



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732
Monday, January 1, 2024, at 12:00 PM

The **December** Report is as follows. All constructions dates are weather & supply-chain permitting.

- **Borough Updates**
 - **Chief Robert Burton** – Our Chief was voted the 84th President of the Monmouth County Chief's Association for 2024. This is the first time a Highland's Chief has been given this honor.
 - **Commissioning Coin**– From over 300 submissions, Highland's own, Russell Karshmer, a junior at MAST on Sandy Hook, a Cadet Chief Petty Officer in the NJROTC program won the USS NEW JERSEY (SSN 796) Commissioning Coin "b-side" design. Congratulations Russell, you make Highlands proud.
 - **Buildings & Housing Department** – Construction Official/Certified Floodplain Manager started 12/1, Technical Assistant to the Construction Official & remaining sub-code Official-Inspectors started 12/20.
 - **Municipal Court** – The Court Administrator started 12/18. The first Court date is 1/16/24.
 - **Sustainable Jersey** – The Borough once again received Bronze Certification. Our aim is Silver next round.
 - **Waterwitch Pump Station** – Work completed 12/29.
 - **Sanitary Sewer Project** – All roads will be repaved after sewer testing is completed. **Completed Mains & Laterals:** Central, Ocean, Beach, Gravelly, Borough portion of Bay, Ralph, William, County portion of Waterwitch & North. **Completed Mains Only:** Linden and portions of Bay. **Planned for January:** Decommission wells at Central, Ocean & Bay. Continue laterals on Bay & Linden.
 - **Update Vets Park** – Local Recreation grant DCA \$75,000. Started 11/13. BB Court striping in Spring.
 - **Reconstruction of Bayside Drive & Marie St** – From Shore Dr to Borough border. Work includes storm drainage improvements and paving. DOT grant \$246,850. Delayed until March.
 - **Jones Creek** – County will do East section [Snug Harbor]. We resubmitted CAFRA permit 9/2023.
 - **Portland Road Guard Rail** – Engineering plans submitted to the County. Waiting for County to repair. We also included this into our 2024 DOT Municipal Aid Grant for Portland Road & Grand Tour.
- **Projects Planned for 2024**
 - **Create Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36]** – Environmental work ongoing. MCOS \$148k + DCA \$74k.
 - **Marine PI Elevated walkway East [Sea Drift]** – Awarded Monmouth County CDBG grant \$167,647.
 - **Update Frank Hall Park** – We will submit grant request to Green Acres in February 2024.
 - **Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – Sidewalks from Waterwitch to Willow. DOT \$284,000.
- **2021 Resiliency Plan Updates**
 - **1. Veteran's Park – Living Shoreline & Bulkhead Combination** - US DOD REPI grant, pre-construction documents submitted. **2. Snug Harbor Avenue Pump Station** – New Pump Station & **3. North Street Pump Station Upgrades and Storm Drainage**. We were awarded 1.3-million-dollar 2023 NJDOT Local Transportation Projects for drainage on Linden, Waterwitch, Bay and Jones Creek, permits have been submitted. 2022 FEMA BRIC, includes the above projects and updates to current pump station, installing a new pump station at Snug Harbor and combining flood mitigation and green infrastructure to the 127-year-old problem of runoff from **Monmouth Hills**. Engineering and permitting should be completed in late 2024. The entire project is estimated at \$16,205,280 and our grant award is for \$12,193,960, our largest grant ever. **4. Steel Bulkhead on Marine Place** – Painting of Water Side Only – Exploring finish options.
- **Grants & Funding Update** – We have been awarded an incredible **\$15,631,589** in 2023.

All the best to you and yours.

Mayor Carolyn Broullon