

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH • NOV 2024

# MANAGER'S MONTHLY



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# MESSAGE FROM YOUR MANAGER

Welcome back to our seasonal residents! We are thrilled to welcome you back to our three miles of paradise, where friendships are rekindled, and the beauty of our beach community once again becomes part of your daily life. This year is extra special as it marks the Town's 75th Anniversary, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate with you!

## **Kick Off the Season at the 75th Anniversary Mingle & Jingle!**

Our 75th Anniversary Planning Committee with the support of the Town Commission has been working tirelessly to plan a spectacular kickoff event. The annual Mingle & Jingle will be held on December 5th at St. Lucy Catholic Church from 5 to 8 p.m., and we promise it will be bigger and better than ever!

This year's event will feature live entertainment by the Brenda Johnson Band and DJ Frank, along with food trucks and local craft breweries to satisfy every craving. You'll also have the chance to connect with Town Commissioners, members of the Police and Fire Foundation, and local vendors who are sponsoring the event. (And of course, I'll be there too!)

As always, all residents are welcome, and free trolley service along A1A will be available for your convenience.

In the spirit of our generous community, we are proud to announce that this year's event will also include a Toy Drive to benefit children in need. Please consider dropping off a packaged toy or two at the New Fire Station between November 15th and December 20th.

Please make sure to pre-register by scanning this QR code,



or click the link embedded in the flyer below.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee—this celebration wouldn't be possible without their dedication and hard work.

Special recognition goes to:

- Commissioner Don Peters
- Father Brian Horgan (Police & Fire Chaplain)
- Jason Chudnofsky
- Jaime Martelino
- Denise Day
- Phil Lauria
- Anita Oken

I am especially grateful to Father Horgan and St. Lucy Catholic Church for graciously hosting this event and to the Police and Fire Foundation for their invaluable assistance. A heartfelt thanks also goes out to our hardworking Town employees who have played a key role in planning and organizing this event. Please take a moment to review the invitation included in this newsletter for more details—we look forward to celebrating with you!

### **Our Community Steps Up: Hurricane Relief Efforts**

I'm proud to report that, with the support of the Town Commission, our Police Department recently participated in hurricane recovery efforts in Treasure Island, Florida, following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Officers Steve Salach and Jim Thornton joined forces with the FAU Police Department, traveling with our Marine Unit and beach ATV to conduct police patrols for looters and unlicensed contractors and preliminary damage assessments to ensure the safety of the community. The warm welcome they received from the people of Treasure Island and Governor Ron DeSantis was truly heartwarming. This effort was a shining example of communities coming together in times of need, and I am incredibly proud of our officers for their service.



### **Heads-Up: A1A Roadwork and Travel Disruptions**

While life at the beach is as beautiful as ever, we want to make you aware of some travel disruptions this season. The A1A resurfacing and rehabilitation project is now in full swing, and significant delays are to be expected. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding as these improvements are made.

## **Town Priorities and Upcoming Projects**

On the business front, our Town Commissioners will soon be commencing their annual strategic priorities planning process. This year's focus will include updating the five-year financial forecast, strengthening public safety and advancing several important capital improvement projects, including:

- Sanitary sewer lining project
- Raising lift stations
- Rehabilitating the old Fire Station and Post Office

These projects reflect our commitment to maintaining and improving the infrastructure of our community for future generations.

We're excited to embark on this milestone year with all of you and look forward to celebrating our 75th Anniversary together. Thank you for being part of our community—we couldn't do it without you. Here's to another wonderful season in paradise!

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HIGHLAND BEACH?**

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

- Strategic Priorities – FY2024-25 Updates
- Discussion of old fire station project
- FDOT RRR Project Updates
- Continued discussion of marine facilities ordinance amendments
- Continued discussion of Milani Park
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

### **Board Vacancies**

Board of Adjustment & Appeals - One (1) vacancy for a three-year term.

Code Enforcement Board – One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending December 7, 2024, One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending May 30, 2025.

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



You're  
Invited!



