



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732
Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Borough Updates

- **HES News** – 2/13 students participated in “100 Days of School – You Are Never Too Old To Be Kind”. Please join HES' Kids Heart Challenge www.heart.org/schools. New HVAC will be installed over spring break and the roof replacement is going out to bid soon. They are expecting to complete the roof over the summer break.
- **HHRB News** - 2/1 Admirals Basketball junior Jack Fitzpatrick scored his 1,000th point. The team won the Class A Central Championship. They made it to the semi-finals in the NJSIAA State Tournament on 2/29, then lost. MS Girls Basketball made it to the championship game on 2/22, then lost. It's not all about sports, so check the YouTube channel “HHRB Digital Video” to see student productions such as the yearly Lip Dub & my favorite: The Hot Seat, where students interview teachers while eating hot wings.
- **Emergency Services** – Calls answered: First Aid Squad = 20; Police = 645; Fire = 14
- **Code Enforcement** – Summons = 4; Warnings = 5; Reports = 14; Inspections = 16, Permits = 9; OPRA = 3
- **Building Department** – Inspections = 62; Passed = 44; Failed = 11; Not Ready = 6; Permits issued = 36
- **Department of Public Works [DPW]** – A big shoutout to the DPW for their efforts clearing snow in February.
- **Borough Events** – Please check the Recreation page and highlandsnj.com for event info. Parade Day is 3/23.
- **Sanitary Sewer Project** – Paving of completed Borough streets will start in the Spring. The county does not allow work to be done until April 1st on their portion of Bay, Waterwitch and Linden. The remaining work on the county portion of Bay Ave is to finish from Atlantic Street to North and then a small portion near Bahrs. The county will pave all their roads in August before school starts. **Planned for March:** Mains & laterals on Waterwitch between Recreation & Bay and install wells on Bay between Atlantic & North streets.
- **Updates to Vets Park** – Local Recreation grant DCA \$75,000. Work will continue in the Spring. The project includes removing three planting beds at the request of the Garden Club, adding picnic tables, adding water fountain, adding solar lighting, upgrading the basketball courts, and adding a stone checkers/chess table.

Projects Planned for 2024

- **Reconstruction of Bayside Drive & Marie St** – From Shore Dr to Borough border. Work includes storm drainage improvements and paving. DOT grant \$246,850. Delayed until Spring.
- **Marine Pl Elevated walkway East [Sea Drift]** – Awarded Monmouth County CDBG grant \$167,647.
- **Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – Sidewalks from Waterwitch to Willow. DOT \$284,000.
- **Create Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36]** – Environmental completed. MCOS \$148k + DCA \$74k.
- **Update Frank Hall Park** – We are submitting a grant request to DCA Local Recreation Improvement in April.
- **Jones Creek** – County will do East section [Snug Harbor]. We resubmitted CAFRA permit 9/2023.

2021 Resiliency Plan Updates

1. **Veteran's Park – Living Shoreline & Bulkhead Combination** - US DOD REPI grant, pre-construction documents submitted. 2. **Snug Harbor Avenue Pump Station** – New Pump Station & 3. **North Street Pump Station Upgrades and Storm Drainage**. Awarded 1.3-million-dollar 2023 NJDOT Local Transportation Projects and 2022 FEMA BRIC, includes updates to current pump stations, a new pump station at Snug Harbor, combining flood mitigation and green infrastructure to the 127-year-old problem of runoff from **Monmouth Hills**. Engineering and permitting should be completed in 2024. The entire project is estimated at \$16,205,280 and our grant award is for \$12,193,960, our largest grant ever. 4. **Steel Bulkhead on Marine Place** – Painting water side – Exploring finish options.

Community Rating System [CRS] Update

The Coordinator continues to update elevation certificate information and ensure building department upgrades are properly logged in the flood plain and building department tracking software.