (RVI) Now Available in Highland Beach

The City of Highland Beach is proud to introduce Remote Video Inspections (RVI), a new convenient service designed to streamline the inspection process for local residents and contractors.

How RVI Works:

Scheduling Your Inspection

When scheduling an inspection in the MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) system, you'll now see an RVI option next to eligible inspection types. Simply check the box to request a remote video inspection.

Provide Contact Information

In the message area, please include:

- Your full name
- Cell phone number for the on-site contact

Inspection Process

- Call our office at 561-278-4540 when ready for the inspection
- An inspector will contact the number you provided
- You'll receive a text message with a link to start the RVI

Inspection Types Currently Available for RVI

- Re-Roof/Tin Tag, Mop, etc.
- Roof Dry-In and Flashing
- Roof In Progress
- Roof Sheathing
- Garage Door Replacement
- Driveway Header
- A/C Changeout
- Storage Water Heater Replacement
- Stucco/Lath
- Others as Approved

Need Assistance? Call our office at 561-278-4540.

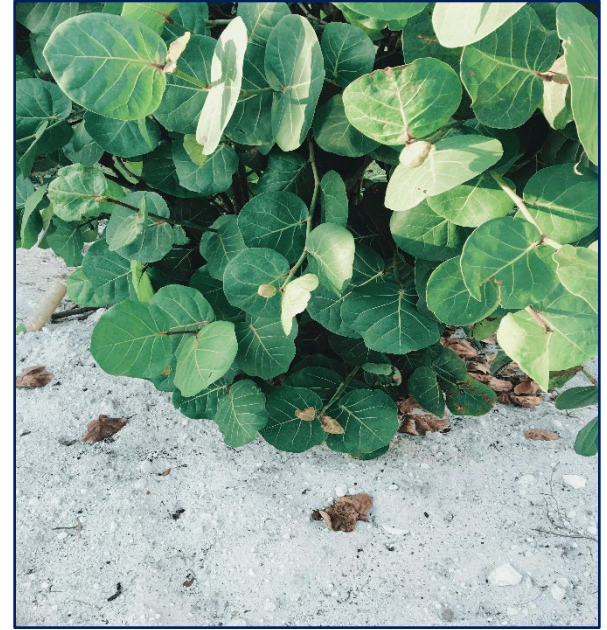


PLANNING AND ZONING

Florida Friendly Landscaping

Did you know that Florida-Friendly Landscaping promotes science-based, low-impact, sustainable, environmentally friendly landscaping practices that conserve water, reduce pollutant loading to Florida waters, and protect Florida's natural resources. Principles of Florida-friendly landscaping include:

- **Right plant right place** – Reduce the amount of supplemental water, fertilizer or pesticides, saving you time and money. Position trees and shrubs strategically to naturally cool your home. Tree shade can reduce air conditioning costs significantly. An air-conditioning system's outdoor compressor/condenser unit uses less energy when it is shaded from direct sun during the day—but be careful not to block the unit's airflow.
- **Water efficiently** – An efficient irrigation system conserves water, helps to ensure that fertilizer does not flow into water bodies, and uses rain shutoff devices to prevent irrigation after a rain event.
- **Fertilize appropriately** – Improper fertilization can cause damage to the environment by allowing fertilizer runoff and leaching which can pollute Florida's waters.
- **Mulch** – Helps to retain soil moisture, protects plants, and inhibits weed growth. Consider creating self-mulching areas under your trees by allowing fallen leaves to stay in place.
- **Attract Wildlife** – Select plants with seeds, fruit, foliage, flowers, or berries that provide food. Supply sources of water, such as a rain garden or birdbath. Leave snags (dead trees), if they do not create a hazard, for birds to perch and nest.
- **Manage yard pests responsibly** – To prevent disease and insect outbreaks, select pest-resistant plants and put them in suitable locations. Spot treat only rather than blanket spraying, and use selective rather than broad-spectrum insecticides.
- **Recycle yard waste** – Keep as much yard waste onsite as possible to conserve nutrients and reduce the amount of energy required to move it from place to place. Decomposing organic matter releases nutrients back to the soil in a form that plants can easily use. Using yard waste for composting is a sustainable way of creating organic fertilizer.
- **Reduce stormwater runoff** – Create shallow rain gardens or slopes with berms and swales that can help slow runoff from heavy rains and allow the water time to soak into