# Mingle & Jingle

Celebrate the Holiday Season & the  
**75th Anniversary  
of Highland Beach!**

**When:** Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024  
5:00pm – 8:00pm

**Where:** St. Lucy Church Parking Lot

## Great Food & Entertainment

- Brenda Johnson Band
- DJ Frank
- Goofy Faces Caricatures
- Troy's BBQ
- How Ya Dough'n
- Chick-Fil-A
- The Greek
- Mr. Burger
- Moop Gelato
- Anna Bakes
- Local Breweries

## Meet & Greets

- Local heroes from our Police and Fire & Rescue Departments
- Community leaders including our Town Commissioners, Mayor, Vice Mayor
- Local Vendors

**Free transportation will be provided to and from local Highland Beach communities along A1A.**

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.\*\*](#)

Thank you to our sponsors:

Coastal Star Newspaper  
Extreme Air Conditioning  
FirstService Residential  
Hillman Engineering  
O'Grady Realty Company

Plastridge Insurance  
Pritts Roofing  
Southcoast Construction  
Roger & Stefanie Brown  
Jason & Judy Chudnofsky

## Toy Drive

To reflect the spirit of our generous community, the Town of Highland Beach, along with our Police and Fire and Rescue Departments, will be hosting a toy drive. We invite everyone to take part and donate to children in need during this holiday season.

### Guidelines for toy donations:

- Please donate only new toys
- Unwrapped
- Battery-free
- Non-Toxic
- Easily Transportable

### Please drop off your donations

at the new Fire Station between November 15<sup>th</sup> - December 20<sup>th</sup>



Event produced by the Highland Beach Police and Fire Foundation



## **Town of Highland Beach Notice of General Election**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Highland Beach will hold its General Election on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, for the purpose of electing one (1) Commissioner for a three-year term, ending March 2028. To be eligible for election as Commissioner, a person must be a citizen of the United States, reside within the corporate limits of the town, and a qualified elector of the Town of Highland Beach, State of Florida registered in Precinct 2801 for a period of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the beginning of the qualification period.

Each person seeking to qualify for election to the office of Commissioner as a candidate must file the required qualification papers and pay a qualifying fee with the Town Clerk during the qualifying period, which begins at noon on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 and ends at noon on Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

For more information regarding the Town's General Election, please contact Town Clerk Lanelda Gaskins at 561-278-4548 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To qualify as a registered voter for March 2025, General Election you must register with the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Election Office no later than Tuesday, February 10, 2025.

Town of Highland Beach  
Lanelda Gaskins, MMC  
Town Clerk

PUBLISHED: October 19, 2024  
November 01, 2024

# COMMUNITY

## Board Member Spotlight – Ken Shriberg (Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board)



Ken Shriberg is a proud Co-Founder of CAP NATION, a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization focused on helping property homeowners, before, during, and after disasters. Ken has been a Licensed Public Insurance Adjuster since 2006 and is the Managing Member of The Adjusters Group, LLC (TAG), a public insurance adjusting firm. He also holds licensure as a Private Investigator and is the Managing Agent of Tance Global Services, a private investigative agency. Ken additionally holds licensure as a General Lines Insurance Agent (Property & Casualty – Unaffiliated) and as a Real Estate Sales Associate. He is also an approved Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) and Florida

Department of Business & Professional Regulations (DBPR) Educational Instructor, School Official, and Continuing Education Provider.

Ken's greatest pleasure and passion is learning from others and then sharing his education and experiences, both professionally and personally, to pay it forward for others. Ken has taught many insurance and construction continuing education courses to insurance adjusters/investigators and state government official investigators. Ken is a retired Board Member of FAPIA (Florida Association of Public Insurance Adjusters), a trade association with over 900 members, and has served on more than 10 of its committees, including Finance, Membership, Ethics, Public Relations, Fundraising, and Legislative. Ken is also a member of the State of Florida P&C Insurance Fraud Task Force, WIND Insurance Network, FALI (Florida Association of Licensed Investigators), and IAUA (Insurance Appraisal and Umpire Association), and has served as a Community Association Board Member. Ken's office has been in Boca Raton for the last 26 years and continues many years of service on the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee and Economic Development Committee. He is also greatly appreciative to serve his second term on the Highland Beach Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board, along with its other dedicated members, and for the support from the town management and staff.

Ken is originally from the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts, and has lived abroad in Aruba, the Bahamas, and East Asia. Most enjoyably, Ken has been a full-time resident of Highland Beach for the last 25 years and looks forward to calling Highland Beach his forever home.

# FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT



## Understanding and Preventing Falls in Older Adults

Falls pose a significant health risk for older adults, often resulting in serious injuries or even death. By analyzing the data and adopting targeted prevention strategies, we can reduce fall risks and enhance the quality of life for older adults. For adults aged 65 and older, falls are the most common cause of injury. Each year, over 14 million older adults experience a fall, equating to roughly one in four in this age group. These incidents lead to nearly 3 million emergency department visits and 1 million hospital admissions annually. The impacts of falls can be devastating, including fractures, head trauma, and a loss of independence. In Highland Beach, falls represent 35% of all 911 calls for emergency medical assistance. In Palm Beach County, falls account for approximately 45% of all emergency medical calls annually. Several factors elevate the likelihood of falls in older adults:

- Muscle Weakness in the Lower Body
- Problems with Walking or Balance
- Use of Certain Medications (e.g., tranquilizers, sedatives, antidepressants)
- Visual Impairments
- Foot Pain or Inappropriate Footwear
- Hazards in the Home Environment (e.g., broken steps, unsecured rugs, clutter)

The presence of multiple risk factors further raises the chance of falling.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Strategies for Fall Prevention

Effective fall prevention involves a combination of medical, environmental, and lifestyle interventions:

1. **Exercise Programs:** Activities that improve strength and balance, such as Tai Chi, can greatly reduce fall risk.
2. **Medication Review:** Regular medication evaluations with a healthcare provider can help identify medications that may increase the risk of falls.
3. **Regular Vision Checks:** Ensuring vision prescriptions are current and addressing vision problems can help prevent falls.
4. **Home Safety Modifications:** Simple changes, such as removing tripping hazards, installing grab bars, and improving lighting, can make homes safer.
5. **Vitamin D Supplementation:** Maintaining adequate vitamin D levels supports bone health and muscle function.

## Resources

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County offers several resources to the town's residents. Go to this website: <https://www.hcdpbc.org/for-patients/trauma-system/education-and-prevention/falls-awareness> or scan the QR code.

**Conclusion:** While falls among older adults are common, they are largely preventable. By understanding the risk factors and implementing effective prevention measures, we can help our residents maintain their independence and reduce fall-related injuries and fatalities.



## Highland Beach Community Connect

Together, Building a Safer Community Through  
Prevention, Preparedness & Response



**CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR PROFILE TODAY**

### 1 Create an account

Sign in for free and get started  
doing your part. It just takes your  
email, phone number and address.

### 2 Enter the info that matters most

Enter valuable information  
that can help us assist more  
effectively during an emergency.

### 3 Help your Fire Department when seconds count

That's it. Just keep us updated  
when things change overtime  
so we can always be prepared.

## WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing. We have made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter.



Your Property



Your People



Your Needs



Your Pets

## HOW SECURE IS MY DATA AND HOW IS IT USED?

Data that you provide Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. Your information is never used for any other purpose. All logins are password protected with bank level encryption and security. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank you'll be comfortable logging in to Community Connect.



Community Connect is  
**Safe & Secure**

# BUILDING DEPARTMENT

## Understanding Flood Zones in Highland Beach: What You Need to Know About Recent FEMA Updates

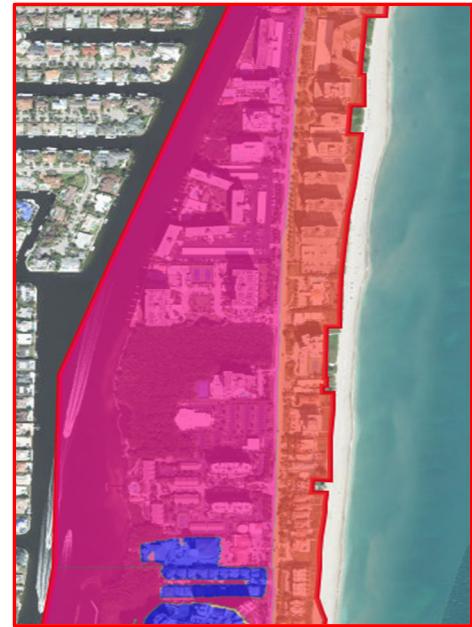
As many of you may know, FEMA recently updated the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Highland Beach, bringing significant changes to how flood risks are categorized in our town. Whether you're a new homeowner or a long-time resident, understanding your flood zone and the implications of these updates is essential for protecting your property and ensuring compliance with the latest regulations.

