Highlander

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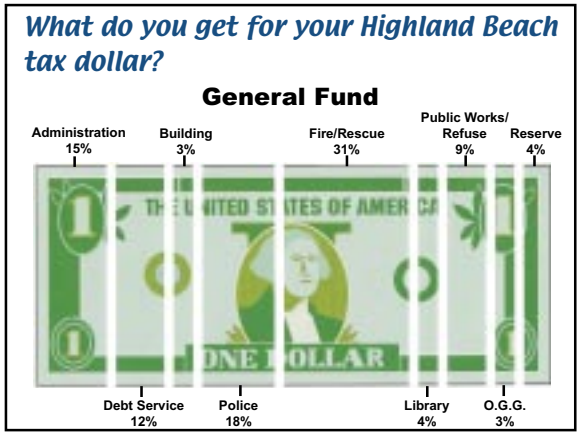
2002-03 budget approved

The Town Commission has adopted an operating budget for the 2002-03 fiscal year. The budget includes no increase in the property tax rate for the ninth consecutive year. Instead, increases in expenditures have been more than offset by the revenue generated by new development in Town.

The budget includes many capital improvements and projects that will directly benefit residents. Foremost amongst these is a new drop box for library materials and a system that will allow residents to pay utility bills using a credit or debit card or pay over the internet.



One point that many residents may not realize is that only approximately 20 percent of the money paid in "property taxes" goes toward the operation of the Town. The remainder is taxes assessed by the County, the Palm Beach County School Board and host of other agencies that have the authority to levy taxes.

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Town set to begin water plant construction

The Town Commission has awarded a contract for construction of the Town's new water plant to John J. Kirlin, Inc., a Fort Lauderdale based Construction Company. Actual construction of the building is anticipated to begin later this year. The Town is anticipating a construction completion date of December 15, 2003.

The building has been designed with aesthetics in mind. A full Spanish tile roof has been incorporated so that neighboring residents do not have to look down over a utilitarian looking structure. In addition, the Town has taken extra steps, beyond those required by law, to insure that noise and odor generated by the plant are appropriately buffered.

The building will be two-stories with offices located upstairs. The Town's Building Department will move from their existing offices to the new plant once construction is complete.

Artist rendering of the new reverse osmosis water treatment facility.

Commission Action

The following items have been addressed by the Town Commission in the past four months:

Delray Beach fire contract

The Commission approved a renewal of the Fire Department Contract with the City of Delray Beach for an additional 15-year period. Delray Beach provides all fire and rescue related services within the Town limits.

Landscape agreement with D.O.T.

The Commission approved an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation that commits the Town to insure that the landscaping that will be planted along SR A1A during the widening/resurfacing project next spring will be maintained properly. The DOT has committed up to $240,000 toward landscaping enhancements as part of the project budget.

Engineering agreements

The Commission approved two engineering agreements with Eckler Engineering and SFRN Engineers. By approving these agreements, the Town has expanded its base of available engineers from one to three. Eckler specializes in smaller municipal projects and will engineer the rehabilitation of lift station number one. SFRN specializes in drainage and will, amongst other things, assist the Town greatly in addressing drainage issues along the side streets in Town.

September 11

The Commission adopted a Proclamation declaring September 11, 2002 a "Day of Remembrance." In addition, the Commission approved the purchase and installation of flags to be placed in front of each residence on September 11, 2002.

Disposition of property

The Commission approved two staff recommendations for the disposition of property that is no longer used in the Police Department. First, the Commission approved the sale of the outdated radio equipment. Second, the Commission approved the trading of the in-vehicle computer systems (commonly referred to as DIGI's) to the Sheriff's Department for future maintenance service on radio equipment. The DIGI's were replaced by in-vehicle lap top computers with more capabilities.

Speed bump modification

The Commission agreed to replace the speed bump that had been installed on Bel Air Drive with a wider, asphalt speed bump. The new bump, which is actually a speed hump, is softer on a vehicle that is traveling over it. The speed bump was originally approved by the Commission as a means of to slow traffic.

