



**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS**  
**MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**  
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732  
Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at 12:00 PM

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Borough Updates from December:

- **Assessor Meeting** – The new Assessor gave a great presentation on 12/11 on how assessments are derived. Watch it here: <https://highlandsnj.gov/missed-last-nights-property-tax-assessment-town-hall/>
- **Captain's Cove AINR** – The 12/12 Land Use Board hearing on possible condemnation was postponed to 1/9/25.
- **Shadowlawn AINR** – The Council appointed the contract purchaser as the Conditional Redeveloper on 12/18.
- **Emergency Services** – Calls answered: First Aid Squad = 38; Fire = 19; Police = 540
- **Code Enforcement** – Summons = 11; Warnings = 2; Reports = 15; Inspections = 19; Permits = 12; OPRA = 13
- **Building Department** – Inspections = 62; Passed = 53; Failed = 8; Not Ready = 1; Permits issued = 12
- **Grants** – Awarded amount so far in 2024 is \$1,980,410

Current Project Updates

- **REPI Living Shoreline & Bulkhead Design & Permitting** - US DOD grant OF \$219,676, permits are approved by DEP. Submitted to Army Corps. After ACE approval, looking to submit for the grant implementation.
- **Portland Road Drainage Improvements** – DOT grant of \$261,900 was awarded 10/6. NJNG worked over the Holidays to resolve conflicts regarding depth of gas line.
- **Asset Activation James T. White Clam Plant** – NJEDA Grant of \$50,000 for planning upgrades, due in April, 2025.
- **US DOT Safe Street & Roads for All** – Comprehensive transportation safety action plan for the entire Borough spanning 28 months by the County, \$1,475,000 total cost, Fed grant = \$1,180,000 + County grant = \$295,000.

Planned Projects for 2025

- **Overlook Park Creation [empty lot on NJSH 36]** – Survey & concept plan in works. MCOS \$148k + DCA \$74k
- **Frank Hall Park Updates** – Survey & concept plan in works. MCOS \$86,000. Will be bid with Overlook to maximize potential cost savings.
- **Jones Creek Dredging** – DEP approved 7/31/24, 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.

Grants won – projects to be permitted & awarded

- **Linden, WW, Bay & Snug Harbor** – Estimated \$1.7 Million project to improved Drainage on these roads \$1.3 Million from DOT Local Aid. Waiting for DEP approval of the project in order to go out to bid.
- **Grand Tour Drainage Improvements** – Project estimate \$1 million, Grant \$217,456.

Grants waiting to hear back

- **2022 FEMA BRIC** – Combines flood mitigation and green infrastructure. In pre-award stage while Environmental Assessment [EA] ongoing, once EA completed [around March 2025], final DEP review will begin. Project = \$16,205,280; Grant = \$12,193,960.
- **Reconnect Communities** – Planning grant elevated walkway, Waterwitch-Kavookjian. Submitted 9/30 \$111,780.
- **American Firefighter's Grant** – New radios for the FD, submitted for \$160,725.
- **American Firefighter's Grant** – Pump Truck for the FD, proposal for grant writing submitted on 12/20.

Community Rating System [CRS] Update

We continue the CRS Certification process and work with property owners in the flood zone to build resiliently. Floodplain Town Hall workshop, watch it here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_xlr6\\_ff-Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_xlr6_ff-Q)  
Floodplain Design Guidelines can be found here: [bit.ly/CBDFloodplainDesignGuideline](http://bit.ly/CBDFloodplainDesignGuideline)