

Dear Friends,

With the hot and muggy summer months behind us, I hope all are looking forward to cooler months ahead and the upcoming holiday season. As our children are back in school for the new academic year, we remind everyone to drive carefully for the safety of the students while they travel back and forth.

The Borough's 2022 capital improvement program is nearing completion with this year's ambitious list of projects:

- Reconstruction of Seagate Avenue with the help of NJ DOT grant funds
- Concrete repairs, milling and paving of Second Street between Beach & Dock Streets
- Reconstruction of Fourth Street, southeast of Pine Street
- Miscellaneous concrete and roadway repairs
- Underground drainage system and sod at the Helen Hayes Park soccer fields
- Irrigation system at the Municipal Building property

Funds have not been released by the Community Development Block Grant program for our anticipated reconstruction of Seventh Street between Florence Avenue & Pine Street. This delay is not unusual and, if the grant funds are not released soon, the work will be the first to be completed in the new construction season. Problems with the bidding process have kept us from moving forward with resurfacing projects at Firefighter's Park & Scholer Park but the funding remains in place for a near future second try. The Borough has contracted for a new electronic signboard at Borough Hall and you can look for its installation in the coming months.

We would like to thank Monmouth County for the completion of the new Broadway bridge and the milling and paving of Florence Avenue, Front Street and Broadway. Preliminary planning and design work has begun on the County's plan to replace the Florence Avenue bridge, also.

I am happy to advise that Contract 1 of the US Army Corps of Engineers flood protection project has been awarded and construction is expected to begin in the next couple of months. Contract 1 consists of terminal groins (jettys), beach expansion with dunes and berms along with pedestrian walkovers at the beachfront.

There are many Fall events taking place in the Borough this year and I encourage all to check the Borough's website for details as they get close. One that I would like to mention is the dedication of the Paul J. Smith, Jr. Municipal Complex with the long awaited completion of the renovation and addition project at Borough Hall. We have set a date of Saturday, October 22nd with more details to follow.

Our community is very fortunate to have dedicated First Responders, employees, professional staff, volunteers and residents who make our town the best it can be. Myself and Council thank them all.

May God bless all our First Responders and keep them safe.

God bless all of you and your families.

Be safe!!

Charlie