



July 2025

**President's Message** - Chris Yates, President

It's hard to believe we've passed the summer's half-way mark but we are closer to Labor Day than Memorial Day!



We are hard at work putting together the September 6th membership meeting. If there are topics you'd like us to cover, people you'd like to meet or if you have any ideas about what you'd like to see, please let us know.

One of the important things we do at the September meeting is elect new trustees. Have you ever thought about serving a term as a trustee? I wish you would. I think you would hear from anyone who has served that it is a great opportunity to make a difference in Stone Harbor, meet and get to know new people, gain an understanding of the problems and opportunities that we face, and have a good time doing all of it. We are in particular need of trustees with information technology and communication skills. Technology is always advancing and we strive to advance with it, to ensure we are accessible and using the different platforms available to us to keep you informed. If you have a background or a skill set that will help us stay up to date, we hope you will think about becoming a trustee. Our needs, though, are not limited to IT skills. We ask all of our members, with your diverse backgrounds and interests, to consider raising your hand. There's more on this later, along with links to the trustee application. Please think about it.



**Save the Date! - SHPOA Fall Membership Meeting**

Join us on Saturday, September 6th, 9am at the Harbor Square Theater.  
The meeting will be held from 9:00-10:30 am.  
(Doors will open at 8 am for complimentary beverages and sweets.)  
Free parking available until 11:00 am.  
Stay tuned - agenda and speaker details coming soon!

**Update on the 96th Street Stone Harbor Bridge at the Tower** - Robert Church, P.E., Cape May County Engineer

As a reminder, the original schedule was to have the following Construction Phases:

This is an interim update on the construction of the 96th Street Stone Harbor Bridge





### 1. First Closure – Winter 2025–2026

A short closure (estimated ~30 days) in February 2026 for initial work.

Cause: heavy machinery needed—traffic detoured to Avalon Blvd via Ocean Drive or via Grassy Sound/Ocean Drive route

### 2. Temporary Bridge Phase – Fall 2026

Installation of temporary fixed-span bridge replacing drawbridge functionality.

Will not open for boat traffic, restricting marine navigation under only ~9 ft vertical clearance (no draw).

Channel reduced—boats over that height must detour via alternate inlets

During summer traffic, temporary bridge accommodates vehicles—BUT marine traffic is limited.

Initial detour for motorists not impacted; vessels must plan alternate routes.

### 3. Final Closure – Late 2027 to Feb 2028

Closure of bridge and temporary span for final installation.

Estimated duration ~100 days.

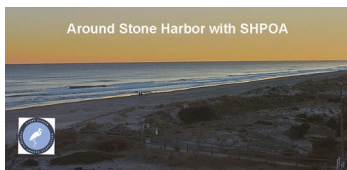
Vehicle access to Stone Harbor will require full detour via Avalon and Ocean Drive

The original aim was to reopen by May 2028 before peak beach season. Although plans and specifications for the project are essentially complete and environmental permits have been addressed, the process this past winter/spring was unexpectedly delayed by additional discussions with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) regarding widening the existing bascule opening. This created a cascading delay with the issuance of the bridge permit by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) since they needed mutual consent by the USACOE before they would move forward with issuing the permit.

Since the inter-agency coordination has taken longer than anticipated, we have missed the 2025 construction start window. With the new 2026 tentative construction start date, the remaining construction work will move back linearly. Once we have the permits in hand, we will have a much higher degree of confidence in the tentative construction start and will issue a public notice confirming the revised schedule.

### Around Stone Harbor with SHPOA - Susan Barrett, Trustee; Chair, Sustainability Committee

Around Stone Harbor with SHPOA is a captivating video series that explores the charm and



unique features of Stone Harbor, NJ and the surrounding coastal towns. Our latest interview, *Welcome to Your New Pollinator*, features SHPOA Trustee Susan Barrett and former Trustee Beth Toolen in conversation with Brittany Welsh of The Wildlife Gardener, LLC. [Click here](#) or on the image to watch the full interview.



