



# BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS

December 2025

A Message from our Mayor:

As we all begin to reflect back on the year that was, please allow me to share with you some of the accomplishments and improvements around our Borough in 2025:

## **Public Works**

Our Department of Public Works and our Water and Sewer Utility under the capable leadership of Jon Brodbeck has dealt with multiple issues around water meter installations and hook ups for new houses.

Completed the Holly Avenue and Lake Drive road drainage and infrastructure improvements as well as the Boy Scout Island and Boat Ramp improvements. Both roads were paved and new curbing was put in place.

Paving and curbing were completed on Garden, Maple and Garfield Avenues.

Worked with the County to complete the Simpson Avenue paving alongside our School and it was ready when the students arrived in September.

Painted the Central Avenue Pavilion to keep the structure in good repair.

Repaired Well Number Two of our potable water system with no interruption to our water services.

Installed new water meters in ninety percent of our commercial and residential properties. Our water utility will be switching over to the new potable water metering and billing system on January 1st. Customers who do not have a new meter installed by the deadline will no longer receive free installation and will have additional quarterly charges for not replacing the water meter.

New soft sand was placed on Wanamaker Beach at Summit Avenue helping to maintain a jewel of a beach for our families.

The Groin (bulkhead) at the bottom of Simpson Avenue is being restored. The original groin dated back to the 1920s. This new structure will protect the Pavilion from the eastern wave action.

**PO Box 797  
1 East End Avenue  
Island Heights, NJ 08732  
(732) 270-6415  
Fax: (732) 270-8586**

# **BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS**

The Groin installed at Long Point has regrown ten feet of sand and has eased the erosion on that end of the Island.

Significant boardwalk restoration took place this year bringing our boardwalk up to a standard we can enjoy and be proud of.

New fencing was installed at Memorial Field for the tennis and basketball courts using grant funds from the State. Our Pickleball Court will be resurfaced in 2026.

More than fifteen new shade trees were planted on Borough Property including a new holiday tree at Memorial Field.

An Eagle Scout Project was completed at our Library with the installation of a bike rack, our thanks to Roman Fumo.

Engineering is in process for the restoration and paving of Chestnut, Park and Westray Avenues in the spring. In 2026 we will be working to restore and pave Cedar and Laurel Avenues and Ensor Place. Next up will be Oak Avenue and the last section of Maple Avenue by the River.

Drainage improvements are being studied for the corner of Lake Avenue and Siddons Court.

New flooring was installed at our Post Office. Emergency HVAC repairs were complete during the summer and the project will be completed in the spring of 2026.

## **Police Department**

Under the Leadership of Lt. Rutledge and Sgt. Caruso our Police Department has:

Received renewal of their Accreditation from the NJ Chiefs of Police. This is a notable achievement and one highly unusual for a town our size. Accreditation is process which assures our officers are well trained on proper police procedures. Really, I think about it as they are doing their job and this ensures that they do it right!

Hired new Full Time Officer Sergio DePinto.

Appointed Officer Dominique D'Amico-Violante to the position of Detective.

**PO Box 797  
1 East End Avenue  
Island Heights, NJ 08732  
(732) 270-6415  
Fax: (732) 270-8586**

# **BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS**

Responded to 7,990 calls for service.

Issued 780 summons year to date.

Detective D'Amico-Violante and Officer DePinto received recognition for subduing a dangerous individual armed with a knife.

Officer Zappola scored 1st place in the Iron Sight Rifle Division at the Ocean County Chiefs of Police Pistol Match.

Specialized training for our Officers included the Alcotest System, defensive tactics and rifle instructor certification.

## **Fire Company**

Our all Volunteer Fire Company gave us another tremendous year of service with a one hundred percent response rate. Our volunteers participate in numerous community activities throughout the year while raising the funds necessary to operate at a high level.

The Company and the Borough worked together last year to fund and order a new fire truck that we hope to see it delivered in the next twenty four months.

## **First Aid Squad**

We sat with our First Aid Squad over two years ago to establish a strategy for them to grow and successfully serve the Borough. We have limited EMS mutual aid options to provide critical services to our residents with the anticipation of county wide EMS system.

