

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

The Township Committee Regular Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:01 pm. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Barbara Rogers, Matthew Scott, Evelyn Spann, Jay Taylor (entered 7:24 p.m.) and Mayor Michael Ferrante. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO; Thomas Decker, Township Engineer; Michael Owens, Chief of Police and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Ferrante led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin read the following Open Public Meetings Act statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided:

Posted on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 22, 2021.

Filed on January 22, 2021 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection. Township website was previously updated with remote access information on April 24, 2020, and updated June 18, 2020.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Ms. Rubin read the following additional statement:

**Cranbury Township**

**Statement on Public Comment during Remote Meeting**

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to [twpcclerk@cranbury-nj.com](mailto:twpcclerk@cranbury-nj.com) or in written letter form via mail to Cranbury Township Town Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled Committee Meeting. Name, address and phone or email must be included. Timely submitted questions or public comment shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting. Duplicate written comments may be summarized and noted for the record in a consistent manner.

To eliminate background noise so that all meeting participants may hear, please mute your microphone and remain in listening mode only. The Clerk will place all remote attendees on this platform on mute as well and will manage the order of the remote participant's comments. During public comment period(s), the Clerk will make an announcement that any remote participant seeking to comment must signify their intent by using the "raise hand" feature on Zoom. The Clerk will then unmute each participant individually when it is their designated time to speak. If you do not have a question or comment, please keep your microphone muted. Please unmute yourself only at the direction of the Clerk. All remote users must state their name and address at the beginning of his/her public comment.

Should a member of the public using the Zoom platform become disruptive, that individual will be kept on mute and receive a warning that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking or removed from the meeting entirely. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak. The Township Committee will facilitate a dialogue with all commenters to the extent permitted by Zoom technology.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Ferrante asked if any members of the Township Committee would like to address changes or amendments to the following minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to adopt the following minutes as presented:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

**--Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021 and;**

On a motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Scott, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (Rogers  
(Scott  
(Ferrante

Abstain: (Spann  
Absent: (Taylor

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021 were adopted.

**Reports and Communications  
Members of Committee**

- Dr. Rogers – Dr. Rogers reported that Cranbury Day was successful along with the 9/11 Memorial. Dr. Rogers added that many Municipal boards and commission had tables with information and activities highlighting their different sustainability efforts. Information included topics on health and wellness, environmental issues and supporting local businesses. Dr. Rogers reported on her attendance at the Shade Tree Commission meeting.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott apologized for his absence at Cranbury Day due to new job responsibilities. He reported on EDAC and their plans to sponsor new events in the future to aid in their mission. Mr. Scott to discuss the upcoming Cranbury 325th year celebration with EDAC to plan for events throughout the year. EDAC to contact Audrey Smith, Township Historian, for information on the 325<sup>th</sup> year celebration.
- Mrs. Spann – Mrs. Spann praised three (3) students that created the 9/11 Memorial in Heritage Park. She added the Helene Cody 5k race starting at Heritage Park worked very well and aided in the circulation of the attendees. Mrs. Spann welcomed The Market on Main which is a newly opened business located in the village. Mrs. Spann thanked Jerry Thorne, Director, and the entire Department of Public Works for the setup and cleanup for Cranbury Day. She further extended her thanks to the CBA for their hard work and collaborations on Cranbury Day. She reported on her attendance at the Planning Board and Historic Preservation Commission meetings. Mrs. Spann also reported that the Zoning Committee planned work on the township sign ordinance and the newly approved Statewide Municipal Electric Vehicle (EV) ordinance at their upcoming September meeting.
- Mr. Taylor – Mr. Taylor thanked the two (2) Cranbury resident Girl Scouts that raised and donated \$850.00 for the Parks Commission to buy an ADA picnic table for Heritage Park.

**Mayor**

Mayor Ferrante – The following items were covered under the Mayor's Updates and Upcoming Events;

- Cranbury Day – Thank you, CBA, American Legion Post 401, Helene Cody Foundation
- 9/11 Display – Thank you, Gavin / Donovan / Tess
- ADA Picnic Tables in Heritage Park – Victoria Pagano / Elaina Phillips – Girl Scout project
- Disaster Aid Coordination – Coordinated efforts between township and neighboring towns in sending uniform letter requesting assistance. Mayor Ferrante contacted the Governor Murphy's office to discuss needs of residents and businesses of Cranbury.
- Lake Project – Pre-Con Meeting 9/10
- Library Project – Foundation poured
- Market on Main Grand Opening on Cranbury Day. Wishing them the best of luck!
- Sidewalks on Main Street at Gateway- All were completed before the first day of school.



TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

- COVID-19 Vaccinations as of 8/24:
  - 100% of Cranbury adults have one dose
  - 98% of adults fully vaccinated (99% / 91% for all 12+ eligible)

**Upcoming Events**

Sept 15: Mayor's Wellness – Zumba  
Sept 18: Rabies Clinic  
Oct 2/3: Clean Up Day – DPW yard  
Oct 16: CEF Fall Festival 3:00 - 7:00 pm  
2022: Cranbury's 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Department Head –**

Sam Distasio, Fire Chief, gave the monthly report including the number of calls in August totaling 65 calls. He further reported the Fire Department was involved in 20 calls and 6 water rescues on August 22<sup>nd</sup> during Tropical Storm Henri. Chief Distasio reported that many drivers did not adhere to cones blocking flooded roadways.

Chief Michael Owens, Chief of Police, will provide statistics in his monthly report at the next Township Committee meeting. His attendance tonight is for the presentation scheduled later under the Work Session.

**Follow-up Items**

- Review Deer Management Ordinance prior to implementation in 2022 – Follow up to be scheduled in 2022. No need for additional follow up in 2021.

**Agenda Additions/Changes – None**

**Boards and Commissions – Vacancies: None**

**Ordinances –**

**First Reading – None**

**Second Reading –**

**Resolutions – Consent**

Mayor Ferrante asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda resolution(s). On a motion by Mr. Taylor seconded by Mr. Scott the following Consent Resolution(s) were adopted unanimously by the following vote:

Ayes: (Rogers  
(Scott  
(Spann  
(Taylor  
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #R 07-21-106**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township of Cranbury that all bills and claims as audited and found to be correct be paid;

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP # R 09-21-107**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87  
(CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

Section 1

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2021 in the sum of \$50,950.00 which item is now available as a revenue from the federal government via the State of New Jersey pursuant to the provision of statute, and

Section 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$50,950.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Body Worn Camera".