### What Are FIRMs and Why Are They Important?

FIRMs, or Flood Insurance Rate Maps, are the official maps used by FEMA to designate areas at different levels of flood risk. These maps are crucial for determining flood insurance requirements and establishing building regulations in areas vulnerable to flooding. For Highland Beach, these updates reflect new data on storm surge, sea level rise, and other environmental factors affecting our coastal community.

### Access the Interactive Flood Information Portal

Highland Beach residents can now easily access their property's flood zone information through the **Interactive Flood Information Portal**, available on the town's website at [www.highlandbeach.us](http://www.highlandbeach.us) or by following the links in this article. The portal is powered by Forerunner floodplain management software and provides free, detailed information about flood zones, Base Flood Elevation (BFE), and how the latest FEMA updates impact individual properties. Simply type in your address to get started.



### Highland Beach Flood Zones: AE and VE

**AE Zone:** located primarily on the west side of A1A (Ocean Blvd)

- This zone generally has lower flood risk than the **VE zone**, but it's still crucial to comply with town regulations, especially since some properties in the AE zone have a higher Base Flood Elevation (BFE) than others. Most of the AE zone has a BFE of **7' NAVD**, though some areas have a BFE of **8' NAVD**.

**VE Zone:** includes oceanfront properties.

- This zone is more restrictive due to the risk of wave action, typically has a BFE of **12' NAVD**, though certain properties in this zone now have a BFE of **13' NAVD**. These higher

elevations are critical to ensuring oceanfront homes are protected from both storm surge and wave impact.

## What Is NAVD and BFE?

**BFE**, or Base Flood Elevation, is the expected height of floodwaters during a 1% annual chance flood. In simpler terms, it's the height above sea level where flooding could occur.

**NAVD**, or the **North American Vertical Datum of 1988**, is the reference point used to measure these elevations. For BFE purposes, **0 NAVD** is essentially the average sea level height, and the BFE indicates how much higher or lower a structure must be to avoid flood risk.

## Key Changes to the FEMA Maps

The recent FIRM updates have reclassified some properties into higher or lower flood risk categories. Notably, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) has risen for much of the island:

- In the AE zone, most properties have seen an increase from **6' NAVD** to **7' NAVD**, though some are now at **8' NAVD**.
- In the VE zone, BFEs have increased by 2 feet, with many properties now at **12' NAVD** and some at **13' NAVD**.

These updates may affect your flood insurance requirements, and any future construction or renovations will need to meet the new BFE standards to comply with town codes.

## What Does This Mean for Homeowners?

If your property has been reclassified into a higher-risk zone, you may now be required to carry flood insurance if you hold a mortgage. Even if your home is in the X500 zone (outside the Special Flood Hazard Area), it's wise to consider flood insurance as an extra precaution. Properties in higher BFE areas will also need to follow stricter building requirements to ensure structures are elevated above potential flood levels.

For the latest information, be sure to visit the **Interactive Flood Information Portal** via the Town website at [www.highlandbeach.us](http://www.highlandbeach.us).

### 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, bicyclist 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 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.

# PLANNING AND ZONING

## **BEACHFRONT PROPERTY OWNERS, SEE HOW YOUR PROPERTY IS AFFECTED!**

Dear Resident:

In 2023, the Town commissioned a Beach Restoration Feasibility Study ("Study"). This Study includes a Beachfront Property Evaluation ("Evaluation") which provides beach and dune observations and corresponding recommendations for ALL beachfront properties in the Town. In an effort to bring awareness to this important Evaluation, below is information on how to access the Evaluation as well as information on the upcoming Evaluation resident outreach event.

### **Here's how to access the Beachfront Property Evaluation:**

- To view the Study including Evaluation, click on the QR Code below or click on "Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board" under the Government tab of the Town's website ([www.highlandbeach.us](http://www.highlandbeach.us)). Click on the "Dune Restoration & Preservation" tab and then click on "2023 Town Restoration Feasibility Study," Evaluation starts on page 70.
- To view the Presentation on the Study including Evaluation, click on the QR Code below or click on "Agendas and Minutes" under the Government tab of the Town's website. Click on the April 16, 2024 Town Commission meeting video. Presentation starts at the 47:57 minute marker.

