



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732
Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Borough Updates for July:

- **HHRSD News** – There will be a non-binding referendum on the ballot on 11/5/2024 on whether to continue to explore regionalization with Sea Bright.
- **Emergency Services** – Calls answered: First Aid Squad = 50; Fire = 44; Police = 945
- **Code Enforcement** – Summons = 10; Warnings = 6; Reports = 20; Inspections = 28; Permits = 25; OPRA = 1
- **Building Department** – Inspections = 39; Passed = 31; Failed = 4; Not Ready = 4; Permits issued = 15
- **Grants** – Won so far in 2024 is \$151,954
- **Borough Events** – Please check the Recreation page on the Borough website and highlandsnj.com for event info.
- **Army Corp of Engineer's Project** – There will be a non-binding referendum on the ballot 11/5/2024. See project materials here: <https://highlandsborough.org/highlands-public-information-meeting-14may-2024/>

Current Project Updates – Dates are weather permitting

- **Huddy Park Gazebo** – Taken down on 6/24. Delivered 7/30. Electric & ADA ramps to be installed.
- **Linden Ave new curbs & sidewalks** – This much awaited project is funded through our Capital Fund needing no bonds. Work to start w/o 8/10. Targeted completion before Labor Day.
- **North St Valve** – Install inline check valve at first inlet to test high tide inflow prevention. September.
- **Sanitary Sewer Project** – Replacement of sanitary sewer lines **installed in 1925**. All non-conflicted sewer work was completed in June. **Completed in July:** Paving: Local Waterwitch & Bay Ave & North Street, concrete slab replacement on Waterwitch from Linden to Shore. **Planned for August:** Sidewalk replacement & paving of Central, Beach, Ocean. **Planned for September:** County to pave Linden, Waterwitch and Bay Ave.
- **Jones Creek Dredging** – DEP approved 7/31, the County will complete after Labor Day.
- **Updates to Vets Park** – Local Rec grant DCA \$75,000. The basketball court striping, backboards & hoops in 8/14. Delivery of solar lighting solar picnic tables Sept. Irrigation to be repaired.

Planned Projects for 2024 & 2025

- **Portland Road Drainage** – Stormwater improvements, DOT grant \$261,900. Have authorization to bid.
- **Marine Pl Elevated Walkway East [Sea Drift]** – Awarded Monmouth County CDBG grant \$167,000, bid fall.
- **Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – Sidewalks from Waterwitch to Willow. DOT \$284,000, bid fall.
- **Create Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36]** – Survey & concept plan in works. MCOS \$148k + DCA \$74k
- **Update Frank Hall Park** – We are submitting a grant request to MC Open Space in July, hear back in Oct.

2021 Resiliency Plan Updates

1. **Veteran's Park – Living Shoreline & Bulkhead Combination** - US DOD REPI grant, pre-construction documents submitted, working on vegetative list. 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, adding a new pump station at Snug Harbor, combining flood mitigation and green infrastructure. 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 awarded. Environmental Assessment [EA] ongoing, once EA completed [around March 2025], final DEP review will begin.

Community Rating System [CRS] Update

The coordinator is setting up a meeting with FEMA II to discuss our entrance into the first phase of CRS. The floodplain workshop on 6/28 was very informative, watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_xlr6_ff-Q
We continue to work with businesses and residents in the flood zone to build resiliency.