Section 3

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk to be a true copy forwarded to each of the following:

- (a) Director of the Division of Local Government Services
- (b) Township Chief Financial Officer

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #09-21-108  
Agreement to Renew Membership in the  
Mid Jersey Municipal Joint Insurance Fund**

**WHEREAS**, the Mid Jersey Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (hereinafter the FUND) is a duly chartered Municipal Insurance Fund as authorized by N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq; and

**WHEREAS**, the TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY is currently a member of said FUND, and;

**WHEREAS**, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022\*, said membership will expire unless earlier renewed, and;

**WHEREAS**, the governing body fo the TOWNSHIP FO CRANBURY resolved to renew said membership;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is agreed as follows:

1. The TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY hereby renews its membership in the Mid Jersey Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for a three (3) year period, beginning January 1, 2022 , and ending January 1, 2025\*.



TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

2. The TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY hereby ratifies and reaffirms the Indemnity and Trust Agreement, Bylaws and other organizational and operational documents of the Mid Jersey Municipal Joint Insurance Fund as from time to time amended and altered by the Department of Banking and Insurance in accordance with the applicable Statutes and administrative regulations as if each and every one of said documents were re-executed contemporaneously herewith.
3. The TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY agrees to be a participating member of the FUND for the period herein provided for and to comply with all of the rules and regulations and obligations associated with said membership.
4. In consideration of the continuing membership of the TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, the Mid Jersey Municipal Joint Insurance Fund agrees, subject to the continuing approval of the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance to accept the renewal application of the TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY.
5. Executed the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021 as the lawful and binding act and deed of the TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, which execution has been duly authorized by public vote of the governing body.

\*12:01 a.m.

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-21-109  
GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT  
FORM OF RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

**WHEREAS**, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2020 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

**WHEREAS**, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

**WHEREAS**, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Committee of the Township of Cranbury, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION NO. 09-21-110**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A  
DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF  
CRANBURY AND MOBIN MANAGEMENT GROUP, P.C.**

**WHEREAS**, the Cranbury Township Zoning Board (Zoning Board) granted Mobin Management Group, P.C., preliminary and final major site plan approval on March 7, 2019, with variances and conditions, for property located at 112 South Main Street, designated on the Cranbury Township tax maps as Block 18.07, Lots 44 and 45 ("subject property"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoning Board's approval was memorialized on May 1, 2019, by Resolution # ZBA305-17 ("Zoning Board Approval"); and

**WHEREAS**, Mobin Management Group, P.C., plans to demolish all existing improvements on the subject property, and in their place, construct a three-story mixed-use building, which will consist of 2,500 square feet of either retail or general office space on the ground floor, 2,500 square feet of medical or general office space on the second floor, and two apartments on the third floor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoning Board Approval requires, among other things, that "[t]he applicant will enter into a developer's agreement with the Township, the form and substance of which shall be subject to the prior review and approval of the township Attorney, to address any fair share offsite contributions, sewer contributions, and connection fees, as well as any other conditions of this approval that the Township in its discretion shall deem reasonable and necessary to include . . . ."; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the Township to execute a Developer's Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit 1) with Mobin Management Group, P.C., to ensure that construction of the mixed-use building is conformance with the Zoning Board Approval and Township requirements.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury authorizes the Township Clerk and the Township Mayor to execute the Developer's Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit 1.



TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-20-111**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, NJ**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF EXTRA DUTY ESCROW

WHEREAS, Fischer Contracting, has outstanding credits of \$715.00 in their Extra Duty escrow account previously posted with the Township.

WHEREAS, the Police Department has no outstanding bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that the Township of Cranbury release outstanding credits in Fischer Contracting's extra duty escrow account.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk to be a true copy forwarded to each of the following:

- (a) Township Director of Finance
- (b) Fischer Contracting

**Work Session – Hurricane Henri After Action Report:**

- OEM Update/Disaster Relief – Presentation by Chief Michael Owens, Chief of Police/OEM Coordinator – Chief Owens made a visual presentation which is attached for public review. The Township Committee suggested the possibility of reestablishing the CERT program and questioned the backup policies for dispatching services.
- Dam Performance/Lake Project/Stormwater Regulations – Thomas Decker, Township Engineer: Mr. Decker provided a verbal report in regards to the rainfall event, dam function, Brainerd Lake storage capacity and North Main Street which is attached for public review.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to immediately create a resolution waiving all construction fees for residents and businesses affected by Tropical Storm Henri as had been done in the past. Ms. Marabello suggested contacting the Construction Office in an effort to review the total amount of residents affected. Mayor Ferrante suggested the fees waiver begin retroactive to the date of storm and Mrs. Spann suggested continuation through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. Further discussion by the members had Mr. Taylor withdraw the motion in order for the resolution to be researched properly, prepared and added to the next Township Committee meeting of September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Ferrante advised that no additional comments were submitted via email by the deadline to be addressed during public comment.

- Kellie Lavery – “In 2020, the town created a safe zone on Main Street, to allow for safer trick-or-treating and social distancing. Closing the street to motor vehicles was a great idea, and well-received. I ask that the Township Committee again work with the Cranbury Fire Department, Police Department, and First Aid Squad to close a portion of Main Street to motor vehicles this Halloween.” – Chief Owens responded that he was not opposed to closing a portion of Main Street, however, he wanted to discuss any potential issues with the local clergy as Halloween is on a Sunday. Mrs. Spann recommended the members of the Traffic and Safety Subcommittee discuss together for final plan.
- Jignasa Desai - Follow-up on finishing the dirt area around the new crosswalk at Main St / Westminster. ACTION: D. Marabello to follow-up with contractor.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

- El and Marvin Sitrin - "The walking path along Old Cranbury Road next to Hagerty Park needs maintenance. It suffers from erosion as well as an over-abundance of weeds. Having an uneven surface, being choked with weeds and too narrow to accommodate the width of an adult's foot adds up to unsafe conditions. New gravel is needed after re-leveling." Ms. Marabello responded that when the path was suggested, it was agreed by the Township Committee members that it would not be maintained and could eventually go back to its natural state.
- Multiple Residents - Sidewalk completion on Main Street in Gateway development / crossing guard coverage. UPDATE: Sidewalk completed prior to 9/9 (First Day of School).
- Helene and Jack Hughes - Sewer pump station on road between firehouse and Wynnewood had erosion damage after Tropical Storm Henri --- promptly repaired by DPW team. Resident appreciated the prompt attention. ACTION: None
- Feather Houston - Lake wall re-building – coordinating with DEP during lake dredging project.
- Mary Eitken, Chris Cornick - Offer to support OEM/EDAC committee as needed.
- John Chambers - "Thank you Mayor for your personal dedication and personal service to the town in its hours of need during Hurricane Henri's dumping 8.9 inches of rain on Cranbury in just a few hours. You were a shining example of the best in personal leadership in that crisis when the dam overflowed. Thanks also to all the township departments who came to the rescue and to the citizens also who volunteered their goods, time and effort to help. I also admire your monthly reports, so informative and useful. Keep up the good work. We all appreciate it so much."
- Bill Bauder - Cedar Brook flooding at Petty Rd bridge – cleaning of culvert pipes, dedicated signs at both ends of Petty Rd, permanent barriers, lost traffic cones/barriers, natural gas line, man-made berm. Photos sent as well. Action: To be discussed with Department of Public Works, Police and the Township Engineer.
- Therese Sheehan (Hightstown Resident) - "Thanks for a great day on Saturday! It was really special! The flag tribute on the field for the day of remembrance was very moving!!"

