

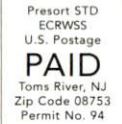
## 2021 Highlands Year in Review

As we end year two of COVID-19, I want to share this year in review. During the year, I worked with Council to address past issues as well as plan for Highlands' future for both residents and businesses. We were very successful in terms of gaining grants as well as other funding sources to help fund Infrastructure projects and updates to our open spaces.

Grants and other funding sources awarded in 2021 totaled \$4,551,616. The largest dollar amount is the forgiveness for the Sandy Community Disaster Loan. The loan forgiveness equates to \$500,000 dollars less in taxes we need to raise in taxes to repay the loan. That is a yearly cost savings for five years.

### Borough of Highlands

42 Shore Drive  
Highlands, NJ 07732  
[www.highlandsborough.org](http://www.highlandsborough.org)



\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
Residential Postal Customer

### **The state of the Borough at the end of 2021:**

- The Municipal tax rate lowered for the second straight year. The combined valuation of all properties in the Borough increased to \$764,886,141. This was an increase in valuation of \$32,542,083. This will result in another rate decrease for 2022.
- Two new businesses opened in town: Wolf's Claw Ceramics and Highlands Co-Work.
- Out of the 53 municipalities in Monmouth County, Highlands has the lowest vaccination rate. We are working with the County to run vaccine clinics. COVID-19 testing will begin every day starting January 10th at the Community Center.

### **Mayor & Council Goals that were accomplished in 2021:**

- Purchased and installed new apparatus at all Borough parks.
- Categorized and scanned records.
- Updated Registered Open Space Inventory [last done in 1992].
- Cleaned up Frank Hall Park.
- Updated electric and water at Veterans and Cornwall Square parks.
- Made the first step of entering the Community Rating System [CRS] program for lower flood insurance by naming the engineer and sending to the county for approval.
- Drafted a comprehensive flood mitigation plan and began proposals for grants to pay for it.
- Engineering and contractor awarded for North St upgrades.
- Engineering awarded for Waterwitch Pump upgrades.
- Engineering awarded for Overlook Park on R36 [empty lot diagonally across from OLPH]

Our community continued to pull together during this pandemic. Residents, staff, businesses, charitable organizations, and clergy all worked together to get us through more surges of the biggest health crisis of our lifetime. Food, clothing and toy drives showed how amazing our community remains. We have a lot to look forward to in 2022. There will be many construction projects getting underway including infrastructure, roads and parks. In 2021 we laid the foundation for what will be completed in 2022.

For a more detailed update please go to [www.highlandsborough.org](http://www.highlandsborough.org).

Wishing you all the best in 2022,  
Mayor Broullon

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