### Tuesdays at the Tower - Mike Walker, Trustee; Chair, Membership Committee

The Stone Harbor Tuesdays at the Tower concert, proudly sponsored by SHPOA, was a lively and well-attended community event featuring *One Particular Stone Harbor*, a band that paid tribute to the music of Jimmy Buffett and Paul Simon. With perfect summer weather setting the tone, residents and visitors gathered in large numbers to enjoy an evening of great music and good company. SHPOA Trustees were on hand throughout the night, managing an informational booth and mingling with attendees, reinforcing SHPOA's commitment to staying connected with the community and supporting events that make Stone Harbor special.



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**2025 SHPOA Amateur Photo Contest** - Scott Jarden, CIO; Chair, Communication & Technology Committee

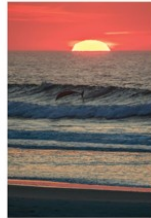


**10th Annual SHPOA  
Photo Contest is  
now open!**



**Now is your chance to submit your entries.**  
The contest ends at midnight on August 25th 2025.

**2024 Winners**



1st Place - Jason Harrell



2nd Place - Patrick Serfass



3rd Place - Christy Naselli

or Scan Me



For full contest details-  
<https://www.stoneharborpoa.org/>

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**SHPOA Technology & Communications Trustee** - Scott Jarden, CIO; Chair, Communication & Technology Committee



Are you a retired professional with a background in business, marketing, or technology? SHPOA is looking for a trustee to support our communications efforts. This role includes assisting with basic website updates, email newsletters, and promoting our initiatives through digital channels.



Ideal for someone comfortable with technology and interested in giving back to the Stone Harbor community. No heavy lifting—minimal hours a month to make a meaningful impact. Flexible schedule and plenty of appreciation!

Join a great group of fellow property owners and use your experience to help keep our members informed and engaged.

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**SHPOA Citizen of the Year Award - Nominations are Being Accepted!**

- Heidi Yacker, Secretary; Chair, Nominating Committee



We're taking for nominations for the  
**SHPOA Citizen of the Year Award**

The SHPOA Citizen of the Year should be a person of integrity, honesty, and fairness, who demonstrates:

- Leadership
- Community Involvement
- Having a Positive Impact
- A Longtime Commitment to Stone Harbor

Get the Citizen of the Year Nominating Form at:  
[SHPOA seeks nominations for 2025 COY \(Citizen of the Year\)](#)

Would you like to nominate someone for SHPOA Citizen of the Year? Here is an opportunity to recognize a fellow community member who goes above and beyond for Stone Harbor. To submit your nomination, simply [click here](#) or on the image below to access the form. We look forward to hearing about the people who help make our town so special!

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## Historical Stone Harbor - Courtesy of Stone Harbor Museum

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



**BACK IN TIME** - Here is a photo of the Van Thuyne General Store located between First and Second Avenue at 180 85th Street and fronting on the broad Pennsylvania Railroad Station Plaza in Stone Harbor. Built in the year 1910 by Miss Marie L. Van Thuyne, this structure originally became the leading general store in town for a few years. We understand that this photo was snapped on the 4th of July 1912. Given the abundance of 48-star American Flags and other red, white, and blue bunting and decorations, it appears that this was indeed a celebratory time dedicated to recognizing and commemorating Independence Day in the United States. This particular occasion marked the 136th year of American Independence. Several years later and by 1917, this large building was converted to spacious apartments conveniently located within a three minute walk from the beach. The South Jersey Realty Company brochures for the summer of 1917 indicated that there were two upper apartments available each with 5 rooms including 2 bedrooms, bath, and porches. It was reported that rent for the season for the furnished upper apartments was \$150 each. In addition, those illustrated S.J.R.C. real estate brochures went on to specify there were two lower or first floor 8 room apartments available for rent offering 5 bedrooms, bath and screened porch. Rent, fully furnished, for the season for the ocean side apartment was \$250 and the other side was \$200.