Mayor Ferrante then opened the meeting to general public comment.

- Bill Bauder - Cedar Brook flooding at Petty Rd bridge – scheduled cleaning of culvert pipes, dedicated signs at both ends of Petty Rd (Plainsboro Rd and Dey Rd), permanent barriers, lost traffic cones/barriers, natural gas line poses a risk, man-made earthen berm washes downstream. Stream cleaning permit for debris removal from DEP.
- Eman El-Badawi - Dispatch overload – context / options.  
Sand bags – hard if we don't have notice  
Information – could we have emergency system like Cranbury School?  
Resiliency – partner with nearby towns
- Mary Eitken - CERT committee could be a good community response  
Kellie Lavery - Town Nixle system – cars stolen in driveways – reminder to not leave cars

unlocked

Hearing no further public comment, Mayor Ferrante closed the public comment portion at 9:17 p.m.

**Action Items:**

- Explore C.E.R.T. (Chief Owens)
- Pursue Cedar Brook clearing with DEP (Tom Decker)
- Stormwater management for interrupted drain west of Main Street (Tom Decker)
- Resiliency Plan – Explore how to move forward (Barbara Rogers)
- Draft Resolution waiving permit fees (Jay Taylor)
- Pursue Street Closing for Halloween (Chief Owens)
- Reinhardt Preserve – trees down (Paul Mullen)
- EDAC – 325 with HPC/EDAC (Matt Scott)
- Bike Plan F/U (Barbara Rogers)



TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
September 13, 2021

- Petty Rd Concerns (1) cleaning of culvert pipes (T. Decker), (2) dedicated signs at both ends of Petty Rd (J. Thorne/Chief Owens), (3) permanent barriers (J. Thorne/Chief Owens), (4) man-made berm (T. Decker).
- Explore communication modes beyond Nixle/Town Message (Chief Owens)

**Adjourn**

Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Rogers and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

---

Debra A. Rubin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

## **Rainfall Event**

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> Tropical Storm Henri deposited 9 to 10 inches of rain in Cranbury and surrounding areas over a 2-to-3-hour period. The storm was originally predicted to have high winds and a couple inches of rain. What occurred could not have been predicted. For reference the 100-year storm event as utilized in stormwater management design is 8.63 inches over a 24-hour period. Henri exceeded the 100-year storm event in that it occurred over a much shorter period of time. Also worth noting is that 30 years ago the 100-year design storm was for 7.3 inches over a 24-hour period. Stormwater runoff governed by rainfall amount, time and soil conditions. Excessive rainfall over a short period of time on fairly saturated soils resulted in a high volume of runoff.

## **Dam Function**

Brainerd Lake is a manmade lake created around 1840 by constructing a 382-foot earthen fill roadway embankment dam running the width of the lake. This dam is classified as a Significant Hazard Potential, Class II Dam by NJDEP. The significant hazard potential refers to the impact downstream population and properties should the dam be breached. A horseshoe shaped spillway controls the hydraulics of the dam and is set approximately 3 feet lower than the top of the dam. There is a sluice located approximately 7 feet below the spillway that remains closed during normal operations and can be opened periodically for maintenance purposes. The control structures were fully rehabilitated in 2014 and have been inspected every two (2) years since in accordance with NJDEP Dam Safety Regulations. The last full inspection and report were issued in March 2020.

The dam and its spillway are solely for the purpose of impounding the Cranbury Brook to from Brainerd Lake while maintaining the natural stream flow depths both upstream and downstream. The dam and spillway are not for the purpose of flood control.

The dam and its controls functioned as designed during the intense rainfall of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The concrete spillway successfully regulates typical storm events so as not to overtop the dam/Main Street. However, for an unpredictable storm event, the dam functions much the same way as an emergency spillway in a stormwater management basin. Tropical Storm Henri was an unprecedented storm that impacted Cranbury Township and its surrounding municipalities more so than any other region of the State. It could not be predicted nor modeled. Essentially it was an emergency condition. Water overtopped Main Street without breaching or compromising the dam's integrity. This is how an emergency spillway is meant to function and how the dam was originally designed.



## **Brainerd Lake Storage Capacity**

The available stormwater runoff storage of Brainerd Lake is limited to the volume above the standing water surface elevation to the top of the dam. The dredging project that will be starting in the upcoming weeks, will have no impact on available flood storage. The dredging project is solely for the purpose of removing 50 years of accumulated sediment, restoring the natural bottom and aquatic health of the lake.

There have been questions whether lowering the lake prior to a storm event would provide additional flood storage. This is not permitted. A Water Lowering Permit is required from the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife whenever the lake is to be lowered. For example, a permit was obtained for the upcoming lake dredging project.

Other than the timeframe associated in the application and review process to obtain a Water Lowering Permit, the permit has limitations. These limitations are for all lowering permits, not just the one issued for dredging.

- Lowering of the lake may commence no sooner than September 15<sup>th</sup> and no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Division's Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries is to be notified 24 hours prior to initial water lowering.
- During the lowering the rate of release must be controlled such that there is no over-bank flow of the primary downstream channel. In no case shall the lake be lowered by more than 1 foot within a 24-hour period.

These regulations are put in place for a reason. While lowering Brainerd Lake in anticipation of a storm event may mitigate some flooding, consideration must be given to the downstream receiving water bodies. An uncontrolled release of water from Brainerd Lake could impact the available storage in downstream ponds in other municipalities who will be experiencing the same predicted rainfall event. The required notification process of the lowering permit helps to ensure that the water release is controlled, coordinated with downstream waterways and does not coincide with a predicted storm event.

Even if lowering the lake were permitted and could be done in advance of Tropical Storm Henri, flooding would have likely still occurred given the intensity and short duration of the storm. Brainerd Lake has a drainage area of approximately 11.9 square miles. Nine (9) inches of rain over that area has a volume of approximately 332 million cubic feet, or approximately 80 times the volume of Brainerd Lake if empty and after dredging. Of the 11.9 mi<sup>2</sup> Brainerd Lake watershed, only 1.56 mi<sup>2</sup> (13%) originates in

Cranbury Township. Monroe Township contributes approximately 9.63 mi<sup>2</sup> (81%) and Millstone Township the remaining 0.71 mi<sup>2</sup> (6%).

### **North Main Street**

North Main Street and Areas to the West also experienced flooding. This flooding first occurred before Brainerd Lake crested. This is due to the carrying capacity of the storm drainage system being overwhelmed. These systems are typically designed for the 25-year storm event with the understanding that higher event storms may surcharge the inlets and continue along the road gutter line.

