

## Borough Contact Information

### Mayor Frank Nolan

T: 732.778.7493; E: [fnolan@highlandsborough.org](mailto:fnolan@highlandsborough.org)

### Council President Rebecca Kane

T: 732.673.6543; E: [bkane007@aol.com](mailto:bkane007@aol.com)

### Councilman Chris Francy

T: 732.778.5863; E: [councilmanfrancy@highlandsnj.us](mailto:councilmanfrancy@highlandsnj.us)

### Councilwoman Tara Ryan

T: 732.778.6905; E: [t.ryan@highlandsborough.org](mailto:t.ryan@highlandsborough.org)

### Councilman Kevin Redmond

T: 732.713.5435; E: [kevinredmond@shorepoint.com](mailto:kevinredmond@shorepoint.com)

### Borough Administrator Timothy Hill

T: 732.872.1224 x203; E: [thill@highlandsborough.org](mailto:thill@highlandsborough.org)

### Borough Clerk Carolyn Cummins

T: 732.872.1224 x201; E: [ccummins@highlandsborough.org](mailto:ccummins@highlandsborough.org)

### Code Enforcement Officer David Mercado

T: 732.872.1224 x215; E: [highlandsenforcement@gmail.com](mailto:highlandsenforcement@gmail.com)

### Property Maintenance Officer Elaine Broyles

T: 732.872.1224 x215 E: [highlandscodeenforcement@gmail.com](mailto:highlandscodeenforcement@gmail.com)

### Construction Official Paul Vitale

T: 732.733.2346; E: [constructionofficial@gmail.com](mailto:constructionofficial@gmail.com)

### Zoning/Flood Plain Administrator Dale Leubner

T: 732.872.1224 x202; E: [dleubner@tandmassociates.com](mailto:dleubner@tandmassociates.com)

### Police Chief Joseph Blewett

T: 732.872.1158; E: [jblewett@highlandsborough.org](mailto:jblewett@highlandsborough.org)

### Highlands OEM David Parker

T: 732.872.1224 x252; E: [oem@highlandsborough.org](mailto:oem@highlandsborough.org)

### Highlands Department of Public Works

T: 732.872.1224 x250; E: [DPW@highlandsnj.us](mailto:DPW@highlandsnj.us)

### Zoning Board Chair Ken Braswell

E: [kbraswell@shoregrafx.com](mailto:kbraswell@shoregrafx.com)

### Planning Board Chair Andrew Stockton

E: [astockton@gmail.com](mailto:astockton@gmail.com)

### Highlands Recreation Department Jen Strehl

T: 732.872.1224 x232; E: [communitycenter@highlandsnj.us](mailto:communitycenter@highlandsnj.us)

### Borough Hall (temporary trailers)

42 Shore Drive; T: 732.872.1224

### Highlands Police Department

27 Shore Drive; T: 732.872.1158

### Highlands Fire Department

17-1 Shore Drive; T: 732.889.6929

### Henry Hudson Regional High School

T: 732.872.0900

### Highlands Elementary School

T: 732.872.1476

### Highlands Star Committee

Want to receive Highlands Star by email? Write us at:

E: [HighlandsStarNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandsStarNewsletter@gmail.com)

Editor: Tara Ryan. Members: Donica Basinger, Carolyn Broullon, Jennifer Olson

Highlands Star  
Borough of Highlands  
42 Shore Drive  
Highlands, NJ 07732

# Highlands Star

Volume 1; Issue 1 (March 2014)



## About the Star

The Star is named after a local Highlands newspaper that flourished in our town during the 1920s. The Highlands Star is published by the Borough of Highlands.

## Notes from the Borough

- The next election in Highlands, for two council seats, is **TUESDAY, MAY 13**. All precincts in Highlands vote at the Firehouse, which is located at 17-1 Shore Drive. For information on registering to vote, please call Borough Hall at 732.872.1224.
- Council meetings are every first and third Wednesday of each month at 8pm at Highlands Elementary School on Navesink Ave.
- Zoning Board meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at Highlands Elementary School.
- Planning Board meetings are the third Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at Highlands Elementary School
- Bulk trash collection is done four times a year, in March, June, September, and December. Remember that each household is limited to 4 bins or other containers; in total, about the size of a sofa. Please check the borough website ([www.highlandsnj.com](http://www.highlandsnj.com)) for your zone and timing of bulk pickup.
- Upcoming Highlands events:
  - March 22: *St. Patrick's Day Parade*
  - May 15: *Seaport Craft Show*
  - June 28: *Taste of Highlands*

## Grant Updates

By Steven L. Nelson, AICP, Local Recovery Planning Manager, New Jersey Future

The Borough has applied for over \$7.4 million in grants related to Sandy recovery over the last year. These grant applications include \$3,400,000 in FEMA Public Assistance grants, which would reimburse the Borough for activities such as debris removal, temporary office and facility space, emergency protective measures, and minor repairs to various Borough facilities. Grant applications also include approximately \$2 million for house demolition and debris removal; \$1.5 million for the Bay Avenue Streetscape project; approximately \$135,000 NEG Workforce Development Program for hiring inspectors and solution center and distribution center staff; and \$135,000 from the Snowflake Foundation for the installation of new playground structures, renovation of the outdoor court areas, and installing more resilient flooring at Robert D. Wilson Memorial Community Center.