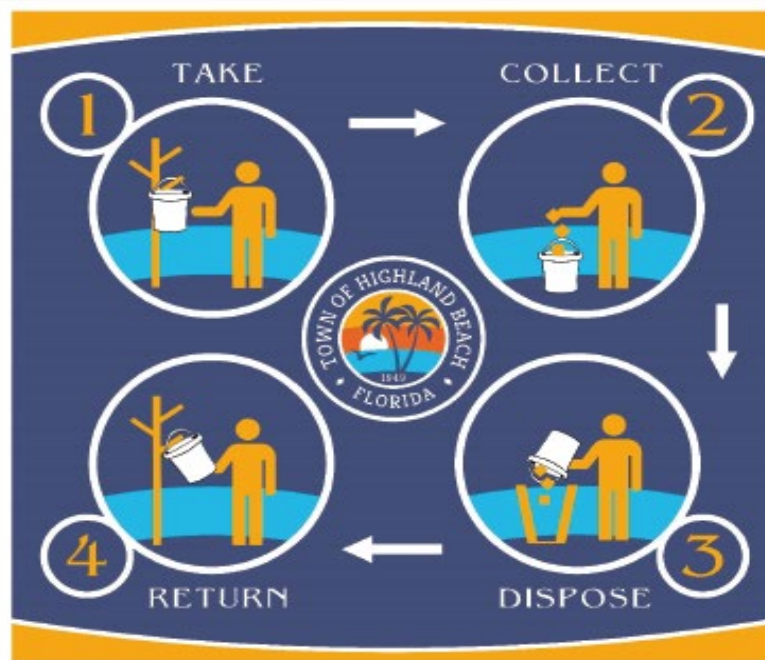


the ground. Maintain permeable walkways, and patios to allow rain to soak into the ground.

For more information, contact Town Planner, Ingrid Allen, at 561-278-4540 (ext. 3).

KEEP *Highland Beach* BEAUTIFUL

**Your next beach walk can make a difference—
grab a bucket and help keep our beaches clean!**



1 Take a bucket from your condo's bucket tree.

2 Collect trash during your beach walk.

3 Dispose trash in a Town or condo bin.

4 Return the bucket for the next neighbor!

**A small gesture, a big impact!
Let's keep Highland Beach beautiful *together!***

On behalf of the Highland Beach Natural Resources
Preservation Advisory Board.

LIBRARY

Library News – November 2025

If you haven't used your library card recently, be sure to stop by or give us a call to ensure your account is up to date. With an active library card, you will be able to enjoy our ebook and movie streaming services as well as check out physical materials.

New Exhibit: Artistic Expressions

Come meet the Artists of Palm Beach County at the opening of our new group show on November 13 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

Library Newsletter:

Click [here](#) to read our newsletter for news, book reviews, and upcoming events.

Concerts – at 5:30 pm

- November 6: Sunnyside Swing Trio (music of the 1920s-40s)
- November 20: Neil Bacher Quartet (jazz)

Movies at the Library – at 5:30 pm

Join us on selected Tuesdays to enjoy a film on the big screen. Showtime is at 5:30 pm.

- November 4: Double Indemnity
- November 18: Saturday Night

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

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

THIS CAPTAIN AIMS HIGH FOR HIGHLAND BEACH

By John Shoemaker

In a continuing effort to recognize those military Veterans who live in Highland Beach or serve our community, we share a short story of each and post it on our town

website: www.highlandbeach.us and specifically [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. Prepare to be amazed by the incredible stories of our Veterans. Whether their enlistments were dramatic or routine, their contributions came with sacrifice and hard work to maintain the security and safety of our nation.

Without exception, they all served with the utmost honor and dedication, for which we are deeply grateful.



Let me introduce you to Captain Michael Benoit, a member of our own Fire Department. His story started when he was born in Cocoa Beach, FL. After graduating from Cocoa Beach High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, going to Parris Island, S.C., and Camp Lejeune. After an uneventful enlistment and an honorable discharge, he decided to enroll in the EMT Program at Brevard Community College, now known as Eastern Florida State College (EFSC), in Cocoa, FL. It offers an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) through its Public Safety Institute. This marked the beginning of Mike's career in emergency medical services, with the primary prerequisite for Paramedic training and certification.