Our understanding is that the road flooding started to subside but rose again a second time. This coincided with the cresting of Brainerd Lake. Unlike the 1<sup>st</sup> flooding which was a capacity issue, the 2<sup>nd</sup> flooding was due to the lake backing up through the system.





! Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

# Tropical Storm Henri

Sunday, August 22, 2021

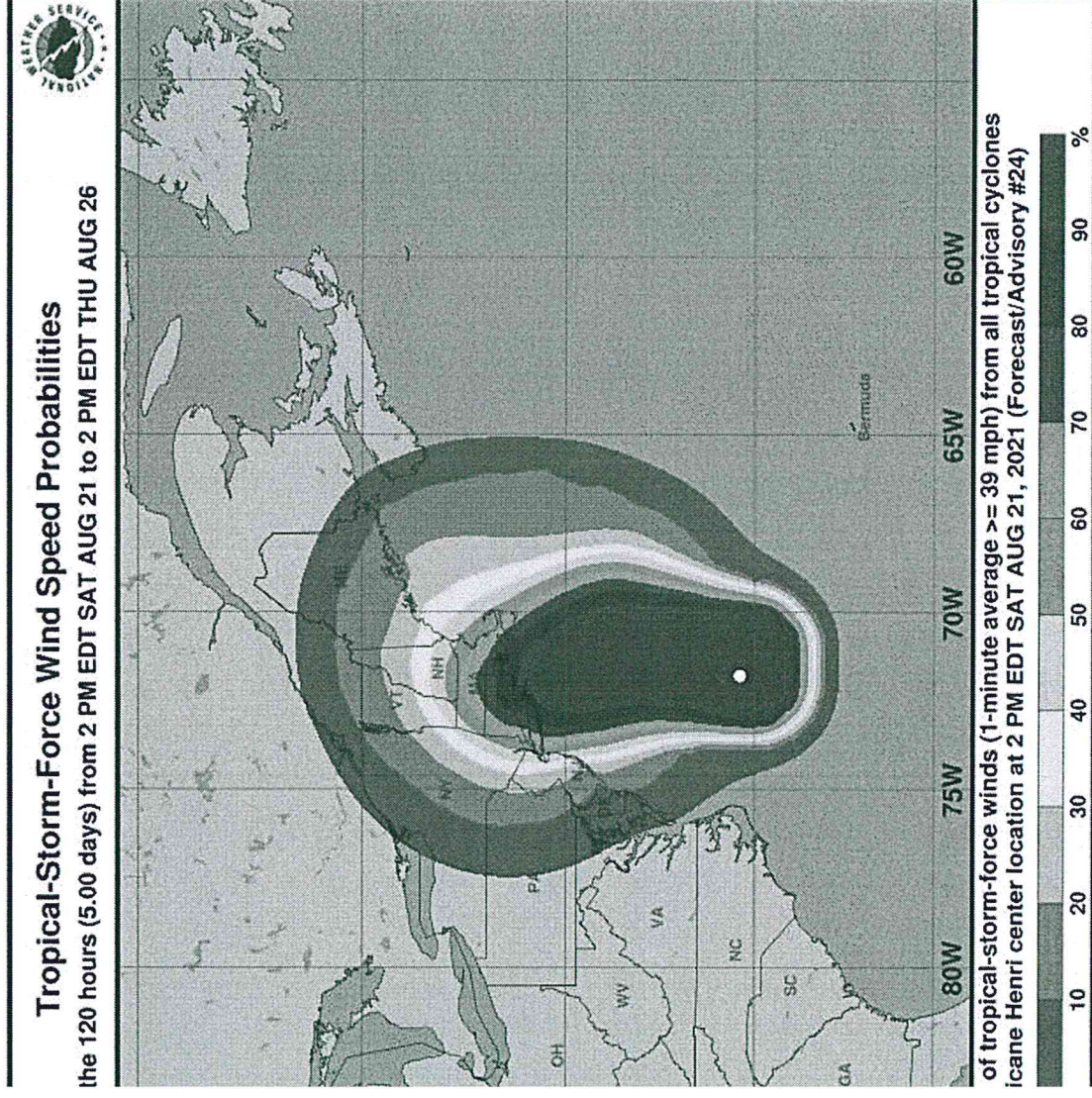
# EM Timeline, warnings, communications

- 6 pm Henri Briefing: Saturday, August 21st



# Wind Speed Probabilities

Storm Henri



- Potential remains for tropical storm force winds across East Central New Jersey
- Highest wind chances are tonight through Sunday morning.