The Boards

Term Completed

Harold B. Cohen
Albert McNamara
Code Enforcement Board

New Appointments

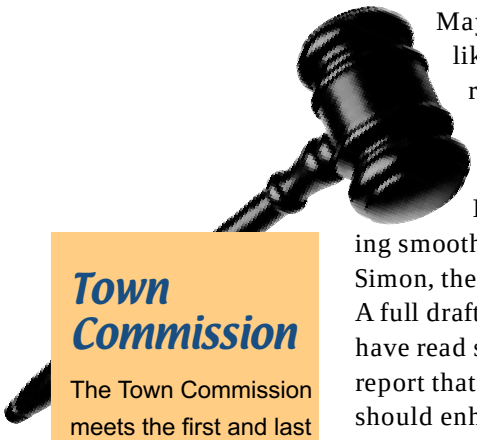
Sidel Frolich
John L. Papera, Jr.
Code Enforcement Board

Reappointments

Gerald B. Church
Theresa M. Colarullo
Planning Board

Felix R. Goldenson
Byron R. McKinley
Financial Advisory Board

Message from Mayor Thomas J. Reid



It is my pleasure to have served as your Mayor for the past 3 1/2 years. I would like to update you on the progress regarding three issues that I have been working on recently.

The first is the writing of the history of Highland Beach. The book is progressing smoothly. I am in regular contact with Sandy Simon, the author contracted to write the book. A full draft should be available by November. I have read some of the galleys. I am pleased to report that they are well written, interesting and should enhance the image of our Town.

I have also been working with Boca Raton Educational Television on their programming. They have presented the Town with a proposal to provide us with their entire program schedule for less than $15.00 per unit/per year. The programs would be shown on the Town channel whenever the Town is not using the channel.

Finally, the Boca Raton Airport Authority is reaching out to the surrounding municipalities to inform the public of airport activities and noise control. We are now able to bring up the airport web-site and find the identification of all aircraft that fly over Highland Beach. The object is to report any noisy, low flying airplanes. In addition, the Airport Authority has noise detecting equipment that can be placed on the roof of a condominium building to monitor airplane noise.

I am happy to help you in whatever way possible. Just contact Town Hall and leave a message for me, and I will return your call.

Town Commission

The Town Commission meets the first and last Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

News, Info & Upcoming Events

Have you paid for ambulance service?

Following the publication of the Spring Newsletter, several residents called the Town and stated that they had paid for ambulance transportation service. The Town worked with American Medical Response to insure that these residents were reimbursed for covered expenses.

If you have been billed for or paid for ambulance transportation services from either American Medical Response or the Delray Beach Fire/ Rescue Department, please contact the Town at 278-4548. If your service was a covered service, you may be entitled to a reimbursement.

We Need Your Help!

Speeding on our local roads is an ever increasing problem resulting in more frequent accidents and injuries. You and your friends and neighbors can help solve this problem. PLEASE SLOW DOWN. Set the standard–be a role model. Keep our roads safe for all the residents of Highland Beach.

Looking for a few good residents

The Town Commission is seeking residents who are interested in serving on one of the Town's appointed boards. The boards include the Planning Board, the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, the Code Enforcement Board and the Financial Advisory Board. Service is for a period of three years, with a possible reappointment for an additional three years.

The Planning Board meets monthly and reviews all site plans for development in Town. In addition, the Board deals with issues such as docks, moorings and signs.

The Board of Adjustment and Appeals deals principally with variance requests. The Board meets quarterly and may have more frequent meetings or hearings as applications are received. It is preferred that members of this Board have experience in law, construction or engineering.

The Code Enforcement Board deals with violations of Ordinances. The Board meets quarterly. It is again preferred that members have some background in law.

The Financial Advisory Board serves as an advisory Board to both the Town Commission and the Town Manager. This Board reviews financial reports and the annual operating budget of the Town. This Board meets quarterly. It is preferred that members of this Board have some background in banking, finance or insurance.

Residents interested in any of these Boards are encouraged to visit Town Hall and fill out a Talent Bank Application. Questions can be directed to Town Clerk Doris Trinley at 278-4548.

Board meeting dates

Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Meetings	Time
1	6	3	7	Town Commission Regular	1:30 p.m.
9	13	11	8	Planning Board	9:30 a.m.
15			14	Board of Adjustment Quarterly	9:30 a.m.
16			15	Code Enforcement Quarterly	9:30 a.m.
				Financial Advisory Quarterly	
29	26	30	28	Town Commission Workshop	1:30 p.m.
				Town Hall Closed for:	
	11			Veteran's Day	
	28, 29			Thanksgiving Holiday	
		25		Christmas Day	
			1	New Year's Day	
			20	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	

The public is welcome to attend all meetings. If you cannot make it in person, you may view Town Commission meetings on government Channel 19 at 1:30 p.m. on the meeting date.

Lights out for sea turtles

(ordinance #554)

May 1 through October 31 from 11:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m. all oceanfront lights MUST be turned off!

Per the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, "Lights are prohibited from reaching the beach."

