

# FLOODING KNOWS NO BORDERS

## FRANKLIN PARTNERS WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES TOWARD A COMMON GOAL

As detailed in other articles that have been published in the Franklin Times, there are many small things that Franklin Township residents can do to improve our watersheds, rivers and streams in order to make them cleaner and healthier. It takes a larger effort, however, to provide protections from the damaging effects of flooding and that is why Franklin has joined with eight other municipalities (Hillsborough, Millstone, Rocky Hill, South Bound Brook, Somerville, Bridgewater, Montgomery and Manville) and Somerset County to form the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission.

The Commission first met on February 1, 2012 to begin planning ways to protect residents during the all-too-frequent major storms that have hit our area. Spurred on by the success of the Green Brook Flood Control Commission to get the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct flood protections around Bound Brook and other adjacent communities, the Commission's initial goal is to make sure a study currently being undertaken by the USACE is fully funded and is completed expeditiously.

The Army Corps study is slated to cost \$6.8 million, and has been either only partially funded or not funded at all during recent fiscal years. The Commission is busy contacting our federal representatives in order to procure full funding for the project. The Green Brook project has taken forty years to get to its current stage, but the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission realizes that people are being flooded out of their homes now and is looking for ways to condense the timeline considerably.

In the meantime, the Commission is exploring smaller projects or grants that can alleviate individual homeowners flooding problems such as seeking funding to elevate homes. The USACE gives a monthly update on their study and there is a guest speaker at every meeting to provide insight to the public and board members. Future speakers include FEMA, the NJDEP and a representative from the Green Brook Flood Control Commission.

Residents are encouraged to attend Commission meetings held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> in the Borough of Manville municipal building. Guest speakers scheduled are homeowners from Manville who recently or currently elevated their homes who will discuss their experiences and the difficulties encountered during their projects.