

The SHPOA

Beach Buzz

Keeping Members Informed About Stone Harbor



April 2022

President's Message

- Rich Fuchs, President



It's almost here. I can feel it. I'm sure you can as well. STONE HARBOR SUMMER!! The calendar tells us it's close. The weather tells us it's close. The increase in activity in Stone Harbor tells us it's close. Those of us not yet there are jealous of those of you who are. Trust us we'll be there soon. Let's hope that the weather and the virus cooperate to make this a season to remember! Make your plans now to take advantage of all the activities that are planned. SHPOA will be in the middle of things as a participant and a sponsor of several events. Look forward to seeing members at all the events. Please go to our website to view our Events Calendar at <https://www.stoneharborpoa.org/#calendar>, which we will continue to update. If you know of an event that is not listed there, please let us know!

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 11th when the SHPOA Membership Meeting will return to the Stone Harbor Theater after a 2-year hiatus. The Trustees have put a substantial effort in preparations for this meeting with the goal of making it very relevant to the issues facing our community. The April Trustee meeting focused extensively on preparations for the meeting. The agenda is well formed with a focus on sustainability and related demands on the Borough as well as all homeowners. We have organized speakers who will bring their expertise and intimate knowledge of the issues as they impact Stone Harbor. I expect it to be a very informative session for homeowners and members.

The meeting will be from 9 to 11am. Doors will open at 8:30am. We'll provide the coffee and muffins!

Your Trustees met virtually on April 2nd (one way you know the season is close is that starting next month the Trustees will meet in person as well as virtually). In addition to the discussions regarding the June membership meeting, Vice President Jack Kelleher reported on the progress with our Projects of the Year. We expect to have the SHPOA beach webcam on the new Beach Patrol building, our bike signs in the bike lanes, and our bike racks and bike pump stations in their locations in the next few months.

Enjoy the spring weather and dream of the summer!

We continue to provide the perspectives of the members based on feedback you provide to us, so please keep your views and opinions coming. Comments can be sent to us via the SHPOA contact mailbox at Contact@StoneHarborPOA.org. We read all emails received and endeavor to respond. In addition, the viewpoints expressed are passed to our Council Liaison, Reese Moore.

We will remain your voice in Stone Harbor!

Featuring "The Branches Center"

- Heidi Yacker, Secretary; Member, Community Engagement Committee; and Chair, Nominating Committee



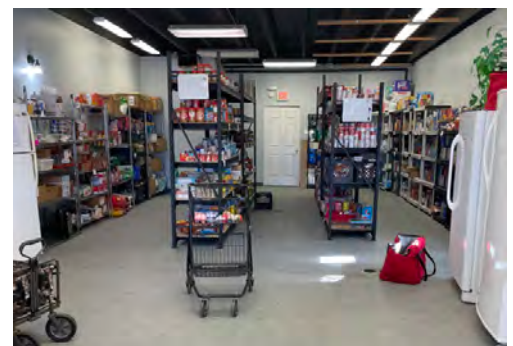
The Branches Center (1304 Route 47 South in Rio Grande) is a place where homeless, elderly,



and marginalized individuals can go to receive a warm welcome and a wide range of services from people who truly care about them. Started over a decade ago by St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stone Harbor, it was a place for coffee and chat, but it expanded. I met with Sandra Lockhart, the Director of The Branches, on a frigid Monday morning to talk about the organization. (Although they usually close at 1:30pm, The Branches was staying open until 6:00pm to provide a warm place for people to sit.) They have a staff and a number of volunteers whom Ms. Lockhart highly praised.

Clients are offered a full range of services. These include breakfast and lunch each day, a shower, laundry facilities, haircuts, clothing, and even the attention of a

chiropractor. They have a Food Bank that clients can access by filling out a grocery list which is then fulfilled by a volunteer or staff member. For those who cannot get to the meals or Food Bank, The Branches delivers groceries Mondays and Fridays, mostly to people housed temporarily in nearby motels. Advocates work with clients to help them navigate the labyrinthine State and County social services, including housing, food stamps, veterans' benefits, and more. In addition, the advocates help with legal questions and scheduling doctor appointments. Special activities are planned for children, such as Christmas and Easter celebrations



and a water slide and bouncy house in the summer.



The Branches has a long list of supporters, including the Church and local businesses and organizations, as well as individuals. A small sampling of these includes Acme, Lehigh Dairy, and the Elks. One amazing example of benefactors jumping in to serve involved a family that had been living in a motel. The Branches staff were able to find permanent housing for them. Ms. Lockhart went onto the organization’s Facebook site and asked for furniture. By the end of the same day, the house was completely furnished with donations.