If you are interested in being a "turtle volunteer," call José Echeverria at 272-3902.

Citizens' Corner

Reminders

- Town Ordinance requires that your pet be on a leash at all times. This does include the beach.
- Pick up after your dog—it's the law.
- Bicyclists and roller bladers must give audible warning when passing on the walking path. Also, the Town requests you pass on the LEFT.
- Flood insurance information is available at the Building Department, call 278-4540.
- Before doing any home improvement, call the Building Department at 278-4540 to see if a permit is required.
- Do not dispose of sand, litter or oil in your house or street drains.
- The last mail pick-up at the post office is at 3:45 p.m.
- Utility bills must be returned to the Town in the blue envelopes provided with the bill. Bills received without envelopes or return addresses will be discarded.
- Town of Highland Beach lapel pins and American flag pins are available at Town Hall while supplies last.

Citizen Profile: Judge James Niehoff

Judge James Niehoff has been a resident of Highland Beach since 1994.

Judge James Niehoff was born in Queens, New York in 1925 to Ellen Mac Millan and Edward Ernest Niehoff. At the age of two (2) Judge Niehoff's father died forcing his mother to work and raise him and his sister alone. Niehoff credits his mom for instilling in him the importance of family, hard work and a sense of community and faith. He is married to Amelia (nee Pansisus) and together they have three children and three grandchildren.

After serving in WWII, Judge Niehoff attended and graduated from St. John's University of Law, Suma Cum Laude.

His professional life has included a distinguished career as an elected Judge of the District Court of Nassau County, an appointed administrative Judge of the District Court; an elected Judge to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and then an appointed Judge to sit on the Appellate division of the Supreme Court. More then 100 of his opinions have been published in the official law reporter of the State of New York.

In 1994 he left New York and retired here to Seagate Condominium. Retirement did not slow the Judge down. He became an active member of the community, serving on the Charter Review Board, the Board of Adjustment, the Library Study Committee, and the Historical Society.

Following the events of September 11th, Seagate president John Bury, a WWII Veteran himself and Judge Niehoff decided they needed to do something to console our community. "We felt it would make a statement of support, respect and honor for the victims and heroes of the 9-11 tragedy. We voted to install a flag and a memorial plaque in the front of our condominium. The entire board was in agreement!"

Judge Niehoff has inspired many through his life accomplishments and his public service both in New York and in Highland Beach. He is indeed a citizen worthy of recognition.

Attention "Snow Birds": Keep up on Highland Beach from up North

We here at the Town realize that approximately 60 percent of our residents flee the blistering hot temperatures of the Florida heat for relief in the North during the summer months. We would like to make every effort to keep our winter residents versed on the Town's activities during the summer period.

Administrative Assistant Claudette Zaccardi is compiling a database of residents' summer addresses so that newsletters can be mailed to those who are interested. The newsletter is printed three times a year, usually in May (spring edition); September (fall edition) and January (winter edition). Please let Claudette know at 278-4548 if you would like to receive the newsletter at your summer address. Also, we welcome any suggestions you may have regarding how we can improve or enhance the newsletter.

- The Town is accepting any information related to the history of Highland Beach. Anyone with information, pictures, stories, etc. is encouraged to contact Mayor Tom Reid at 278-4548.
- The Town is still enforcing Phase II water restrictions. If you are unsure of when you are allowed to water, call the Police Department at 266-5800.
- Town recycling and garbage containers are available by contacting Town Hall. There is no charge for either. Call 278-4548 for details.
- Cable television line-up cards and Vial of Life packets are available at Town Hall.

Town Administration

Department Profile: Public Works

The Town employees whom you probably see the least, but who probably have the greatest day to day impact on your life are those in the Public Works Department. These behind the scenes employees are responsible for insuring that you have safe water to drink and that once something enters the sewer system, you need not see it ever again.

Jack Lee, the Town's Public Works Director, has been with the Town for 17 years. Jack came to the Town after working in the Delray Beach Utility Department. His department is separated into two divisions: water treatment and distribution and utility maintenance.

Joe Sterlicchi, runs the Water Treatment and Distribution Division. Joe, who also left Delray to work for Highland Beach, came shortly after Jack's arrival in 1984. Joe oversees a staff of four plant operators; Stan Carter, Butch Harpel, John Lynch and Pat Roman. These operators, along with Joe, operate the plant at peak efficiency 24 hours per day, seven days per week. All of these operators have been with the Town in excess of 10 years making the experience level in this department superb. In addition to insuring the system is operating properly, the employees monitor the levels in each of the Town's water storage tanks and monitor each of the Town's five lift stations. These employees work at the Town's water treatment plant in eastern Boca Raton.