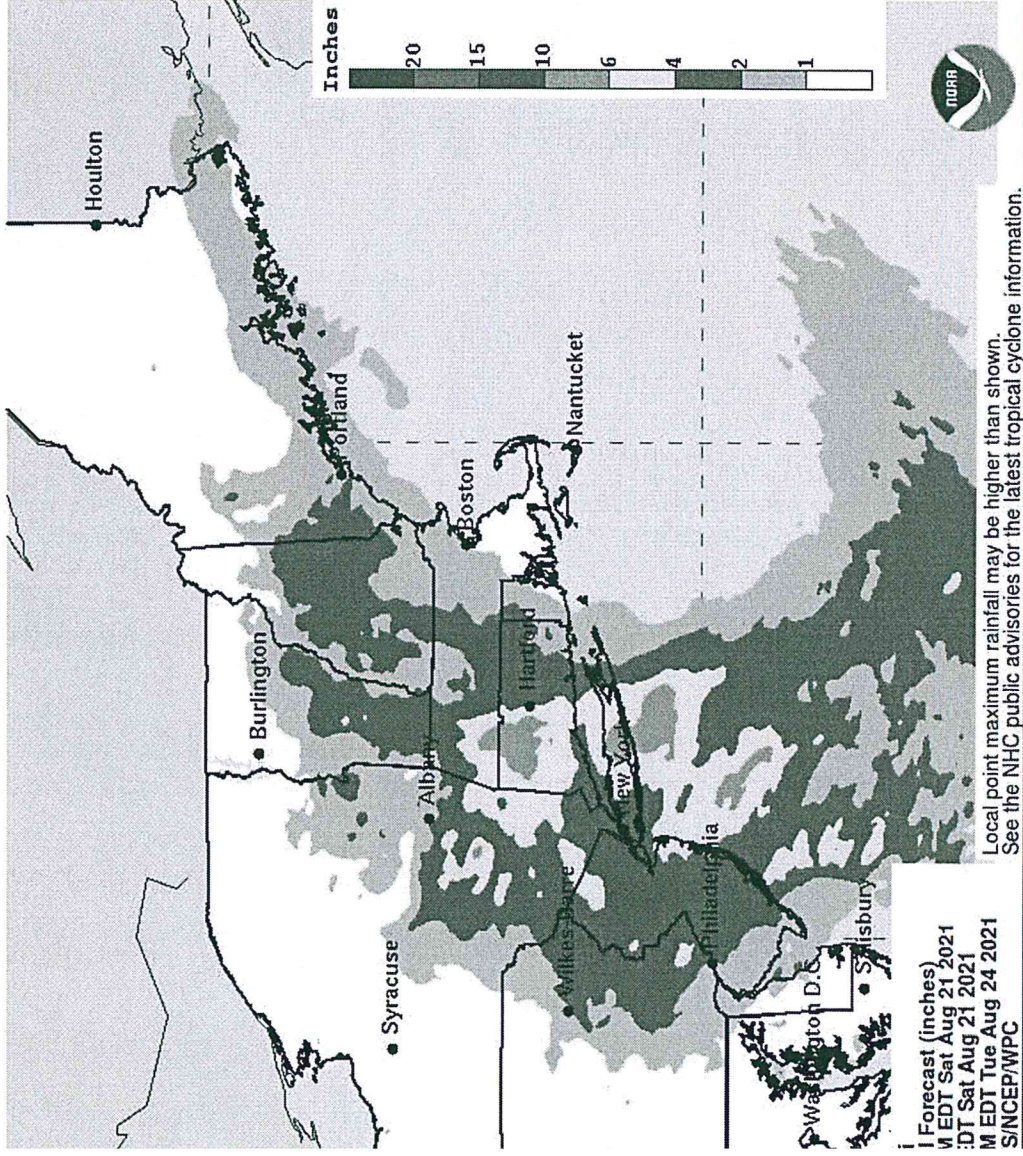


# ected Storm Total Rainfall

Storm Henri

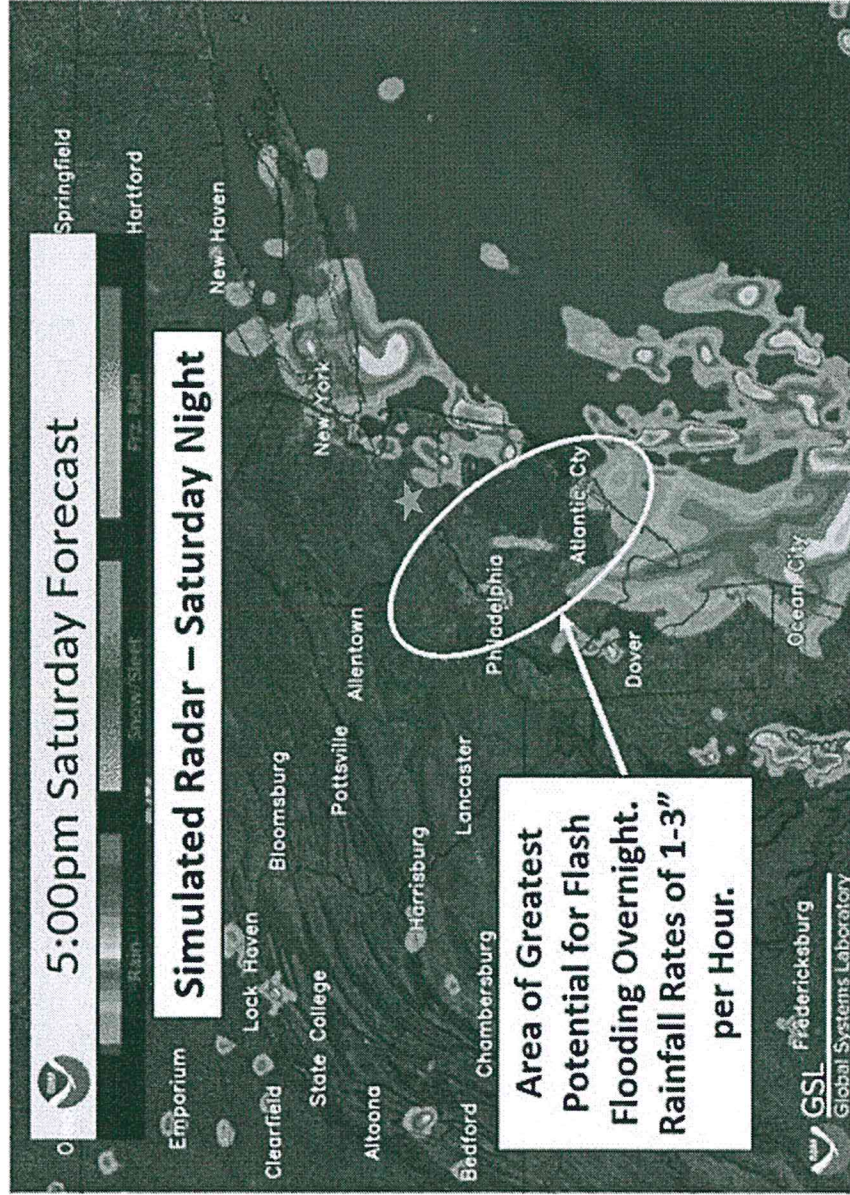


Note: There will likely be locally higher amounts



- Storm Total rainfall forecast via Saturday Afternoon through Sunday night
- Locally, most rain will occur Saturday night and Sunday





# Community Communications

Community Nixel – August 21, 2021 4:38 p.m.

Check in with Cranbury Fire / EMS

August 22, 2021 Heavy rainfall at 3:00 a.m.  
and first weather related call at 4:50 a.m.

August 22, 2021 10:00 a.m. – Nixel advising  
of road closures and heavy flooding in the  
area.

August 22, 2021 4:30 p.m. – Nixel updating  
road closures and reopening of roadways.

August 24, 2021 10:15 a.m. – Nixel for OEM  
meeting for damage assessment.

- Advisory: Cranbury OEM and Cranbury Emergency services are monitoring Hurricane Henri as it moves north. We are prepared for heavy rain and wind.
- Cranbury OEM and Emergency Services are monitoring Hurricane Henri. The storm is expected to affect our area late tonight through Sunday. Heavy wind and rain is expected with the possibility of flooding. Secure outdoor furniture, prepare for possible power outages, and avoid flooded areas. Avoid unnecessary travel. If you drive, do not go around police barricades and drive through flooded roads. Be safe!