The property which was deeded to our Squad in 1974 was sold and they reinvested the funds in a new lease and construction of an upgraded facility with resting and shower facilities and a social area with a television for watching sports or playing video games with the strategy of getting younger members to serve and answer our calls.

After being publicly available for sale for over six months in 2023/24 the squad received offers and sold at the end of 2024, moving into their new facility this year.

**PO Box 797  
1 East End Avenue  
Island Heights, NJ 08732  
(732) 270-6415  
Fax: (732) 270-8586**

# **BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS**

From their new Headquarters, our Squad has responded to dozens of calls for service from our residents this year. They are one of only a few all volunteer First Aid Squads still operating in Ocean County. No resident is ever billed for their services.

If you want to volunteer, please contact them. We all need you to help them!

## **Environmental Committee**

Our Environmental Committee achieved Bronze Recertification this year from Sustainable Jersey while they focused on several nice projects in our community including the maintenance of the bioswale at the Wanamaker Complex and Earth Day educational activities and a sapling tree giveaway.

Another wooded property was added to the County Open Space Preservation Trust. The property across from police station which was a favorite of town children will now stand the test of time as green space.

## **Property Taxes**

We try to manage projects with grants and we have been working hard to find them. During my time as Mayor, we have received over seven million dollars in grants including County, State and Federal funding. A terrific track record to supplement our municipal tax dollars.

Foreclosures were completed on several delinquent properties in the Borough. The property owners had not paid taxes on these properties in some cases back to the 1980s!

Our fiscal discipline has maintained a modest increase in our municipal tax rate. Since 2018 just 2.3 cents increase which is among lowest in the County at the municipal level. Since 2018, the accumulated inflation rate has been twenty nine percent. We have managed your tax dollars on less than a five percent increase!

**PO Box 797  
1 East End Avenue  
Island Heights, NJ 08732  
(732) 270-6415  
Fax: (732) 270-8586**

# **BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS**

## **Administration**

Our Borough Clerk (Sean Asay) and Deputy Clerk (Penny Hagan) work with a dedicated staff to perform a myriad of tasks for our Residents and the Governing Body.

Accomplishments of note this year:

Completed the automation of our code enforcement, construction and zoning permitting and tracking so that all permits and open violations are recorded and tracked in the SDL system.

Provided our construction and zoning customers with a list of frequently asked questions and upgraded our construction public portal to allow customers to request inspections and perform detailed searches on Borough properties.

Updated our website "forms" page so that customers can find and fill out commonly used Borough Forms and email them to the Office.

Upgraded our television channel and website systems, our television channel now appears on comcast cable, Verizon Fios television and can be streamed from anywhere via the link on our website.

Completed a financial rating review that resulted in our credit rating being increased by the rating agencies (a rare event indeed).

## **Mayor's Year End Message**

The projects listed in this email for all areas of the Borough are the big things we do each year beyond the normal day to day of collecting taxes, answering calls and helping residents with everything from A-Z. From picking up an old sofa to answering an emergency police call. From helping with a water issue to responding to a vehicle accident.

Our employees work hard in each of our departments and lead great teams that care about the residents. You can see that in their smiles when they greet you!

Our committees and volunteers including recreation, planning board and environmental give of their time to make a difference every day.

**PO Box 797  
1 East End Avenue  
Island Heights, NJ 08732  
(732) 270-6415  
Fax: (732) 270-8586**

# **BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS**

Our volunteer first responders fire, first aid and emergency management are people we should be grateful for every day.

Our Borough Council works hard, with Rolf Weber Council President, Brian Gabriel, Lynn Pendleton, Bob Baxter, Alan Fumo and Sandi Healy. A great team that truly cares about our town.

I am concluding seven years as your Mayor. Thank you for your confidence and support. I look forward to a great 2026 and the Celebration of the 250th Birthday of the United States of America!

May the new year bring peace to the world and health to your house. We can only pray.

**Steve Doyle**  
**Mayor**

**PO Box 797**  
**1 East End Avenue**  
**Island Heights, NJ 08732**  
**(732) 270-6415**  
**Fax: (732) 270-8586**