

The SHPOA Beach Buzz

Keeping Members Informed About Stone Harbor



January 2026

President's Message - Chris Yates, President

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were warm and bright with family and friends. You need that warmth now as we get some of the coldest weather we've had in a long time.



We're working hard to keep you informed about what's happening in Stone Harbor. There has been much activity in local government and that has an impact on everything from taxes to beach tags and all manner of things in between. We are engaged with the town on flood control and beach replenishment and management. We are planning your SHPOA events -- meetings, the Harbor Hustle, project of the year, and the whole gamut of SHPOA-sponsored activities. If you'd like to be a part of that advocacy and planning, please reach out to volunteer or offer your input and advice. All of it is welcome.

We also thank you for renewing your membership and being part of SHPOA. We strive to be your representative in Stone Harbor and work hard on your behalf. Thank you for your trust.

*Thank
You!*

Upcoming Stone Harbor Events:



SHPOA Membership Meeting, Saturday, June 13th at 9:00 AM.



The Harbor Hustle - June 21, 2026. Start planning now for this fun 5K run and 1-mile walk to celebrate the start of Summer!

Historical Photos of Stone Harbor



Our historical writer spends countless hours reviewing old Stone Harbor photos and crafting the accompanying stories. The writer would love to hear from you! What topics, details, or memories would you like to see featured in future articles and photos? To share your suggestions, please [click here](#).

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



BACK IN TIME - This totally classic image is, in this writer's opinion, a quintessential view that can be considered representative of the true beginnings of Stone Harbor. Discovered and currently residing in the Stone Harbor Museum archives, this remarkable photo was taken on September 18, 1908. Hopefully, you too will find that this photo speaks to you as it does to this writer.

I would like to focus on basically 3 main elements depicted in this photo and provide just a bit of background information. First, let's turn our attention to the 5-story building in the upper right hand corner. Originally known as the Abbottsford Inn, which opened in 1892 on First Avenue at 83rd Street and facing the beach, it would later be renamed the Harbor Inn. Claimed as being one of the most comfortable hotels on the entire New Jersey Coast, this spacious and fine establishment had 32 rooms that were available for \$2.00 a day under the so-called American Plan of accommodation. The new owners were the much heralded Risley brothers who created the South Jersey Realty Company that set into motion the clever and incredibly successful marketing plan to promote the idea of developing a new seashore resort community in South Jersey called Stone Harbor.

Secondly, and progressing to the left, the next building shown here in the center was built in 1909 by Reese Risley at the corner of 85th Street and First Avenue and was popularly referred to as "Hydrangea". Remember that the colorful hydrangea would become the official flower of Stone Harbor.

The third structure immediately to the left of or behind the Harbor Inn was known as Rummel's store and apartments situated at 83rd Street and Second Avenue which also served as Stone Harbor's first post office with owner George Rummel serving as the town's first Postmaster. Today, this building still stands and is currently called the "Sassafras House" and is now quite popular for providing condominium accommodations for rent during the summer season.

Lastly, please notice the many segments of sewer pipe lined up and lying on the ground in readiness to be placed underground and extending southward along First Avenue. At this point in time, we recognize that Stone Harbor is about to experience a period of very significant growth and development. Stay tuned for more interesting and exciting stories about our favorite resort, namely Stone Harbor!

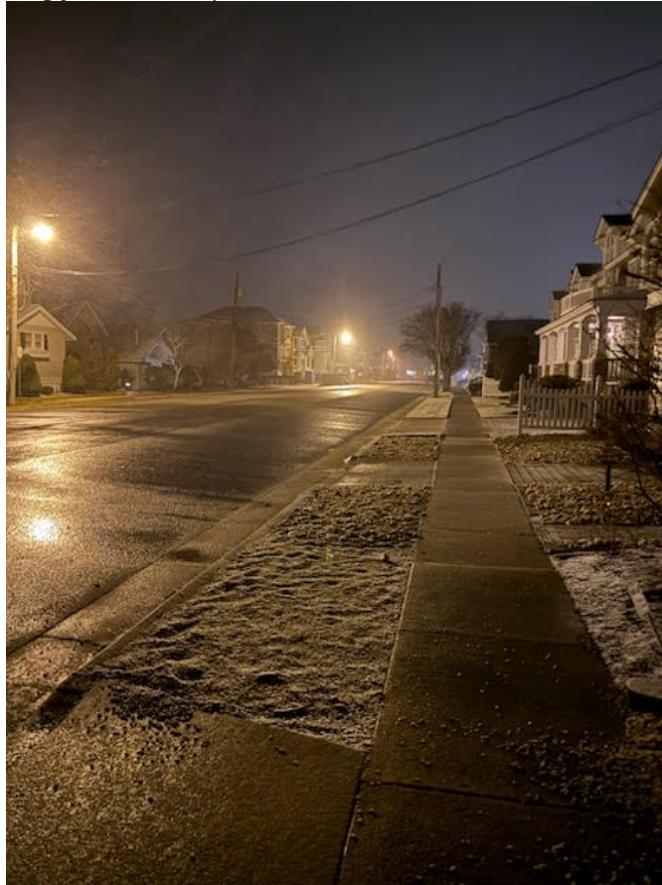
THE MUSEUM IS AT 5410 2ND AVENUE AND CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT www.stoneharbormuseum.org. PLEASE BE SURE TO SEE HARLAN'S HISTORY WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT <https://www.stoneharbormuseum.org/harlanhistory/> AND ALSO CONSIDER DONATING TO THE STONE HARBOR MUSEUM AT <https://stoneharbormuseum.org/donations/>.

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.



The calm before the storm on a busy Golden Gate Drive.

Media Buzz - Two Recent Articles worth Your Attention!

Stone Harbor Adopts 3% Occupancy Tax

Saturday, December 20
35°F | Rio Grande

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NEWS | DECEMBER 17, 2020

Stone Harbor Adopts 3% Occupancy Tax

A 3% occupancy tax imposed on hotel/motel rentals and short-term rentals booked through computer platforms like Airbnb or VRbo.

Vince Conti
Senior Reporter



Stone Harbor Welcomes Two New Council Members.





STONE HARBOR - The Borough Council has adopted a 3% occupancy tax on hotel/motel rentals and short-term rentals booked through computer platforms like Airbnb or VRbo.

Short-term rentals booked directly through the property owner or through a licensed real estate broker are exempt from the tax by state law.

The vote came at the Dec. 16 meeting of the council with two hotel/motel owners opposing the tax, but with no property owners who let out their properties for short-term rentals through computer apps speaking.

The tax had the strong support of the Stone Harbor Property Owners Association, which had organized a campaign to build public support by arguing that the borough's visitors needed to help pay for the added cost of municipal services during the main tourist season.

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NEWS | DEC. 19

If You're Singing Too Loudly, You Might Be Fined



Mayor Tim Curley, right, with new council member Frank Vali and his family. - Stone Harbor

STONE HARBOR - The council added a number of new players to the team that will manage the borough in 2026 at its reorganization meeting on Jan. 6.

Three members of the council were sworn in following the results of the November elections, council member Robin Casper was chosen as the new council president, a new chief financial officer was appointed, and the borough administrator, who started in Stone Harbor in July, was confirmed for 2026, which will see his first borough budget cycle.

Related

NEWS | JAN. 14

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Indictments Filed Jan. 13

For copyright reasons, we are only providing links to the introductory part of each article. Access to the full text of the articles requires a subscription to the Cape May County Herald, which can be obtained at [digital subscription](#).

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. 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](mailto>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, Phyllis Moore, and Heidi Yacker.

Your SHPOA Membership Card



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