### **Participate in the upcoming resident outreach event on the Evaluation findings.**

Aptim Environmental & Infrastructure, LLC will present their Evaluation findings including site specific recommendations for proper beach dune maintenance and protection. Join the conversation!

- **Location:** Town Library, Community Room
- **Date:** November 12, 2024, 6:00pm
- **Refreshments will be served.**

For more information, please contact Ingrid Allen, Town Planner, at 561-278-4540 (ext. 3). Materials referenced above can be viewed at either the Town Library or Town Hall reception area.

On behalf of the Town of Highland Beach Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board Members:

Barbara Nestle, Chairperson  
Joshua Davison, Vice Chairperson  
Kenneth Shriberg

Alan Blumberg  
Christine Viegas  
Karen Jones



2023 Study



Event RSVP



Presentation Video

## **LIGHTS OUT** **Sea Turtles Dig the Dark**

Sea turtles rely on the darkness of the beach and the relative brightness of the ocean to nest and find their way to the sea. Peak season is March – October.

You can help!

- Keep flashlights off the beach
- Close window shades/curtains after dark
- Use sea turtle friendly exterior lights

For more information,  
contact Ingrid Allen,  
Town Planner, at 561-  
637-2012



# LIBRARY

As the season gets into full swing, we look forward to seeing you and your guests at the library! Whether you need books and movies for a night in, or prefer to enjoy a night out, we have something for everyone.

The library is planning several events in celebration of the Town's 75th Anniversary, including a History of Highland Beach display, concerts by local talent, and lectures highlighting our history and natural resources. And back by popular demand, we invite residents and town staff to showcase their artistic talents by displaying a painting, photograph, quilt, or other artwork in our Highland Beach Community Art Show. Email [shayes@highlandbeach.us](mailto:shayes@highlandbeach.us) for details.

## Upcoming Events:

### Concerts – at 5:30 pm

- November 7: Tony Abbott and Terry Cooper (piano, sax, vocals)
- November 14: Paul Anthony Sr. and Jr. (reggae and more)
- December 12: Merv Johnston Quartet (jazz)
- December 19: JayCee (cabaret)

### Movies – at 5:30 pm

- November 19: The Marsh King's Daughter
- December 3: The Holdovers
- December 17: The Hill

## Other Activities:

- Yoga Flow with Mallory: Wednesdays at 4:30 pm
- Learn to download eBooks: call for appointment
- Current Events Discussion Group: Saturdays at 10:30 am
- Small Fry Story Time plus Crafts: Wednesdays at 4:30 pm, ages 4 and up
- Toddler Time - Stories and Rhymes: Saturdays at 10:30 am, ages 2 and 3

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

# OUR MARINE IN KUWAIT, DESERT STORM

BY JOHN SHOEMAKER

In a continuing effort to recognize those 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](http://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. We have at least one Brigadier General, one who was captured by the Germans and escaped three times during the Battle of the Bulge, a WWII B-17 navigator, and other veterans who served in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Vietnam, along with others across Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force – including a fighter pilot who trained other fighter pilots. Others served in different roles from scout dog handler to nurse, helicopter pilot to artillery Forward Observer. Some stories are quite dramatic, others very demanding and less dramatic. **But all, without exception, served with the utmost honor and dedication, for which we are deeply grateful.**



This story is about Dave Skrabec, who was born in Cleveland, OH, but his family moved to Boca Raton when his Dad was transferred from Cleveland by Eltech Corp in 1983. He and his younger sister, Susan, went to school in Boca at Spanish River High School when it first opened as a brand-new facility. But Dave did not like school, and he decided to join the U.S. Marines for four years against his parents' wishes, who wanted him to go to college. So, he signed up at the ripe old age of 17 to be a Marine, a decision that would lead to personal sacrifices and a deep sense of duty.

After graduating from High School in 1987, he went off to basic training at Paris Island, S.C. Although he signed up for infantry, with the wisdom and judgment of an experienced Marine sergeant, he was directed to train in artillery and naval gunfire as a forward observer. His role as an "FO" was to land with the Marines and provide fire support from guns on ships or the Marine's ground-based artillery like the M777 Howitzer.