After getting his EMT certification, he signed up for Firefighter minimum standards Training School at Daytona Beach State College's training facility. The mission of the school is to provide our emergency personnel with current, high-quality training and education that enables them to perform their duties safely and effectively.

Next, Captain Benoit began his career working for Jacksonville Fire Rescue where he held an assignment on their Special Operations Team. Captain Benoit decided he would further his training and education, so he enrolled in paramedic school at Florida Medical Training Institute in Jacksonville.

To clarify, an EMT provides basic life support (BLS), while a Paramedic provides advanced life support (ALS) with significantly more education, training, and scope of practice. The primary difference lies in their training, capabilities, and procedures. Paramedics must first become EMTs and complete additional, rigorous training, which enables them to administer medications, perform invasive procedures such as intubation and IVs, interpret EKGs, and manage critical emergencies.

Now a certified Paramedic, he moved to Indian River Shores Public Safety Department and took on the role of Firefighter, Paramedic, and Law enforcement officer. Captain Benoit spent time as a SWAT medic, training instructor, and was a company officer during his time at IRSPSD.



Continuing his skills improvement process, he holds a bachelor's degree, and is currently pursuing his master's degree in public administration from Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, AL, with graduation scheduled for November 2025. Today, Mike is enrolled in the prestigious "Executive Fire Officer Program", a two-year program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

Not long ago, he noticed a new job listing for a fire department being created in an obscure town called Highland Beach. They needed to bring in experienced Captains that could hit the ground running. The opportunity was attractive, especially since it is rare for a brand-new Fire/EMS operation to be established in Florida. Additionally, career promotions for firefighting crews are typically from within the organization.



After his hiring by Chief Glenn Joseph, Mike and his family moved to Wellington in 2024. His wife, Amanda, is now an elementary school teacher at the Saddlevue Elementary School in Wellington. They have three children: Mikayla is attending FAU, Michael II is enlisting in the Air Force, and Charlie is in middle school.

As a fire captain, Mike is responsible for a 7-person shift, comprising of one Captain, two drivers and four Firefighters/Medics. He loved the idea of coming to a brand-new station and building a team and culture where he could mentor his team members and focus on skills training and improvement.

Regarding his experience in Highland Beach, his face lit up with fond expressions as he described how the residents are so welcoming, often beeping their horns and waving as they pass by the station. Residents are given tours of the station and trucks. Visitors stop by from all

areas of the U.S. and even the World. Most recently, firefighters from Brazil visited our station to see how things are done.

With all that Captain Benoit has done, I asked what else he has planned. He said he was considering advancing his education, possibly even entering a Doctorate program in business.

Our fire department, led by Chief Glenn Joseph and his two deputies, Tom McCarthy and Matt Welhaf, has created an incredibly skilled, professional, and experienced crew to ensure our security and safety twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. All firefighters are also certified Paramedics.

As a result, Highland Beach is high on its newly created town assets outfitted with a new station, new equipment, vehicles, and team members that have tremendous value for all our residents.



TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH – LEADERSHIP TEAM



Town Manager

Marshall Labadie

Phone: 561-278-4548

Executive Assistant to Town Manager

Madison Noonan



Building Official

Jeff Remas

Phone: 561-278-4540

Building Dept. Office Manager

Carol Holland



Town Clerk

Lanelda Gaskins

Phone: 561-278-4548

Deputy Town Clerk

Jaclyn DeHart



Public Works Director

Pat Roman

Phone: 561-243-2084

Asst. Public Works Director

Sergio Gonzalez Jr.



Police Chief

Craig Hartmann

Phone: 561-266-5800

Administrative Assistant

Deborah Holden



Library Director

Lois Albertson

Phone: 561-278-5455



Fire Chief

Glenn Joseph

Phone: 561-237-5575

Asst. Fire Chief/ Fire Marshal

Matthew Welhaf

TOWN COMMISSION



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Email: nmoore@highlandbeach.us
Phone: (561) 278-4548



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



Commissioner Judith Goldberg
Email: jgoldberg@highlandbeach.us
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Commissioner Don Peters
Email: dpeters@highlandbeach.us
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Commissioner Jason Chudnofsky
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