



The State Of The Jersey Shore: Open & Ready For Memorial Day Weekend

Governor Christie Remains Committed To Rebuilding The Jersey Shore And Restoring Its Iconic Communities

Governor Christie is committed to rebuilding New Jersey and the Jersey Shore in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. New Jersey's travel and tourism industry is directly responsible for more than 500,000 jobs – or 10 percent of the state's total number of jobs – and is essential to the economic vitality of our state. Through Administration efforts, the Jersey Shore will be rebuilt and enjoyed by generations to come.

BY THE NUMBERS: THE RECOVERY SINCE SANDY

\$3,500,000,000	National Flood Insurance Program payments made on claims to date.
\$1,000,000,000	Federal money set aside for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Shore Protection Projects.
\$776,163,200	SBA Disaster Loans approved for homeowners, renters and businesses.
\$396,000,000	FEMA grants approved for New Jersey individuals and households.
\$300,000,000	Federal money available to buy out Sandy-damaged and repetitively flood-damaged homes.
\$34,000,000	Financial commitments to the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund.
\$26,000,000	Employer-focused grants made available through the Hire New Jersey Recovery Plan.
\$15,600,000	National Emergency Grants to fund the Christie Administration's plan to hire unemployed New Jersey residents to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts.
\$11,000,000	Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund grants awarded.
8,000,000	Cubic yards of household and vegetative debris and sand removed from the streets that the State has overseen.
126,416	Housing inspections completed.
Over 28,000	Donors to the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund.
EO 125	Created an accountable, transparent process to ensure the integrity of the use of federal reconstruction resources.
EO 107	Protected homeowners by prohibiting insurance companies from imposing costly deductibles on New Jersey homeowners.
93%	Total insured claims closed including: homeowners, commercial property, personal auto, commercial auto, and business interruption, and others.

78%

Total flood claims closed.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT THIS SUMMER AT THE JERSEY SHORE

This week, Governor Christie kicked off a weeklong tour of the Jersey Shore to let people know that the Shore is open for business in the lead-up to the Memorial Day holiday.

WATCH: Governor Christie: Lavallette Is Open For Business



<http://youtu.be/-5O1v5tHQJ4>

Associated Press: "The Boardwalks Are Back, And So Are Most Of The Beaches." "The boardwalks are back, and so are most of the beaches, even if some are a little thinner this year. The smell of funnel cakes, french fries and pizza will mingle with the salt air, and the screech of seagulls will be heard, but so will the thwack of hammers repairing what can be fixed and the roar of bulldozers and backhoes tearing down what can't ... Even in many of the places that suffered the most from Sandy, remarkable recovery and rebuilding efforts have been made to get them ready for the summer tourist season." (Wayne Parry, "Jersey Shore Readies For 1st Post-Sandy Summer," [Associated Press](#), 5/21/13)

Bergen Record: "Much Of The Jersey Shore Has Furiously Pushed To Return To A Sense Of Normalcy." "Much of the Jersey Shore has furiously pushed to return to a sense of normalcy. That means vacationers can expect to see shorefront communities that have changed by virtue of the level of damage sustained, but have worked to preserve and recapture some of the famed Jersey Shore magic that generate such memories." (Karen Sudol and matt McGrath, "In Sandy's wake, Memorial Day weekend looms large for the Jersey Shore," [The Bergen Record](#), 5/19/13)

Asbury Park Press: "Sandy Can't Stop Summer At Shore." "Whether it was Keansburg, Asbury Park, Long Beach Island or Seaside Park, everyone from officials to residents sent a clear message Saturday: the Jersey Shore is back. Superstorm Sandy destroyed many Shore tourism attractions in October. But with Memorial Day weekend now a week away, the area — the amusement park, the boardwalk and the beaches — is getting ready for the summer crowds. (Gina Columbus, "Sandy Can't Stop Summer At Shore," [Asbury Park Press](#), 5/19/13)

American Auto Association: "Sandy Won't Alter Jersey Shore Travel Plans." A new survey finds Superstorm Sandy has not altered the travel plans of most regular visitors to the Jersey Shore. The poll released Monday by the AAA Clubs of New Jersey found 79 percent said the devastating storm hasn't altered their summer travel plans. Two-thirds of respondents consider themselves to be regular shore visitors, and 69% of those people plan to spend the same amount or more time at the Shore this summer...Half of the New Jersey residents polled plan to visit Shore towns impacted by Sandy to increase tourism and support local businesses in those communities. ("Poll: Sandy Won't Alter Jersey Shore Travel Plans," [Associated Press](#), 5/20/13)

Star-Ledger: "Amusement Parks Ready To Play." The Jet Star roller coaster may have gone to that big amusement park in the sky, but the arcades and roller coasters, the flumes and Tilt-A-Whirls along the Shore are alive and well. Seaside Heights' Casino Pier, hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, is up, running and ready for summer. The food stands and arcades are nearly complete and should be ready by Memorial Day. (Dan Goldberg, "2013 Shore Guide: Amusement parks ready to play," [Star-Ledger](#), 5/20/13)

NEW JERSEY'S ICONIC BOARDWALKS ARE BACK

Many of New Jersey's iconic boardwalks were damaged or completely destroyed by Sandy. Governor Christie is committed to making sure they are rebuilt in a timely and efficient manner so they can be enjoyed by New Jerseyans this summer.