9:05 5G

# Old Bridge, South River



Aug 22, 2021

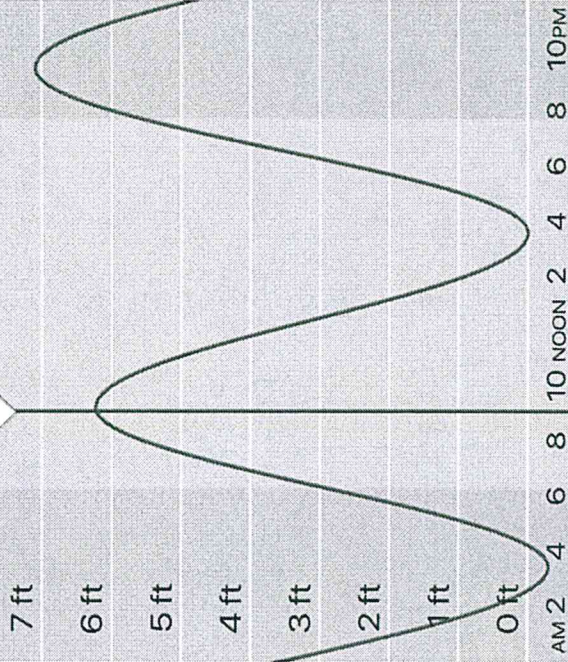
(Today)



Full Moon

70%

6.19 ft ↑



## Low Tides:

-0.3 ft @ 3:25 AM

-0.0 ft @ 3:36 PM

## High Tides:

6.2 ft @ 9:13 AM

7.1 ft @ 9:31 PM



NOLA  
Weather  
Radio

Aug 22, 2021

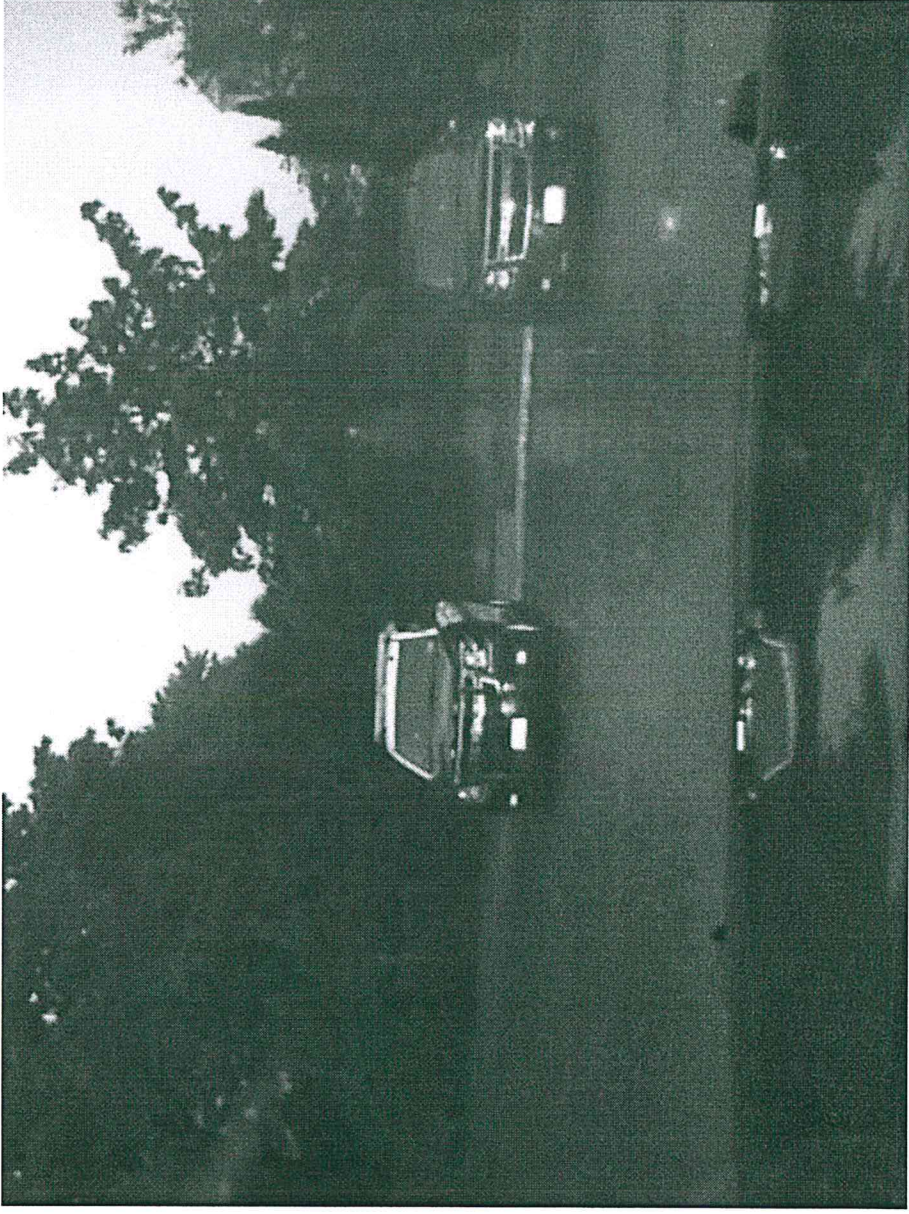


Full Moon

Moon Rise: 8:19 PM	Aug 30
Moon Set: 6:02 AM	Sep 6
Sun Rise: 6:14 AM	Sep 13
Sun Set: 7:43 PM	Sep 20



# ain Street Flooding & Active Rescues









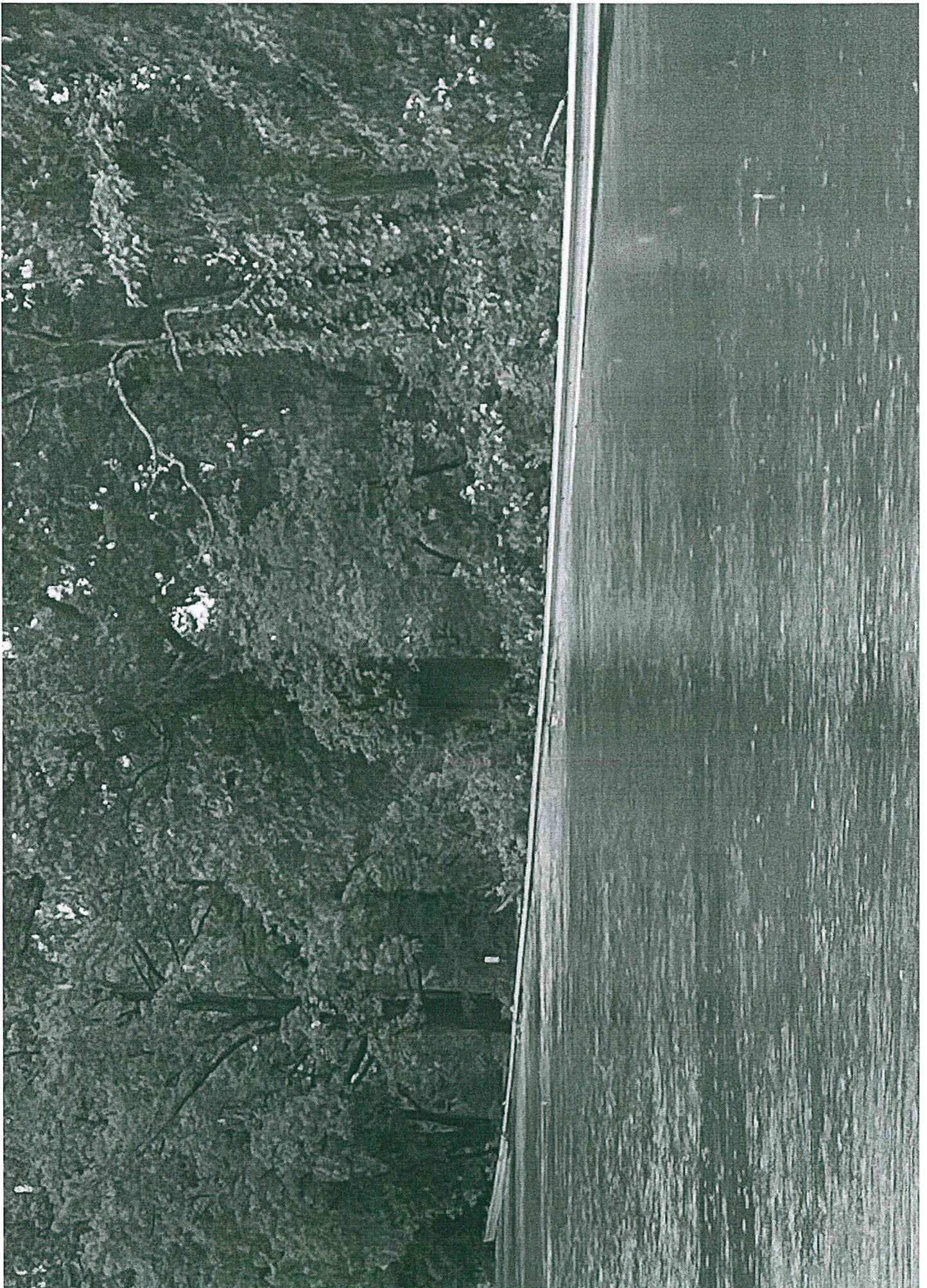
# **CRANBURY TOWNSHIP POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE**