The Branches will soon be located in a beautiful newly-refurbished, state-of-the-art building across the street. The staff and volunteers are in the process of moving and hope to be fully operational within a month or two. A tour of the facility showed how they will be able to further expand the services they offer. There are more and newer showers, well-displayed clothing to choose from, industrial-sized washer/dryer, and a large sunlit room for meals and other activities. The staff and volunteers plan to offer after-school study/homework assistance (there are retired teachers already lined up to help). There is a lending library and there will be a computer lab where volunteers will help people with their resumé and job searches. The large kitchen has warming ovens to heat the meals that will be served. The Food Bank will remain in the old location but will be expanded and will have grocery carts that people can roll through the shelves to collect their own groceries.



For further information on this worthy organization, see their website: <https://www.thebranchesoutreach.org/thebranchescenterofriogrande>

Membership Committee Update

- Kerry Wendel, Trustee and Chair, Membership Committee



The Membership Committee’s main purpose is to retain and increase membership in SHPOA. We currently have 1,023 properties as members, representing 32% of the 3,164 property owners in Stone Harbor and our goal for 2022 is to increase this to 1,200.

Our renewal efforts include monthly reminders to delinquent members. The Communications & Technology Committee’s idea of including membership expiration dates on the bottom of each communication sent to members has become the driving force for renewals; a gentle reminder to busy people. We are thrilled that the majority of our renewals are for multi-years, with the \$100-4 year membership being the most popular.

Our efforts to gain new members has traditionally been through a yearly mail campaign to all non-members. This is our biggest volunteer effort and our biggest budget item. The campaign is typically successful, and we are boosting this effort this spring to personally inform non-members about SHPOA. Through various Trustees and the excellent help from our CIO, Homi Kapadia, we are launching a block captain campaign. Look for your Trustee neighbor knocking on doors in your neighborhood! And you can help them by letting your neighbors know about our mission to be your "Voice in Stone Harbor".

SHPOA's Membership Committee meets monthly and consists of 4 Trustees: Beth Ann Griesser, Mantura Gallagher, Joe Maurer and myself. We also are fortunate to have Paul Grady, SHPOA's Treasurer, as our liaison to the Executive Committee and Jay Blackman as our liaison to the Communications & Technology Committee. Paul's a SHPOA veteran and we are grateful for his intuitive and wise guidance.

Our committee may always be reached through the SHPOA contact mailbox at Contact@StoneHarborPOA.org.

Spring Beach Sweep Update

- Geoff Woolery, Chair, Sustainability Committee

- Photos by Scott Jarden, Trustee; Member, Communications & Technology Committee; and Lead, Social Media



The state wide spring Beach Sweep organized by Clean Ocean Action was



conducted on Saturday, April 9th. A damp chill in the air didn't dissuade over 60 volunteers from participating in Stone Harbor. A common and reoccurring theme was that most beaches were generally clean and that most of the trash was removed from the dunes. This spring we collected thirty 30-gallon bags of trash and five 13-gallon bags of recycle (> 500 lb.), a considerable increase from last fall.

We noticed there were many dog waste bags, which was concerning as the Borough provides specific receptacles for this waste. Plastic bottles, food/candy wrappers, cigarette filters, and pieces of foam/plastic were among the most common items collected. Most cigarette filters on our smoke-free beaches are at the beach entrances, and we can encourage the Borough for additional ways to combat this.



With an increase in trash and debris along the beach front, presumably from the increase in construction, it is suggested that all beach front construction project managers be made aware of this, so we can address the issue before the



upcoming summer season.

This year's Beach Sweep commercial sponsors included Bank of America, Brother, Shop Rite, and Think Green. Participating organizations in addition to SHPOA included the Wetlands Institute, Girls Scouts Troop 94230, the Borough of Stone Harbor, Emmaus High School and Rutgers Prep. A special thanks to Stone Harbor Public Works who supplied equipment to help with our efforts.