WATCH: Governor Christie At The Lavallette Boardwalk Reopening: This Is The First Symbol



<http://youtu.be/yGy0cW89g2o>

Spring Lake and Seaside Park boardwalks—both badly damaged by Sandy—are open. Last Saturday, the boardwalk in Asbury Park was officially re-opened after sustaining more than \$3 million in damage. On Monday, Lavallette's boardwalk reopened. Boardwalks in Avon, Belmar, Bradley Beach, Point Pleasant, Seaside Heights and the pavilion in Monmouth Beach are all reopening this week.

In fact, according to the [New York Times](#), 95 percent – or all but one – of New Jersey's boardwalks have re-opened.

Seaside Heights Mayor Bill Akers: "We are 100 percent ready for visitors. Please, make your plans to come here, and have Jersey support Jersey. Keep your vacation local. If you want to help us, the best way you can do that is to come here and have your summer vacation with us." (Wayne Parry, "Jersey shore readies for 1st post-Sandy summer," [Associated Press](#), 5/22/13)

Governor Christie even welcomed Prince Harry of the British Royal Family to tour and play some of the games at the famous Casino Pier in Seaside Heights, which will have at least 18 rides open this summer.



Check out more photos from Prince Harry's visit [HERE](#)

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

In January, Governor Christie visited Belmar to mark the beginning of reconstruction of the town's iconic boardwalk.

Transcript From January 9, 2013 Press Conference:

Governor Christie: For the next year our mission as a people has got to be to rebuild this Shore, rebuild our state, get people back in their homes and their businesses and restore this place to whatever the new normal is going to be, but back to something close to what we had on October 28th, 2012. So, that's going to be my mission for the next year. That's what I'm going to be working on every day that you give me the chance to be Governor. So, I'm thrilled to be back here. I'm thrilled to see the place cleaned up, and I guarantee you, as I told you when I came here the day after the storm, I will be here on Memorial Day. Mary Pat and I will both be in Belmar on Memorial Day.

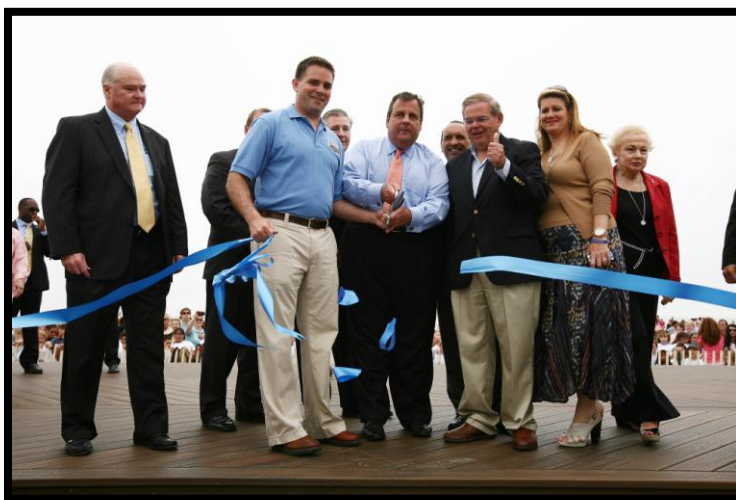
WATCH: Governor Christie: I Guarantee You That I Will Be In Belmar On Memorial Day



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iADZlzzjJyE>

Governor Christie kept the promise yesterday when he was on hand to open the new Belmar boardwalk.

WATCH: Governor Christie: Damn, Boardwalks Are Opening All Over New Jersey



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiHgSXFjubk>

“STRONGER THAN THE STORM”: #STTS



“Stronger Than The Storm” is New Jersey’s comprehensive and all-of-the above approach to let residents and vacationers from across the country know that the Shore is open for business and ready for this summer. It includes advertising on television, radio, billboards and social media, and was developed with direct input from leaders and elected officials in the local communities. In addition to driving tourism from within and outside New Jersey, this campaign also will work to encourage Shore visitors to shop local, helping to support our businesses and the communities in which they operate.

For more information on Stronger Than The Storm, visit their web site at: <http://www.strongerthanthestorm.com/>

WATCH: New Jersey: Stronger Than The Storm TV Commercial



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaHQNSGIFts>

As Governor Christie has said, while there is still much work to be done, it’s important to note the incredible progress that has been made these last seven months since Sandy.

To see how far some of these towns have come, check out Before & After photos on the Governor’s Facebook page [HERE](#).



OPTIONAL BUYOUTS FOR HOMEOWNERS IMPACTED BY SANDY

The Christie Administration has proposed a plan to spend **\$300 million** in federal funds that will give homeowners the option to sell Sandy-damaged homes in tidal areas of New Jersey. The program is designed to give homeowners the ability to choose the best option for their individual situation, and has won praise from New Jersey newspapers' editorial boards:

Bergen Record: "A Joy Of Relief To Many Homeowners." "The announcement that the federal government will provide \$300 million to start buying out houses in certain flood-prone areas brought a joy of relief to many homeowners anxious for a fresh start after seeing superstorm Sandy destroy their neighborhoods." (Editorial, "Homes at sea," [The Record](#), 5/21/13)

The Star-Ledger: "This Is A Promising Turn." "The neighborhood buyouts are preferable by far...The governor says a few holdouts won't disqualify an entire neighborhood, and that's good...This is a promising turn. These areas belong to nature and act as a sponge during periods of heavy rain and flooding. A strategic retreat is called for, and this money will help get it done." (Editorial, "A sensible buyout plan, post-Sandy," [Star-Ledger](#), 5/19/13)