If you look carefully, you just might be able to see Miss Van Thuyne in her white dress with others standing on the front porch of her business establishment. There is a well marked side entrance and a large sign on the front side of this building which states the following: "STOP / SPEND A PLEASANT HOUR / STONE HARBOR AMUSEMENT PARLOR / POOL & REFRESHMENTS / TABLES FOR LADIES".

One final note, although barely noticeable but yet discernible on the roof, is the following eye-catching advertisement - 12 large white painted letters forming just two words for all to see at a distance when entering the town - "GENERAL STORE"! The two dormers jutting out on the third floor attic sloping roof actually separate the painted letters to appear as: "GENE / RAL / STORE". One has to wonder if such a conspicuous roof-top advertising sign as I have just presented and described here would be allowed today in Stone Harbor given the many evolving changes in town zoning regulations and community business and commercial standards!

The Museum is at 9410 2nd Avenue and can be found online at [www.stoneharbormuseum.org](http://www.stoneharbormuseum.org). Please be sure to see Harlan's History which can be found at <https://www.stoneharbormuseum.org/harlanshistory/> and also consider donating to the Stone Harbor Museum at <https://stoneharbormuseum.org/donations/>.



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## Contemporary Stone Harbor

- Scott Jarden, CIO and Chair, Communications & Technology Committee



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



*Not quite as crowded as in town out here.*

**SHPOA**  
**Needs**  
**YOU!**

**Do you love Stone Harbor?**

Want to help keep  
our town  
The Seashore at its Best?

Join a team of  
dedicated neighbors  
who give their time and  
ideas to all things  
Stone Harbor.

**Consider becoming a  
SHPOA Trustee**

We look forward to hearing from you!  
[StoneHarborPOA.org/nominations](http://StoneHarborPOA.org/nominations)

## SHPOA Help Line

As recently announced, SHPOA is pleased to provide our members with a Help Line to identify the best person at the Borough to provide assistance with an issue you might be



dealing with. As you know, Borough Administration has overall responsibility for operations with oversight by the Borough Council. If you do need assistance, please reach out to us at [Help@StoneHarborPOA.org](mailto:Help@StoneHarborPOA.org). We look forward to helping our members wherever possible.

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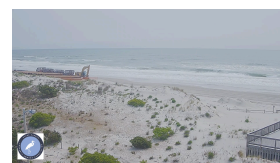
## Member's Buzz

*In this section we will periodically 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](mailto:BeachBuzz@StoneHarborPOA.org).*



## SHPOA's Beach Cams and other local webcams

SHPOA's site with two beach cams and embedded weather, tide, and water temperature information can be found 24 x 7 at [StoneHarborPOA.org/beachcams](http://StoneHarborPOA.org/beachcams). There is a simple form that needs to be filled out once, after which you can bookmark the site and access the beach cams whenever you'd like.



Other local webcams of interest not being run by SHPOA include:

- [Stone Harbor Yacht Club Baycam](#)
- [Stone Harbor Fire Department's 96th Street Webcam](#)
- [Wetlands Institute Osprey Cam looking North](#)

If there are other local webcams that you are aware of and recommend for inclusion on this list, please contact us at [Contact@StoneHarborPOA.org](mailto:Contact@StoneHarborPOA.org).

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## Calendar of 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!



## A SHPOA Membership Benefit

We are thrilled to announce a SHPOA member benefit that supports our mission of informing you of what's happening in and around town. Our friends at the Cape May County Herald are offering *SHPOA members only* an exclusive discount for Herald subscriptions -- **25% OFF with code "SHPOA"** -- and they are also providing your association with advertising space in print and online for us to promote the association and the initiatives important to our members. We hope you will consider supporting the Herald and the local journalism which got its start right here on Seven Mile Island. Click here to see recent [coverage of Stone Harbor](#). To subscribe and use the discount, please click on <https://capemaycountyherald.com/subscribe/> and use promo code "SHPOA" at checkout to claim your 25% discount. Only valid for new subscribers.

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**The Beach Buzz editorial team:** Janis Oeschger, Homi Kapadia, Scott Jarden, Cynthia Burton, Ted Kestner, and Heidi Yacker.

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