SHPOA Survey regarding the use of beach front site at Villa Maria

- Homi Kapadia, Chief Information Officer and Chair, Communications & Technology Committee

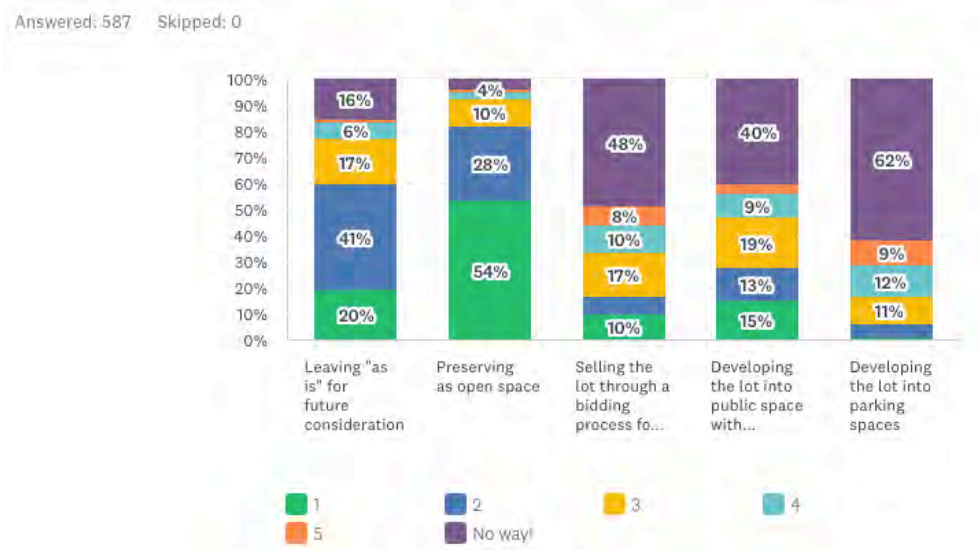


Thank you to all who responded to our SHPOA member survey regarding the potential use of the Borough owned beach front site at Villa Maria.

By way of background, Stone Harbor Borough Council and Borough Administration have been discussing options regarding the 35' x 110' lot at 112th Street and First Avenue in concert with current construction plans for property that was the Villa Maria convent. Villa Maria was a 250-bed retreat house on 111th Street in Stone Harbor which has now been demolished and is being turned into a new smaller retreat house along with 13 lots. Much discussion has been held regarding these various options. If interested, you can watch a video recording of the Borough Council Working Session discussion on this topic by clicking this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2c35unfTFE and start watching at the 2:00:00 hour mark.

This survey was conducted from March 30th through April 3rd. Our members were asked to prioritize five potential outcomes and were provided a comment box to recommend any additional suggestions. Our members also had the ability to check a "No Way!" box if they felt they were absolutely against a given outcome. The survey was anonymous, but members could leave their name if they chose to.

Here are the summary results:



	1	2	3	4	5	NO WAY!	TOTAL
Leaving "as is" for future consideration	20% 115	41% 238	17% 100	6% 37	1% 6	16% 91	587
Preserving as open space	54% 316	28% 166	10% 61	3% 17	1% 4	4% 23	587
Selling the lot through a bidding process for residential development	10% 58	7% 42	17% 99	10% 59	8% 46	48% 283	587
Developing the lot into public space with facilities for restrooms	15% 89	13% 74	19% 114	9% 54	4% 21	40% 235	587
Developing the lot into parking spaces	1% 7	5% 29	11% 62	12% 72	9% 54	62% 363	587

Overall, 587 of our SHPOA Members responded to the survey. A few observations by potential usage:

- Leaving "as is" for future consideration: **61% of respondents ranked this option as 1st or 2nd**
- Preserving as open space: **82% ranked this option as 1st or 2nd**
- Selling the lot through a bidding process for residential development: **48% said "No Way!"**
- Developing the lot into public space with facilities for restrooms: **40% said "No Way!" though 28% ranked this option as 1st or 2nd**
- Developing the lot into parking spaces: **62% said "No Way!" along with 21% that ranked this option 4th or 5th**

In addition 155 suggestions and comments were provided by many of our members, and besides open space which was in the lead, in no particular priority other ideas included a dog park, boat park, car park, water park, swimming pool, golf park, restrooms, sitting park, a sale to offset debt and taxes, a snack bar, café, low-cost rental lodging, and an entertainment/reception venue.

We sincerely hope the views of our SHPOA Members are factored into consideration as Borough Council and Administration makes its decision.

Historical Stone Harbor

- Courtesy of Stone Harbor Museum

Each month we bring you a memory from the past, courtesy of the Stone Harbor Museum.



Before the dunes. This 1998 shot was taken from the pavilion on 101st street looking south during an unnamed storm.

