



## SURF CITY TAXPAYER ASSOCIATION

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CONCERNED TAXPAYER ASSOCIATION OF  
THE BOROUGH OF SURF CITY, NJ (SCTA)  
201 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Surf City, NJ 08008

[www.surfcitytaxpayer.com](http://www.surfcitytaxpayer.com)

### **Surf City Flooding**

Individuals and small neighborhood groups have contacted the Taxpayer Association regarding flooding issues in Surf City. It is a subject that is brought up at nearly every general meeting the Surf City Taxpayer Association holds.

Our approach to the issue and the questions associated with it is four-fold:

1. Recognize that different flooding problems exist for the ocean block, the middle block(s) and the bay block. This can cause some confusion since some people see major problems while other see no problems at all.
2. Inform our members of the steps the Borough is taking, and the information available to the taxpayers of Surf City. We will try to provide information to help members understand what coastal flooding means.
3. Encourage individuals and small neighborhood groups to communicate with each other. This will allow everyone to share information and problem situations with the group and consolidate questions for the borough to eliminate redundant questions to the borough.
4. Use the Surf City Taxpayer website and general meetings to update our members regarding flooding and related remedial plans and actions taken.

#### Information

Grants and money may be available to assist the borough. Surf City officials informed us that all available grants and money were applied for, and Surf City flood plan was up to date and approved.

To better understand what a coastal flooding alert means, and how to compare flood levels to standard tides, and unusually high tides from wind and weather, the following link is provided by Stevens Institute Flood Advisory

System. The user can pick the station (it defaults to Ship Bottom) and the dates you want to see.

<http://hudson.dl.stevens-tech.edu/sfas/d/index.shtml?station=U226>

Surf City Borough has a master plan, dated April 17, 2019, created by Frank Little, a civil engineer. It is 87 pages long and available to the public. The plan has 6 goals. Goal 6 is support environmental protection of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive features. It discusses Storm Water and Nuisance Flooding, Roadways, bulkheads and living shorelines. It also has a section titled A Municipal Assessment of Local Coastal vulnerabilities. The Master Plan can be accessed at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o9QaA00WnJGeXyawfH1FyWf75-2qWrnR/view?ts=5dd004d8>

According to Pete Hartney, Christine Hannermann, our Borough Clerk, took over the Borough's involvement with *Sustainable NJ* which is the NJ DEP related organization dealing with flood mitigation and related issues. Pete also said the 7th Street project, now funded, is in the planning stages.

At the January Council meeting, Councilwoman Jackie Siciliano reported that flood related construction on 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> street were scheduled to start March of 2020 and that 7th would be fall of 2020.

### Communication and Sharing

Many residents, particularly west of Barnegat Avenue, have similar questions and issues. It is counterproductive to ask the Borough to answer the same questions repeatedly from various residents. With this in mind, it would be beneficial to funnel the questions and issues, as well as responses from the Borough, go through one person. Rick Bushnell has been involved with the flooding issues for some time and has provided the Board of the Taxpayer Association with most of the information included in this letter. Rick would be the best point person and can be contacted by email at [rickpatsy@comcast.net](mailto:rickpatsy@comcast.net)

### Updates

We will use the Taxpayers Association two general meetings (typically held in June and August) and our web site to keep everyone up to date on the flooding and road improvements. The website is at following link:

<http://surfcitytaxpayer.com/blog>

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## **Resiliency Update 5/21/2020**

### **Actions by the Borough of Surf City:**

**Advocate for the Borough to State & Federal officials in relation to dredging the bay and nuisance flooding.**

### **Complete beach replenishment project.**

Participated in an extensive study coastal resiliency study with the *Jacques Cousteau* National Estuarine *Research* Reserve.

Our team has applied for Hazard Mitigation Grants and has been awarded the following:

- 10 homeowners were awarded grant monies to raise their homes.
- The wells & components are in the process of being located above base flood.

Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program – Community Rating System (CRS) to raise awareness to flooding, mitigation and resiliency.

- 4 -5 public outreach events each year.
- Public notices to the newspaper.
- Multiple direct mailings to taxpayers.
- Message posted to the digital sign.
- Maintain files of elevation certificates for taxpayers for inquiries.
- LBI PPI Facebook page.
- Digital sign messages.
- Collaborate with the other island municipalities to promote public outreach, research, and share information, multiple times throughout the year.
- Review ordinances for the CRS portfolio and make changes as needed.
- Literature available at Borough Hall.
- Maintain a flood resources page on the Borough website.
- Raise awareness for stormwater issues.

Repair and/or replaced several bulkheads over the last year.

The N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street project is complete. N. 6<sup>th</sup> will be completed next week.

N. 7<sup>th</sup>, N. 4<sup>th</sup>, & N. 3<sup>rd</sup> reconstruction projects are being surveyed at this time. These streets are approved within two separate grants. N. 7<sup>th</sup> & the first portion of N. 4<sup>th</sup> will be bid this summer with work to be completed in the fall. We have just received notice for additional NJDOT monies and will continue to move south along the three blocks to raise streets and improve drainage.

Participate in the Coastal Resiliency Regional Team with all island municipalities and the St. Francis center with the NJDEP and private engineering firms in a \$200K grant award program. This is phase one of a two phase program.

Sean MacCotter, the Construction Official, is also the Floodplain manager. He can help to answer questions to residents during Building Dept hours.