- In excess of 76 documented calls for service
- Nearly 40 disabled vehicles, 30 of which were towed
- Multiple stranded motorists requiring rescue
- Numerous emergency service agencies assisted in recovery efforts, to include South Brunswick Township, Plainsboro Township, East Windsor Township, Hightstown Boro and Monroe Township





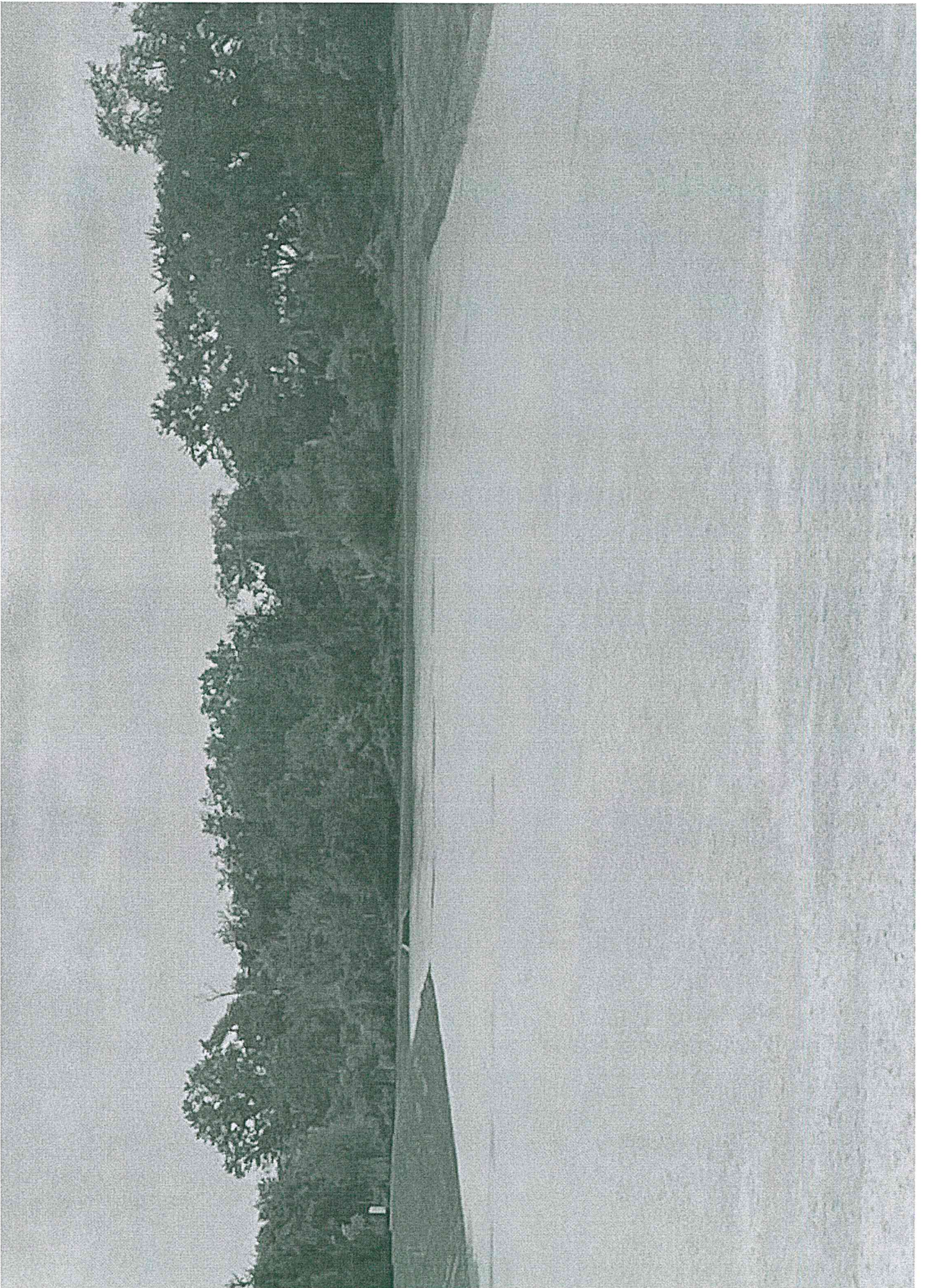






















**THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY**  
23-A NORTH MAIN STREET - CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY 08512

609-395-0900 FAX 609-395-8861  
www.cranburytownship.org

**MICHAEL J. FERRANTE**  
Mayor

Members of the Township Committee

**MICHAEL J. FERRANTE**  
**BARBARA F. ROGERS, PhD**  
**MATTHEW A. SCOTT**  
**EVELYN SPANN**  
**JAMES TAYLOR**



**DENISE MARABELLO, CMFO, CTO**  
Director of Finance  
**DIEDRA RUBIN, RMC**  
Clerk, Registrar  
**JERRY THORNE, CPM**  
Public Works Manager

**U.S. Senator Cory Booker**  
One Gateway Center  
23rd Floor Suite 1000  
Jersey City, NJ 07311

**U.S. Senator Robert Menendez**  
210 Hudson Street  
Newark, NJ 07102

**U.S. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman**  
850 Bear Tavern Road Suite 201  
Ewing, NJ 08628

Subject: FEMA Assistance - Tropical Storm Henri

Dear Senators and Congresswoman,

As you know, Cranbury Township residents, along with nearby communities, suffered significant damage due to Tropical Storm Henri. Flooding damage during Henri occurred from 8.9 inches of rain falling on our town in a few hours, flooding many basements and first floors, and resulting in Cranbury Brook breaching Main Street for nine hours. We are aware that a public disaster assessment is currently under review regarding the effects of Henri.

