

# 2025 Highlands Year in Review

During 2025, the Mayor, Council and Staff worked to address past issues as well as plan for Highlands' future. We were again very successful in locating, pursuing and winning grants as well as other financing sources to help fund our infrastructure projects and updates to our open spaces.

## The State of the Borough at the end of 2025:

- Residents, staff, businesses, charitable organizations, and clergy all worked together to help our neighbors who needed assistance. OLPH Pantry donations can be dropped at the Municipal Offices [M-F 8:30am – 4:30pm] or at the Police Department 24/7/365.
- The Municipal tax rate was lowered or remained steady for the sixth consecutive year. We expect the rate to lower again in 2026. The 2026 preliminary valuation of all properties in the Borough increased to \$1,456,996,100. This was an increase in valuation of \$116,615,900 over 2025.
- Our bond rating remains steady at AA.
- New businesses: Honorable Plant [vacant since Sandy], Gems Bagels, Sea & Sand [vacant 25 years] & Not 2 Shabby.
- Highlands received two Planning Merit Awards from Monmouth County: Planning Study for the J. T. White Clam Depuration Plant and the Central Business District Floodplain Design Guidelines.
- Grants and other funding sources awarded in 2025 totaled \$1,629,423.

## Borough of Highlands

151 Navesink Avenue  
Highlands, NJ 07732  
[www.highlandsnj.gov](http://www.highlandsnj.gov)

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## Goals that were accomplished in 2025:

- Completed Asset Activation Planning study for major updates at the James T. White Clam Plant.
- Completed Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Sidewalks from Waterwitch to Matthews.
- Completed Washington Avenue Paving from Marine Pl. to Cheerful Pl.
- Completed Marine Pl. Elevated walkway East [Sea Drift].
- Completed Portland Road Drainage & Stormwater improvements.
- Completed Jones Creek Dredging.
- Completed the negotiations for our first Area in Need of Redevelopment at Shadowlawn, now called Scenic Highlands.

## Goals for 2026 & Beyond:

- Complete Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36] for a passive park including: viewer, solar picnic tables.
- Complete Frank Hall Park Updates, including Bocce Court, Chess table and solar picnic tables.
- Replace valves at Coves and Jackson Street. Also identify others to be replaced.
- Twin Light Terrace Drainage & South Peak St. Wall repair.
- Resurface playgrounds and fix courts.
- Grand Tour Improvement & Drainage.
- Complete the 2026 Stormwater Watershed Plan.

## Community Rating System [CRS] Certification Update

We continue the CRS process & 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: <https://bit.ly/CBDFloodplainDesignGuideline>

All the best to you and yours in 2026,  
Mayor Carolyn Broullon

