



March 2026

President's Message - Chris Yates, President



Welcome to spring! It seems like it's been a long-time coming but it's finally here and we'll be on the beach soon!

Our committees have been hard at work on the Harbor Hustle as that race continues to grow and gain recognition as a premier race on the Shore. If you haven't participated before, this is a good year to start. If you don't walk or run, plan to come and watch the finish line.



The Project of the Year, which was a number of years in the gestation phase, was initiated with a check for \$12,000 presented to the Borough for the installation of bike racks and two bicycle repair stations to be installed at several beach entrances. Kudos to the Trustees and members who made that happen. These will be valuable enhancements to Stone Harbor's quality of life infrastructure.

As of this date, the Borough has not revealed much about the 2026 budget and taxes. We continue to advocate for better and more prudent financial management, the adoption of a serious long term financial plan, and greater transparency in budgeting, spending, and governance. Stone Harbor continues to face daunting financial and governance challenges and we are trying to be fully engaged on your behalf.

As always, we appreciate hearing from you. Please [reach out](#) with any questions, comments, and advice. And think about how you might serve as a trustee or committee volunteer.



SHPOA's Project of the Year - Bike Infrastructure Enhancements - Tony Tinari, Solicitor



The Stone Harbor Property Owners Association is pleased to announce its 2026 community betterment project of the year, a package of equipment designed to encourage and support bicycling in the Borough of Stone Harbor. A check for \$12,000 was presented to the Mayor and Borough Council for the procurement of bicycling support equipment.



The equipment package includes two Dero Fixit® Plus bicycle repair stations and four Dero large-capacity bicycle racks. The repair stations contain all the tools necessary to make basic bicycle repairs, inflate tires, and are all designed to withstand the rigors of our coastal climate.

The equipment will be installed by the Stone Harbor Department of Public Works, partnering with SHPOA, with completion expected by Memorial Day 2026. Repair stations and racks will be placed in two locations: one adjacent to the comfort station and parking area at 95th Street and 2nd Avenue, and one adjacent to the parking area at 123rd Street. These new facilities will add to the existing repair station at the Stone Harbor Recreation Center, creating convenient repair locations along the Second Avenue bike lane at the north, central, and south ends of the island.

Additional high-capacity bike racks will be installed at two beach entrances, with locations to be determined by SHPOA and the Stone Harbor Public Works team. SHPOA is hopeful that other community members and organizations will consider donating more racks for additional beach entrances where possible.

Stay Connected with SHPOA - Scott Jarden, CIO and Chair, Communications & Technology Committee



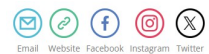
Are you following SHPOA online? If not, now's the perfect time to stay connected.



We use our Instagram and Facebook platforms to keep property owners informed with timely updates on borough decisions, local issues, community news, and real-time beach conditions. Whether you're in town or away, these channels help you stay engaged with what's happening in Stone Harbor.

Our online activity continues to grow. In the past month alone, we've added new followers across both platforms, and engagement remains strong. In February, our website recorded over ****10,000 views****, with more than ****6,300 visits to the Beach Cam page**** during recent storms—highlighting how valuable these tools are, especially during changing conditions.

Following SHPOA ensures you won't miss important updates, helpful information, or opportunities to stay involved with the community. The links at the bottom of this communication will help you follow us.



4th Annual Harbor Hustle

The 4th Annual Harbor Hustle 5K run and 1m run/walk will occur on Sunday, June 21st, at 8am. This year's kick off to the summer of '26 will coincide with Father's Day, so we encourage a large turnout celebrating our dads. Shells of Hope is once again co-hosting the event and special thanks to Seashore ACE for their continued premier sponsorship. New this year will be the opportunity for everyone to sponsor their favorite participants in our effort to raise money and awareness for efforts supporting pediatric brain cancer research at CHOP.



Saturday, April 11th - Beach Sweep. 9 am - 12:30 pm. Register at CleanOceanAction.org/Register.



Saturday, May 9th - Garden Club Plant Sale. To order, see "plant sale" at gardenclubofstoneharbor.org. Deadline to order is Monday, April 13th.



Monday, May 25th - Stone Harbor Memorial Day Events. [Click here](#) for a list of times for the parade and other Memorial Day ceremonies.



Saturday, June 13th, 9:00 AM - SHPOA Membership Meeting at the Harbor Square Theater. You can renew your membership [here](#).

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



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 - "HYDRANGEA" 1908, Stone Harbor, N.J.

INTRODUCTION: *Imagine a time machine that could transport us to an earlier time in Stone Harbor's 100+ year history. I don't know about you, but I am now about to set the destination and time selectors to "Stone Harbor, New Jersey" and the year "1908". That time period is where we will be devoting our attention for the next 6 months with upcoming SHPOA "Beach Buzz" editions. Our focus will be on the very early construction and development of Stone Harbor by featuring some of the first houses and other important projects shortly after the turn of the century. As property owners yourselves, it is my hope this next group of accounts with vintage archival photos about Stone Harbor will have added meaning to you. By the way, look for some interesting surprises along the way starting with this very account. So, let's go!*

Presented here are 3 old photo images derived from the Stone Harbor Museum archives section. The first is in sepia, the second is rendered in black and white and the third photo is "colorized", thanks to the implementation of an Artificial Intelligence platform. The primary focal point is the building shown in each image. We will be looking at the grand residence of Reese Risley, who was one of the founding brothers, instrumental in putting Stone Harbor on the map. Known as "Hydrangea", and located at 8421 First Avenue on the west side of First, this majestic early structure was a fine example of the Queen Anne style of architecture.

As you can readily see the first 2 photos depict the just completed Risley cottage with an abundance of workmen and teams of horses providing the non-mechanized muscle needed for graveling 85th Street and the installation of curbing and sidewalks. Please keep in mind that at this point in time only a dozen or so structures had been built in Stone Harbor.

Now check out the third and final image among this trio. Did you do a double take when viewing this last image? Is it what you expected? For the record, please know that this particular image is special because "artificial intelligence" or "AI" played a part in its unexpected appearance. Recently, a good friend of mine who had purchased a subscription to Chatgptgo, ran this old sepia picture through ChatGpt. My colleague then sent me this dramatically altered and colorized photo making it possible for me to share it with my many readers and viewers. It is my hope that you will savor this creation, including such a lovely sky and cloudscape. Additionally, I will be utilizing and including more examples of AI colorized photo images in the future. In closing, the Risley cottage survived the test of time for about 100 years despite many coastal storms, hurricanes, nor'easters and extreme high tides. While being a private residential property for the first 45 years or so, the Risley property next became a guest house in the early 1950s to 1987 and then it became a popular Bed and Breakfast into the early 2000s. Unfortunately, the Risley house no longer stands. Perhaps some of the so-called old-timers may still remember seeing or even renting rooms in this iconic structure with its rich history associated with the very early days of Stone Harbor development.

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.



No cushions needed

Media Buzz - Below are two *Cape May County Herald* articles, the first highlighting the SHPOA Project of the Year, which funds bicycle repair stations and heavy-duty bike racks, and the second about Stone Harbor backing the repeal of REAL regulations. Also included below is a link to the Cape May resolution, which provides a clear summary of the reasons for opposing the REAL regulations.



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](#).

[Click here](#) to view the Cape May resolution, which provides a clear summary of the reasons for opposing the REAL regulations.

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 Help Line

SHPOA is pleased to provide our members with a Help Line to identify the best person at the Borough to provide assistance with any 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.



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](https://www.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, Phyllis Moore, and Heidi Yacker.