The museum is at 9410 2nd Avenue, and can be found online at www.stoneharbormuseum.org. Please consider donating to the Stone Harbor Museum at <https://stoneharbormuseum.org/donations/>.

Contemporary Stone Harbor

- Scott Jarden, Trustee; Member, Communications & Technology Committee; Lead, Social Media



Each month we bring you a recent photo of interest from around Stone Harbor.



Golden Gate Drive, January 20, 2022, summer is almost here!

Community Buzz

In this section we're sharing announcements of interest to our members.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the American Legion Post 331 in Stone Harbor. . .



Veterans need your help!

As a Veteran organization, we are called to duty to help Veterans in need. Post 331 helps by supporting Cape May County Veteran Programs for the homeless, disabled, those that need medical attention and more.

By being a Patron, you support helping these Veterans.

To help, simply fill out this Patron form and send it in with a donation of your choice. Your name will then be listed in our Handbook, which is published each year at Memorial Day. You can review our 2021 Activities Handbook by visiting stephencludlampost331.org and click the program tab and then click on the book.

Our Veterans thank you very much.

For God and Country,

Jon Ready
Trustee and Vietnam Combat Veteran
Post 331 Stone Harbor

All patron information must be received no later than **Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

Patron Donations

Patron Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Patron Listing Name: _____

(The name listed above will be printed in the patron listing as written. You may use a name, saying, or wishes for a Veteran tribute up to 34 characters including spaces)

- _____ \$1000 *Legacy (your Patron listing will be highlighted in bold print)*
- _____ \$500 *Distinguished Service (your Patron listing will be highlighted in bold print)*
- _____ \$125 *Historic Building Fund We're 127 years old! 1895-2022. Help us preserve this historic building!*
- _____ \$100 *Commander's Club*
- _____ \$50 *Silver*
- _____ \$30 *Bronze*

Please forward Donation Sheet and payment to: American Legion Post 331 | P.O. Box 232, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247 **Make checks payable to American Legion Post 331**

Questions? Please contact one of the below representatives:
 American Legion Post 331: Jon Ready readyjn@gmail.com | 610-331-8234
 Seven Mile Publishing & Creative: Caroline Kostlan ckostlan@7milepub.com | 610-858-9463

On behalf of Sandy Bosacco, Captain, Beach Patrol ...

Stone Harbor's Annual Life Guard tryouts are scheduled for Sunday, May 29th. More information can be found at the [Borough's website](#). The application can be [downloaded at this link](#).

2022 Lifeguard Tryouts Scheduled for Sunday, May 29th

April 12, 2022

The Stone Harbor Beach Patrol will be conducting Lifeguard Tryouts for the 2022 Summer Season on Sunday, May 29th, 2022

- TIME: 10:00 a.m.
- LOCATION: Stone Harbor Beach Patrol Headquarters, 95th Street & the Beach
- ATTIRE: Running Shoes, Running Shorts, Swimsuit, Towel, Sweats, Goggles (optional), NO WETSUITS.
- FYI: Captain has the right to change of the tryouts if the weather or water conditions are not appropriate.*Guard Test Will Consist of:

½ MILE OCEAN SWIM, 7 MINUTE MILE BEACH RUN AND INTERVIEW

REQUIREMENTS: You must have the following completed and turned in by tryouts:

1. Current Sports Physical or Letter from Physician Stating "CLEARED FOR OCEAN LIFEGUARD DUTY"
2. Proof of Age – MUST BE 16 YRS OF AGE (Driver's License, Birth Certificate, Picture I.D.)
3. Completed Application (3 PAGES)

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)

Ocean Wind Informational Forum Postponed

The Ocean Wind Informational forum, previously planned for mid May, is now postponed until the fall.



SHPOA and the Borough of Stone Harbor still plan to co-host the event. The rescheduling is due to several factors: 1) Orsted's inability to commit to a May date given other priorities, 2) New Jersey Bureau of Public Utilities (NJBPBU) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) declining to participate due to "staff shortages", and 3) the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) delay in the release of the off-shore wind Environmental Impact Statement. Although we are disappointed in the delay, the later date should allow for increased information exchange on Ocean Wind 2. This second Ocean Wind project, approved by NJBPBU last June, is expected to be off the coast of 7 Mile Island.

Member's Buzz

In this section we will select some of your comments and perspectives to share with our broader membership. Please feel free to send them for consideration in future issues of The SHPOA Beach Buzz by writing to BeachBuzz@StoneHarborPOA.org.



