

# THE BRADLEY BEACH REPORT

With Memorial Day Weekend upon us, we thought it would be helpful to update everyone on the progress made over the past seven months on our beachfront.

Without a doubt, Bradley Beach is in great shape. Through the planning of Borough leaders 20 years ago coming out of the Nor'easter of 1992 to those who fought for and established our dunes, Bradley Beach was better prepared than many of our neighboring towns for the fury of Sandy. Our bulkhead and pavers withstood the storm and our dunes fought back the waves and lessened the impact of the tidal surge. Because of these actions, many of the structures on the beach incurred repairable damage.

For the past seven months, we have been working non-stop, through difficult winter weather and a spring that felt like winter to get our beachfront ready for the summer of 2013. Congratulations to our Public Works Department, Council Liaison and Borough Engineer for their commitment, dedication and ingenuity in making the significant progress that they did.

Following is a summary of the work that has been done, the work that is continuing and the work yet to occur:



## **The Sewer Pump Station**

The sewer pump station, located on the far southern end of our beachfront, collects the sewage from the Borough and pumps it to a higher elevation where it can flow to the Township of Neptune Sewer Authority. If it fails, the sanitary sewers will backup and eventually discharge in to the streets, lakes and the ocean. It is a somewhat innocuous appearing building which plays a significant role for the Borough.

During Sandy, the borough's sanitary sewer pump station was flooded. The existing back-up generator and the pumps and grinder assembly were severely damaged. Through around the clock attention and significant innovation, a disaster was averted in the aftermath of the storm. The pump station is being re-designed to allow it to sustain some flooding. A new generator will be installed at a higher elevation within the building. The various electrical components will also be raised to minimize damage from flooding. New pumps and grinder assemblies will be installed to replace the damaged facilities.

Completion of this extensive project is anticipated by late September. As many of you know, this building also includes the rest rooms that are used by many beachgoers. We anticipate the restrooms being available within the next few weeks as work progresses.



### **The 2nd Avenue Pavilion and Boardwalk Area**

This was an area of our beachfront that did sustain significant damage. While the building itself stood standing, the boardwalk from Evergreen to 3rd Avenue was damaged as was the entire surface areas around the pavilion. The decision was made to switch the surface of the previous boardwalk to concrete for the simple reason that the new surface is stronger and could withstand a tidal surge better than a replaced boardwalk. The Pavilion, like all of the buildings on the beachfront has been given a new stucco exterior, replacing the previous aluminum siding exterior that was damaged and was more porous allowing water to penetrate into the building. Our Public Works Department is working feverishly these last few days before Memorial Day to at least provide an entrance on the Ocean Avenue side to the pavilion. The decking around the building and tented seating area will be completed in the next few weeks.



### **4th Avenue Ticket Booth/Restrooms and Bocce Courts**

All in good or better shape.



Pre-Sandy photo courtesy of RTY Photography

### **The Gazebo and Benches**

While we initially thought that our iconic gazebo had survived the storm, a damage assessment made a few weeks later determined that there was irreparable structural damage to the gazebo and it had to be destroyed. At the upcoming June 14th Council meeting, a decision will be made with regards to a replacement gazebo. We have received strong public sentiment to recreate the previous gazebo as best possible. Completed construction of a new gazebo will be in the late summer. 50 new benches and 25 new seating devices have been ordered and due to the fact that so many shore towns are ordering new benches, we are still awaiting them and are optimistic to receive them by mid to late June.



### **Miniature Golf Course**

Even prior to Sandy, consideration was given to replace our deteriorating golf course. The storm made that consideration a necessity. The Borough has contracted with Harris Miniature Golf Courses to build and operate our course. Harris has been in the miniature golf course business for over 50 years and as we have watched our new course come to fruition the anticipation is growing for a first class facility that will bring many families to our beachfront. With Mother Nature's assistance this week, we are cautiously optimistic that they will be able to open the course Memorial Day weekend. It's going to be close, but the new golf course will be a significant contributor to our Bradley Beach oceanfront all summer long.



### **North End Concession**

The site of the former Honeysuckle Café concession was torn down not so much because of Sandy but simply because of wear and tear over the years. Sandy was the straw that broke the back of this building and it had to come down. While there are long term plans to replace the building, the short term plans for the summer of 2013 are to hope that a vendor comes forward to operate a food truck for the season. We will know shortly if someone will step forward and take advantage of this opportunity.



### **Beachfront Fountain**

While the fountain looks fine from the outside, inside it is not operational and sustained major damage from Sandy. All systems related to the water system have been compromised by the storm and we are looking at significant costs to repair the fountain. A fundraising effort has begun which may include the ability to “buy a brick” which can be personalized and located within the fountain foundation. Much more to follow on this effort.



### **Beach Entrances**

All beach entrances will be open over Memorial Day Weekend with the exception of the 3rd Avenue entrance, also known as the “Surfers Beach entrance”. This entrance needs additional work and should be open by mid-June.



### **The Dunes**

Work on replenishing our dunes began as soon as possible. Initial dune work has already occurred on the north and south ends of our beachfront. Our previous dune system has been the recipient of significant local and national coverage of why Bradley Beach survived the storm much better than neighboring towns, including a visit by Governor Christie. Further dune development is on hold pending the beach replenishment project that will add 75 -100 feet to our beach through the Army Corps of Engineers. This project is scheduled for later this summer, hopefully after Labor Day weekend so that the impact to our summer beach season is minimal.

**PLEASE RECYCLE, IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO  
AND IT KEEPS YOUR TAXES DOWN!**



### **Sylvan and Fletcher Lakes**

Of our two bordering lakes, Sylvan Lake clearly bore the brunt of Sandy's wrath. Those residents in close proximity of Sylvan Lake had significant water damage to their homes and property and are still working through insurance and FEMA assistance in their attempts to achieve some semblance of normalcy once again. Bradley Beach officials, including our Office of Emergency Management as well as elected officials have been working with county, state and federal agencies who have the authority to take the appropriate mitigation action to ensure that this does not happen again. The current levels of Sylvan Lake are unacceptable. Sylvan Lake in many locations is less than a foot deep. The "normal" depth is 8-10 feet deep. The shallowness of the lake is a major concern if another storm were to come our way. A shallow lake limits our ability to lower the level of the lake and be able to handle the incoming runoff or in a worst case scenario, the breach of our oceanfront with seawater. There are glimpses of hope with the US Department of Agriculture sending money to Avon and Bradley Beach for some dredging but more assistance is necessary to make the significant impact necessary to really dredge the lake to a level which enables us to be prepared for the next major storm. We continue to work with state and federal officials to make this important case.

### **In Closing, Some Additional Points**

What will it all cost? The Borough took out an initial emergency expenditure of \$1.25 million dollars for storm clean-up and bonded out an additional \$1.6 million for beach repairs. We do not anticipate spending all these funds which are significantly less than our neighboring towns. FEMA and insurance reimbursements are anticipated to be significant and we will have a full accounting later this summer.

Please come out to Ocean Avenue this Saturday morning at 10am and celebrate Bradley Beach. Cheer for the Police and Public Works employees and the First Aid and Fire Department volunteers who got us through the storm and have led us through the recovery. Cheer for each other as we celebrate a great place to live that has demonstrated once again why it is the best town on the Jersey Shore.