



**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS**  
**MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**  
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732  
Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM

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Borough Updates from September:

- **New Website Address** – We are pleased to release our new website address: [www.highlandsnj.gov](http://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. We had our Town Hall meeting at Boro Hall, 6pm on 9/30.
- **Emergency Services** – Calls answered: First Aid Squad = 25; Fire = 13; Police = 719
- **Code Enforcement** – Summons = 6; Warnings = 3; Reports = 22; Inspections = 22; Permits = 13; OPRA = 4
- **Building Department** – Inspections = 74; Passed = 64; Failed = 9; Not Ready = 1; Permits issued = 17
- **Grants** – Awarded amount so far this year is \$287,954
- **Borough Events** – 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. The Town Hall meeting in the Cafetorium at HHRSD will be on 10/7 from 6-8pm. Please share your opinion on the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FloodingVulnerability>

Current Project Updates – Dates are weather permitting

- **Linden Ave new curbs & sidewalks** – Curbs & Sidewalk replacement from 8/10 - 9/4. Fence from Waterwitch to Shore completed 9/10. During repairs we fixed the drainage issue where ground water would spill out onto the sidewalk at Waterwitch & Shore.
- **Sanitary Sewer Project** – September marked the completion of new Ocean Ave curbs & sidewalks. Paving to begin on Central, with Beach & Ocean in Oct. County to pave Linden, Waterwitch & Bay Ave.
- **Updates to Vets Park** – Irrigation fixed 9/12. Delivery of solar lighting 9/18. Solar picnic tables in Oct.
- **Portland Road Drainage** – Stormwater improvements, DOT grant \$261,900. To be awarded.

Planned Projects for 2024 & 2025

- **North/Valley/Jones Creek Valves** – Install inline check valves at first inlet to test high tide inflow prevention.
- **Jones Creek Dredging** – DEP approved 7/31, the County will complete, waiting for dates.
- **Marine Pl Elevated Walkway East [Sea Drift]** – Monmouth County CDBG grant \$167,000.
- **Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – Sidewalks from Waterwitch to Willow. DOT \$284,000.
- **Washington Avenue Paving** – Mill & pave of Washington Ave from Marine Pl. to Cheerful Pl.
- **Create Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36]** – Survey & concept plan in works. MCOS \$148k + DCA \$74k
- **Update Frank Hall Park** – We received the Monmouth County Open Space grant for \$86,000.
- **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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_xlr6_ff-Q)  
We continue to work with businesses and residents in the flood zone to build resiliently.