Public Works employees: (back row from left) Pat Roman, Bertrand Desir, Jean Gilbert, Jesse Alexander, (front row from left) Joe Sterlicchi, Jack Lee, Bill Moore, (not pictured) Stan Carter, Butch Harpel and John Lynch

Highland Beach Public Works Department employees.

The other division in Public Works is the Utility Maintenance Division. This division was recently reorganized to include building maintenance and streets. Bill Moore, the Division Manager, has been with the Town for just over one year. He came to us after serving as the Public Works Director in Dundee, Florida. Jesse Alexander, Bertrand Desir and Jean Gilbert assist Bill. Jesse is a relative newcomer to the Town; however, Jean and Bertrand have both worked for the Town for over a decade.

The Department has been working hard on a number of projects including the construction of the new water treatment facility; the transferring of relevant pipe locations and information to a computer based program, and drainage issues throughout the Town. Residents are welcome to contact Jack Lee or his staff at 997-7234 with questions or comments about the Department's operation.

Town employees celebrate anniversaries

Congratulations to these employees as they celebrate anniversaries with the Town:

Building Department

Bob Dawson, 5 years
Karen Sauers, 4 years

Police Department

Walter Berger, 4 years
Larry Bonham, 3 years
Roy Holland, 3 years
Sue Nahama, 3 years

Town Clerk's Department

Roselyn Blau, 6 years
Jane Dillon, 7 years

Utilities Department

Bill Moore, 1 year

Water Department

Stan Carter, 14 years

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Town Manager

Ben Saag

Phone Numbers

Fire, Medical or Police emergency	911
Town Hall	278-4548
Police non-emergency	266-5800
Police after hours	276-2458
Post Office	278-1448
Library	278-5455
Building Department	278-4540
Water Plant	997-7234
Adelphia Cable	930-2225
Beach conditions:	
Delray Beach	272-3224
Boca Raton	393-7989

Town Hall Hours

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit the Town Online

www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us

News from the Library

Town receives grant for new Library

In July, the Town was notified that its grant application for a matching funds grant for library construction was approved. The grant will provide the Town with $500,000 toward the construction of a new library.

In March voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum to spend up to $2 million on a new municipal library. The new structure will be located at the back of the Town Hall property with beautiful views of the Intracoastal Waterway. The library will be between 8,000 and 10,000 square feet, over four times its existing size. The library will feature more Internet access computers, an outdoor seating area, an enlarged children's area and considerably more stacks for books and publications.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the structure immediately following the construction of the new water plant in early 2004. In September the Town will begin the process of selecting an architect to design the facility. This will allow for plenty of time for resident input and workshops regarding the final design and layout of the library.

Special thanks go to Library Director Mari Suarez as as well as consultant Dr. Helen Laurence who prepared the grant application for the State. The new facility will certainly be something that residents and future residents will relish.

Library hours

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wed. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat.

Budget

(ordinance #554)

Sewer and sanitation rates remain unchanged in the approved budget. For the first time in six years the Town is considering an increase in water rates. This increase is directly attributable to increased insurance costs for employees as well as the negative impact the Town has suffered as a result of water restrictions over the past year. The Town Commission has pledged that no revenues generated through the water fund will be used to pay for the new water plant. Instead, this plant is funded 100 percent through taxes generated as a result of new development.

A copy of the approved budget is on file at the Library for public review.

Library Cards: Residents of the Town get a free library card with proof of residency, or for one-year lease holders, with a copy of their lease.

Residents are charged a $5 fee for replacing lost library cards.

Borrowing Policy Limit: Four (4) new seven-day books, five (5) video cassettes, and ten (10) children's books.

Renewals: Library material may be renewed if there are no reserves/holds on the item.

Book returns: The book drop is located outside the main entrance leading from the front (east) parking lot. Please return ALL library material in the book drop. Items returned on the due date after the Library is closed carry a fine.

Overdue fees: All books are $.25 per day, and videos are $1.00 per day.

Lost & damaged: Patrons will be required to pay replacement cost for items that are damaged or lost.

Book Sale

The Bi-Annual Town Library Book Sale will be held October 24 and 25, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Town Commission Chambers, 3614 S. Ocean Blvd.

