
The SHPOA

Beach Buzz

Keeping Members Informed About Stone Harbor



August 2025

President's Message - Chris Yates, President

It's hard to believe summer is almost over! College classes have begun and schools are ready to go in a few days.



It has been a great season. The Second Annual Harbor Hustle was a resounding success. We finished the installation of the native plant garden on the island at Second Avenue and 110th Street as a demonstration of how xeriscaping (landscaping which requires little or no irrigation) can be a beautiful option in an era of lower water use. Tuesday at the Tower saw Standing Room Only attendance.

We spent many hours engaged with Borough officials on issues important to all of us and to Stone Harbor's future. And that work continues. Our September 6 membership meeting, in addition to our brief business, will provide the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of county and municipal officials.

We hope to see you on September 6 at the Harbor Square Theater.

Help Wanted! - Cynthia Burton, Trustee; Member, Communications and Technology Committee

Do you like to write? SHPOA needs a writer to help cover Borough Council meetings. The writer can attend meetings live, watch them live on Zoom, or watch a recording on Youtube.com a couple of days later. All past Borough Council summaries can be found [here](#). Links for agendas, recordings, meeting dates, etc. are on the borough website stoneharbornj.org. If you're interested, drop me an email at burtoncynthia3323@gmail.com and we'll set up a call or a meeting so I can tell you how easy and interesting this can be.



SHPOA Fall Membership Meeting - Saturday, September 6th

Join us on Saturday, September 6th at 9 am at the Harbor Square Theater. The meeting will be held from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Free parking will be available until 11:00 am.

(Come early and enjoy complimentary beverages and sweets. Doors open at 8 am.)



Update on the 96th Street Stone Harbor Bridge - 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

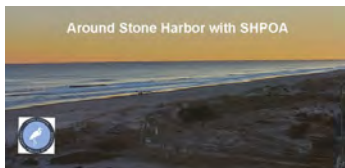
Closure of bridge and temporary span for final installation. Estimated duration ~100 days. Vehicle access to Stone Harbor will require a full detour via Avalon and Ocean Drive

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.



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

Are you a retired or active 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,





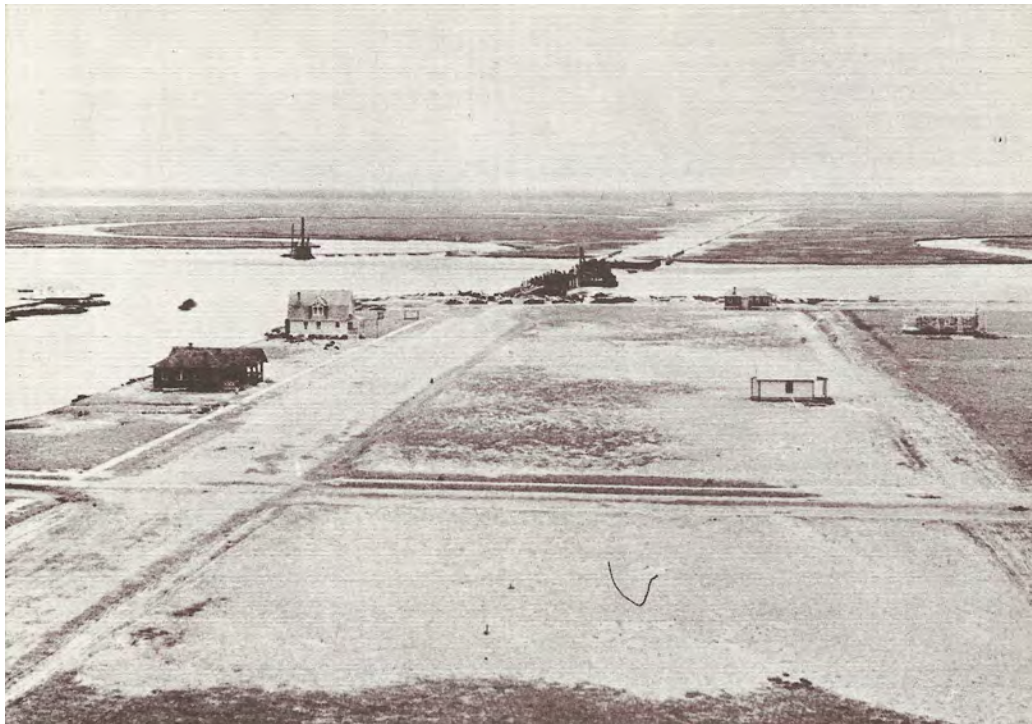
and promoting our initiatives through digital channels.

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.

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 - The Building of the Stone Harbor Ocean Parkway and the Drawbridge accessing Seven Mile Island by Way of 96th Street - Circa 1910

Does this scene look even remotely familiar to you? What do you think? Go ahead and take a guess! Actually, it is "Stone Harbor in the Making"! In keeping with the single photo presented here, the following excerpt is derived from the 1965 edition of the book bearing the title "History of Stone Harbor, New Jersey: 1914-1964". This quoted material so very aptly describes what was going on in Stone Harbor in the formative years of 1910 and 1911.

"Unquestionably, the greatest single factor in the development of Stone Harbor, was the construction of the Stone Harbor Boulevard to Cape May Court House on the mainland. It originally comprised a smooth graveled roadway and a standard gauge railway known as the Stone Harbor Terminal Railway, which connected Stone Harbor with the Reading Railroad at Cape May Court House.

There was also a broad sea level canal along the southern stretch, portions of which may still be seen west of Scotch Bonnet. This boulevard was constructed entirely by the South Jersey Realty Co. being 95' wide from Great Channel to Scotch Bonnet and 155' wide, west of Scotch Bonnet, the surface being from five to

six feet above the meadows which it crossed.

This boulevard, the bridges across Scotch Bonnet and the drawbridge over the Great Channel, were dedicated and thrown open to public use on Monday, July 13, 1911, with a big celebration. The formal dedication was made by Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of the State of New Jersey, later to become President of the United States.

For twenty years the Pennsylvania Railroad had the only train service into the community, for it was not until June 30, 1912, that regular service was established between the Reading Railroad at Cape May Court House and a depot of the Stone Harbor Terminal Railway located at 96th St. and Second Ave. in Stone Harbor."

The Museum is at 9410 2nd Avenue and can be found online at 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/>.

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.



Erin makes a close pass at Stone Harbor

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

SHPOA Help Line

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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. We look forward to helping our members wherever possible.



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.



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. 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.

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.



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