As Tropical Storm Ida struck New Jersey within only 10 days of Henri, and FEMA has issued a disaster declaration as a result of Ida, I ask that you please work to combine both storms under a FEMA declaration. We cannot leave the victims of Henri behind and we need to provide equal resources to residents and business owners across New Jersey impacted by either or both of these dangerous weather events.

Thank you all for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to speaking with you as

soon as possible to bring much-needed relief to our community and our neighbors. Please contact me at 609-529-8795.

Sincerely,

**MICHAEL J. FERRANTE, Mayor**  
Cranbury Township  
23A North Main Street  
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Cc: Governor Phil Murphy  
Daniel Kelly, Office of the Governor  
Senator Linda Greenstein  
Assemblyman Dan Benson  
Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo  
Mayor Stephen Dalina, Township of Monroe  
Mayor Marlene Lowande, Borough of Jamesburg  
Mayor Jacqueline Palmer, Borough of Spotswood  
Mayor Chris Slavicek, Borough of Helmetta



## **NJEDA Board Approves \$10.5 Million Grant Program for Small Businesses to Support Recovery from Tropical Storms Henri and Ida**

*Will provide grants up to \$5,000 to storm-impacted businesses/ non-profits with up to 50 full-time equivalent employees*

TRENTON, N.J. (September 8, 2021) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) announced the approval of the Henri/Ida Business Assistance Grant Program at a special meeting of its Board held earlier today. The \$10.5 million program will provide grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for businesses and non-profits that suffered physical damage from the effects of recent tropical storms Henri and Ida.

The approval follows Governor Phil Murphy's announcement of preliminary details of the program last week. The NJEDA has been tasked with creating and administering the program, which will provide short-term, immediate rent/mortgage reimbursement support to New Jersey businesses and non-profits with up to 50 full-time equivalent employees that suffered physical damage from Tropical Storm Henri on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, or from Tropical Storm Ida on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

More information about the Henri/Ida Business Assistance Grant Program is available at <https://www.njeda.com/henri-ida-relief/>.

"Countless New Jersey businesses endured the wrath of Tropical Storms Henri and Ida in recent weeks, and today's action by the NJEDA's Board will allow us to move swiftly to help those businesses in need," said Governor Murphy. "Time is clearly of the essence and we are determined to get funds out to businesses and non-profits as quickly as possible."

The Henri/Ida Grant Program is designed to assist businesses and non-profits impacted by tropical storms Henri and Ida. The Program will provide grants from \$1,000 up to \$5,000 to New Jersey-based small businesses and non-profits that have up to 50 full-time equivalent employees as reported on their last WR-30 form (Q2 2021) with the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOL) and have a commercial location in the State that suffered physical damage as a result of tropical storms Henri and Ida. Of the \$10.5 million available for the program, \$10 million will be available for grants for businesses and non-profits impacted by Ida and \$500,000 will be set aside for businesses and non-profits impacted by Henri.

Landlords and home-based businesses are not eligible for grant funding through this program. To be eligible, the applying entity must:

- Provide certification of an unmet need due to damage and/or business interruption.
  - This includes, but is not limited to, flooding, interior or exterior damage to the building structure, roof damage, and siding damage, all of which are directly related to tropical storm Henri and Ida. Loss of power alone will not be considered physical damage.
- Provide documentation of physical damage to the applicant's physical commercial location.
- Have been in operation on August 1, 2021.
- Present a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN).
- Submit recent wage reporting form (WR30), if applicable.
- Submit evidence of an August rent/mortgage payment of at least \$1,000 as well as have a need that is greater than \$1,000.
- Be registered to do business in the State of New Jersey, as evidenced by a valid Business Registration Certificate.
- Be in good standing with the Department of Taxation and DOL, and if applicable, the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Department of Children and Families, and/or the Department of Human Services.
- Complete an affidavit identifying all funding sources related to recovery from tropical storms Henri and Ida, including prior grants, insurance, and Small Business Administration loans and grants.
- Comply with any additional requirements that may apply.

Grants will be provided in the form of reimbursement of August rent or mortgage (\$1,000 minimum rent eligibility). To ensure grants reach businesses in the hardest hit communities, including communities of color, one-third of the \$10 million in funding available through the program will be targeted to businesses with a primary business location within the 715 census tracts designated as eligible to be selected as an Opportunity Zone.

“The NJEDA shares Governor Murphy’s sense of urgency as we work to provide support to small businesses and non-profits dealing with the impact of Henri and Ida,” said NJEDA CEO Tim Sullivan. “The need for assistance is particularly dire, as these storms occurred just as New Jersey was emerging from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It’s more critical than ever that we do our best to help impacted entities return to normal operations so they may continue their role as the economic drivers of New Jersey’s communities.”

The NJEDA has stressed to business owners and non-profit leaders the importance of thoroughly documenting all physical damage as they prepare to apply for assistance through this and any future programs, including taking clear photographs and saving receipts for repairs and associated materials.

Comprehensive information about the Henri/Ida Business Assistance Grant Program is available at <https://www.njeda.com/henri-ida-relief/>. The NJEDA expects to launch an online application for the program at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at <https://www.njeda.com/henri-ida-relief/>. Applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis.

### **About the New Jersey Economic Development Authority**

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) serves as the State’s principal agency for driving economic growth. The NJEDA is committed to making New Jersey a national model for inclusive and sustainable economic development by focusing on key strategies to help build strong and dynamic communities, create good jobs for New Jersey residents, and provide pathways to a stronger and fairer economy. Through partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders, the NJEDA creates and implements initiatives to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in the State and strengthen New Jersey’s long-term economic competitiveness.

To learn more about NJEDA resources for businesses call NJEDA Customer Care at 609-858-6767 or visit <https://www.njeda.com> and follow @NewJerseyEDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).



In conclusion, I would like to recognize the efforts of our officers and emergency personnel who were out in the storm working tirelessly making sure no lives were lost. I would like to also recognize Mayor Michael Ferrante working diligently to get Cranbury Residents post storm relief. Together we are stronger.

Michael J. Owens  
Chief of Police/OEM Coordinator