



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732
Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Borough Updates for August:

- **New Website Address** – We are pleased to release our new website address: www.highlandsnj.gov
- **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 = 45; Fire = 34; Police = 963
- **Code Enforcement** – Summons = 5; Warnings = 4; Reports = 15; Inspections = 31; Permits = 20; OPRA = 11
- **Building Department** – Inspections = 100; Passed = 72; Failed = 9; Not Ready = 19; Permits issued = 21
- **Grants** – Won so far in 2024 is \$201,954
- **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

- **Linden Ave new curbs & sidewalks** – Work started 8/10 with completion 9/4.
- **North St Valve** – Install inline check valve at first inlet to test high tide inflow prevention.
- **Sanitary Sewer Project** – Replacement of sanitary sewer lines **installed in 1925**. All non-conflicted sewer work was completed in June. **Completed in August:** Sidewalk replacement of Central & Beach. **Planned for September:** Replace Ocean curbs & sidewalks, then pave Central, Beach & Ocean. 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. Delivery of solar lighting & solar picnic tables Sept.

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]** – 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.
- **Washington Avenue Paving** – Mill & pave of Washington Ave from Marine Pl. to Cheerful Pl.
- **Asset Activation James T. White Clam Plant** – NJEDA Grant for \$50,000 for planning upgrades.

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.