Dave's artillery training was extensive at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for several months before being assigned to Naval Gunfire training as an FO at Little Creek Naval Base, VA, now known as the Joint Expeditionary Naval Base Little Creek.

From 1988 to 1991, Dave was assigned to Okinawa, Japan, and then temporarily deployed to South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, and other Southeast Asian regions. Much of this was operational training with multiple international forces for combined arms maneuvers.

Then, war broke out with Saddam invading Kuwait. General Schwarzkopf assembled land, sea, and air forces for a combined arms invasion of Iraq. The operation was called Desert Storm. During the lead-up to the invasion, there was great concern that the war would result in U.S. casualties by the thousands.

Corporal Skrabec was involved in the invasion force which moved quickly over the desert outside Kuwait City toward Iraq. He witnessed what remained of the destruction to Kuwait City and of Iraqi forces fleeing north to escape the American forces. He was amazed at the magnitude of the US forces – hundreds of military tanks, personnel carriers, and the like, and how fast everything moved in the race to Baghdad. Dave was incredulous at the thousands of Iraqi soldiers who were taken prisoner, with many starving or suffering from dehydration.

Allied forces had been bombing the Iraqi Army for weeks and were decimated before US land forces attacked. The war was over in **43 days**, from Jan. 17 to Feb. 28, 1991, and Dave was back in Okinawa with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Marines, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division.



Dave returned from Okinawa to the U.S. and was honorably discharged from the Marines in August 1991. Reflecting on that fact, he volunteered a strong personal feeling that the Marines greatly impacted him. In fact, he said that he would not be here as a Police Officer if it weren't for his time in the Marines. It was a great experience that came at the right time and helped shape the rest of his life.

In February 1992, Dave became a police officer for the City of Boca Raton, the Boca PD. He worked for years at Boca PD doing everything from patrol duty to SWAT assignments to Motorcycle duty. Officer Skrabec retired from Boca PD after 25 years in 2017.

Along the way, Dave married Jessica in 2002 and later had two children: Dave Jr., who is 17, and Joseph, who is 16. They both attend Boca High School. Dave Jr. is a senior considering a nursing career and plans to attend college locally. Joseph is a sophomore in high school.

When Dave retired from Boca PD, he took a position as Head of Security at Spanish River Christian School in Boca. His wife works at Spanish River Christian Church. Over time, Dave was itching for a change. In 2018, he began working part-time for Highland Beach Police as a reserve officer.

In June 2023, Officer Skrabec went full-time as a Highland Beach Police Officer and, by October, was promoted to Acting Sergeant. In April 2024, he was made a full-time Sergeant on the team.



Today, Officer Skrabec lives close by in Boca with his wife, Jessica, his two sons, and his father, Dave. Officer Skrabec's mother, Patricia, passed away in 2015.

With this background, he was enthusiastic about this "hidden gem" called Highland Beach. It is incredibly friendly and wonderful to work here. He was so pleased to see that our citizens waved to the police car as they patrolled down A1A. He said the citizens love to talk to the police, which is so welcome! Highland Beach residents are so friendly and accepting of the Police who patrol our streets, the Intracoastal Canal, and the Atlantic Ocean.

He confirmed that the Highland Beach Police Department is like a family and works together as a team of experienced professionals. He was quite genuinely animated about stating the obvious,

"This department has high morale!" Sergeant Skrabec feels fortunate to work here to ensure our safety and security.

**We give a salute to Sergeant Skrabec and thank him for his past service and current devotion to the citizens of Highland Beach.**

**The town citizens feel fortunate to have Sergeant Skrabec and the rest of the HB-PD force ready to support our need for a safe and secure place in paradise.**

## **TOWN COMMISSION**



Mayor Natasha Moore  
Email: [nmoore@highlandbeach.us](mailto:nmoore@highlandbeach.us)  
Phone: (561) 278-4548



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



Commissioner Evalyn David  
Email: [edavid@highlandbeach.us](mailto:edavid@highlandbeach.us)  
Phone: (561) 414-6109



Commissioner Judith Goldberg  
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Commissioner Don Peters  
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Phone: (561) 718-3470