Town Library receives grant from County for speaker's bureau

The Library, for the second time, has been awarded a $10,000 grant from the Palm Beach County Department of Parks and Recreation for a Speaker's Program. The money will be used to present two writers/lecturers a month for five months during the Fall/Winter season. Among those invited that have already accepted are: James Grippando, Tom Corcoran and Randy Wayne White. Watch the Town's television station (Channel 19), the Library bulletin board and local newspapers for detailed information and dates.

Monthly Library Updates

Current information regarding news books, DVDs, videos and programs are listed in the Library's monthly newsletter which is available in the Library.

Police Beat

Better to err on the side of caution

Beware of fraud

(Reprinted from the United States Postal Service)

Every year, illegal telemarketing and mail fraud schemes rob consumers, often senior citizens, of their hard-earned life-savings.

If someone contacts you or a loved one with an unsolicited offer:

- Don't give your financial information to a caller you do not know
- Don't be pressured into making an immediate decision
- Get all information in writing before you agree to a purchase

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Senior Action Coalition are committed to protecting seniors from telemarketing and mail fraud schemes.

If you have lost money to fraud or want more information, call the Federal Trade Commission, toll free, at 1-877-987-3728, or log on to www.usps.com/postalinspectors.

Always be alert to suspicious activity

The Police Department wishes to remind residents to always be cautious. While we live in a beautiful Town, there remain risks to residents from people with mischievous motives. Always remember:

- Don't give out personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call;
- Always look around for unfamiliar people when you exit your home or get into or out of your car;
- Report suspicious activity to the Police Department at 266-5800;
- Keep your doors and windows locked when you are home alone, not at home, or at night while you are sleeping.

CALL THE POLICE

Remember that the Police Department is here to serve you and your needs. Let us know if there is anything we can do to serve you better. You may contact the Highland Beach Police Department at 266-5800.

Police purchase beach vehicle

The Highland Beach Police Department has purchased a vehicle to allow for a regular patrol of the beach. The vehicle also has a "med-bed" that can be utilized by the Fire Department should there be a medical emergency on the beach.

The purchase of the beach access vehicle is another step forward in the Town's efforts to enhance the Community Oriented Policing efforts in the Town. Several years ago, the Town began bicycle patrols. Additionally, last year the Town stepped up its efforts to do foot patrols in the Bel Lido area as well as along the side streets in Town.

The Boca Highlands Condominium will be allowing the Town to access the beach from their property. Plans are currently underway to do the minor modifications that are necessary to make the site accessible for the vehicle. It is anticipated that the beach patrol will begin on or about October 1. The amount of time the police spend on the beach will be dependent on personnel availability within the department.

Questions regarding the vehicle or special requests for specific patrols can be addressed to the Chief of Police, Tony Cervasio, at 266-5800.

Call Chief of Police Tony Cervasio at 266-5800 with any questions regarding the new beach vehicle, or special requests for specific patrols.

The Police Dept. needs your unlisted number

The Highland Beach Police Department has a new telephone communication system that is used to notify Town residents in the event of an emergency, such as a hurricane or a water main break. The Town can call all Town residents with a prerecorded message within a very short period of time.

If your phone number is "listed," you are automatically part of the system.

If you have an "unlisted" number, you must come into the Police Department and fill out a form.

If your phone number is a "listed" number (it appears in the Bell South phone directory), you are automatically part of the system. If you have an "unlisted" number, please come in to the Police Department and fill out a form so you can be put into the system. The more residents who are able to be notified in case of emergencies the better.

Meet Your Town Commission

Thomas J. Reid
Mayor *1999 to present; Vice-Mayor 1998-99; Commissioner 1996-98*
Residence: *Ocean Dunes*
Resident Since: *1985*
Board Experience: *Financial Advisory Board*

Michael W. Hill
Vice-Mayor *1999 to present; Commissioner 1997-99*
Residence: *Single-Family, A1A*
Resident Since: *1989*
Board Experience: *Planning Board*

E-Mail: *mhill1221@aol.com*

John J. Sorrelli
Commissioner *1998 to present*

Residence: *Coronado*
Resident Since: *1985*
Board Experience: *Planning Board*

Robert L. Lowe
Commissioner *1999 to present*

Residence: *Ambassadors East*
Resident Since: *1981*
Board Experience: *Planning Board*
Board of Adjustment
Charter Review Board
Ad Hoc Committee
E-Mail: *rlowe3000@aol.com*

Rachael Scala-Pistone
Commissioner *2001 to present*
Residence: *Trafalger*
Resident Since: *1997*
Board Experience: *Board of Adjustment*

E-Mail: *highlandcomish@aol.com*

Town of Highland Beach
3614 South Ocean Blvd.
Highland Beach, FL 33487

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