Of this \$7.4 million in grant requests, the Borough has received approximately \$1,110,000 in grants, including nearly \$841,000 for FEMA Public Assistance grants, \$135,000 NEG Workforce Development, and \$135,000 Snowflake Foundation grant. We are awaiting final decisions on the remaining grants for which the borough has applied.

Additionally, in 2013, the Borough received \$363,000 in grants for non-Sandy related projects, as well as a grant for \$784,000 for lifting houses that were impacted by Hurricane Irene.

### Did you know...

That the Water Witch Coffee shop uses 50 to 60 pounds of coffee a week, depending on the season? That's about 500 cups of coffee a week!

Take the Rutgers Survey  
[RutgersPostSandySurvey.org](http://RutgersPostSandySurvey.org)

## Flooding Mitigation Solutions in Progress

By Councilman Chris Francy

**Keep the river out of Highlands:** The US Army Corp of Engineers "Line of Protection," which is a combination of sand dune barriers, concrete capped bulkheads, and raised grass berms forming a line of protection for Highlands at 13.5' elevation. The project is in design feasibility phase, with an estimated cost of \$50 million. If approved, this project could move forward with engineering design starting 18 months from now, with construction starting in 3 to 4 years.

**Keep Route 36 storm water runoff out of Highlands:** Construct new storm water pipe from Route 36 directly to the river, with no outlets in Highlands. The project cost estimate is \$800K; T&M is currently designing engineering plans. Highlands was awarded a \$530,000, zero interest loan for this project, which could be completed by the end of 2014

**Pump any water in Highlands out:** Improve Highlands' capability to pump storm water and tidal flooding from Bay Ave and downtown areas between Bay and the river. Construct a new pump station at the end of Snug Harbor in Jones Creek; new storm water drainage pipes to move water that ponds on Bay Ave and the downtown streets to Jones Creek or the Valley St. Pump; replace the existing storm water pipe under Valley St.; improve storm water drainage to the North St. pump; and replace the current North St pump. This project is fully permitted and shovel-ready, and Highlands is currently preparing bid documents to advertise for construction of project. The estimated cost is \$4.6 million, funded by low interest bonds. We are still hoping to obtain federal or state grants for 75% of this project cost, but we can't wait any longer. We need to move forward. This project is estimated to take 2 years for construction.

## Highlands Borough Arts Council

By Donica Basinger

Local artist Lois Bajor has wanted an Arts Council in Highlands for quite a while. As a member of the Highlands Long Term Recovery group, she realized others shared her vision of a place to display art as well as sponsoring art classes and exhibitions. Lois decided to start an Arts Council along with a few other artists. The Borough supported her idea, and now the HBAC is functional and sponsoring events.

The HBAC now has art programs at Ptak Tower for young people and adults. Future plans include an on-going art show in the parking lot of the Community Center on Saturdays coinciding with the Farmers Market in Huddy Park. Also in the planning stages are an open-mike night at the Water Witch Coffee and Tea Shop, featuring the Spoken Word, and a four-part series of in-house concerts featuring local professional musicians. A permanent gallery space is being prepared. Details of all of these projects will be announced soon.

The HBAC now has almost 50 paid members. When you join the HBAC, you also receive privileges at the Atlantic Highlands Arts Council. You do not have to be an artist to join the HBAC, you just have to appreciate and support the arts in Highlands. For more information, please call Lois Bajor at 732.320.5701.

## Streetscape Grant

One of the high priority recommendations from the recently completed FEMA planning process was to help revitalize Bay Avenue's business districts by installing new street lights, new crosswalks, new sidewalks, new street furniture like benches, and street trees or planters. The Borough applied for the \$1.5 million dollar grant for this "Streetscaping" project and was recently notified that this application was selected as one of four applications in the state to move on to the next step – an environmental and historical review. The state-required review may take up to 2½ months to complete. One of the exciting aspects of this grant is that the costs of the design are covered by the grant, which will allow Borough businesses and residents to be involved in the final design. Stay tuned for more details.