
The SHPOA

Beach Buzz

Keeping Members Informed About Stone Harbor



July 2026

President's Message - Chris Yates, President

Summer is in full swing and the beaches and bay have been glorious! There is nothing in the world better than summer in Stone Harbor. Next time you go to the beach, stop and look at the bike racks and bike repair stations that SHPOA supplied as a Project of the Year. They are located at different beach entrance locations and represent some of the work you accomplish through our organization.



There is more later in this Blast on the upcoming September meeting, which will feature a forum with three candidates for the two seats on the Stone Harbor council. The meeting is Labor Day weekend so we hope you will join us for 90 minutes on Saturday morning. We will be ratifying new and returning trustees, recapping the enormously successful Harbor Hustle, and announcing the winner of the 2026 Photo Contest. If you can be in town, please join us at the Harbor Theater.

11th Annual 2026 SHPOA Amateur Photo Contest is Open! - Scott Jarden, CIO and Chair, Communications & Technology Committee



The 11th Annual 2026 SHPOA Amateur Photo Contest is open for entries. Stone Harbor homeowners, guests, and visitors are invited to submit up to **three** photographs taken in Stone Harbor during 2026.



Capture the beauty and spirit of our community, from beaches, the ocean, and the bay to gardens, birds and wildlife, people, and local landmarks. **All entries must be photographed within the Borough of Stone Harbor.**

For complete contest rules and submission details, [click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE - SHPOA Fall Membership Meeting



SHPOA will hold its fall General Membership Meeting on Saturday, September 5, 2026, starting promptly at 9:00 am at the Harbor Square Theater. The meeting will begin with a candidates' forum featuring the three individuals who are seeking election to the Stone Harbor Borough Council in this year's November general election. The forum will be followed by the annual business meeting of the association, and the presentation of awards for the annual SHPOA photography contest and the SHPOA Citizen of the Year. All

SHPOA members, as well as other interested non-members, are cordially invited to attend!

Tuesdays at the Tower - Heather Stambaugh, Trustee; Chair, Community Engagement Committee



The Stone Harbor Tuesdays at the Tower concert on July 14, proudly sponsored by SHPOA, was the perfect summer night. The Dane Anthony Band had the Tower rocking as residents and visitors came out in full force to enjoy an evening of live music and community fun.



SHPOA Trustees were there throughout the evening, connecting with attendees and hosting an informational booth. It was an excellent opportunity to engage with the community, support one of Stone Harbor's popular summer events, and celebrate what makes our town such a special place.

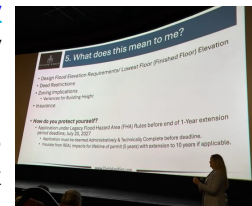
Record Turnout for our Spring Membership Meeting - Heather Stambaugh; Trustee; Chair, Community Engagement Committee



On Saturday, June 13, 2026, SHPOA held its Spring Membership Meeting at Harbor Square Theater. We extend our sincere thanks to Harbor Square Theater for providing the venue and to Sam Wierman of IDE Insurance for sponsoring the refreshments. Their support helped make the event a success.

If you were able to join us in Stone Harbor for the meeting, thank you for attending. We always value the opportunity to connect with our members in person and share the work SHPOA is doing on your behalf.

For those who were unable to attend, the meeting was [recorded and indexed by topic and presenter](#) for easy viewing. Presentations included: Mayor Tim Carney updated us on issues in the Borough; SHPOA Trustee Chris Campbell brought in John Halbruner, Faith Midgarden and David Hayes of The Hyland Group to explain the REAL Act and its impact on Stone Harbor property owners; SHPOA Trustee Susan Barrett led a question and answer session with Dan Ginolfi of Warwick Group Consultants, discussing the islands beach preservation.



This year's meeting format was modified in response to feedback received from our 2025 Spring Membership Meeting survey. Whether you attended in person or watched the recording, we encourage you to complete our brief survey and share your thoughts. Your feedback helps us continue to improve future meetings.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KDWCRHZ>

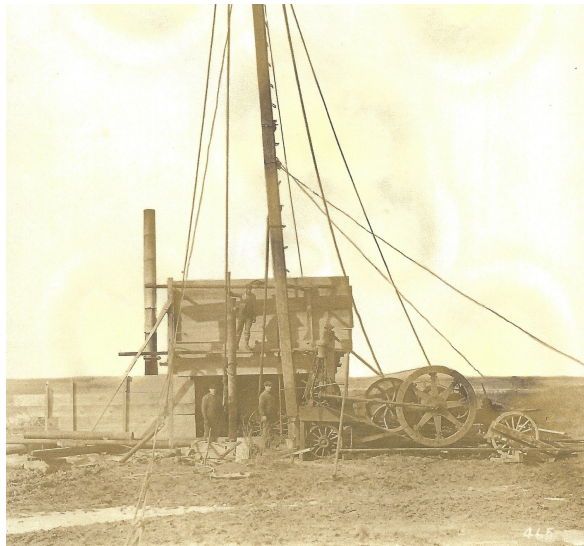
Historical Stone Harbor - Courtesy of Stone Harbor Museum

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



BACK IN TIME - "BUILDING THE WATER WORKS & TOWER" - 1908-1909
96th Street & 2nd Avenue





In the very early stages of its development, the Risley brothers in 1908 determined that steps must be taken to provide the “new” seashore community of Stone Harbor with an ample water supply. We also know that by 1910 gasoline engine-powered water pumps started replacing the common windmill means of drawing ground water to the surface. It was then no surprise that eventually city water supplies were soon being introduced to replace private wells, such as, for example, the one that had been functioning and serving the Harbor Inn over near 80th Street.

What we do know is that in the winter of 1908-09 a complete artesian waterworks system was built at Stone Harbor with a well that tunneled to a depth of 850 feet and accessed a geological water-bearing formation known as the Kirkwood Aquifer. The scene in the 1908 image shown above depicts a drilling apparatus with workmen in the process of digging the first well. The location of the town’s first pumping station and accompanying standpipe was at 96th Street and Second Avenue. Stone Harbor’s original vertical standpipe stood 100 feet high, was ten feet in diameter, and contained 60,000 gallons of water.



The second image depicts Stone Harbor’s first water tower as workers commence construction in 1909. What is particularly interesting about this dramatic photo is that AI or an Artificial Intelligence program was used to both colorize and enhance various aspects or elements of the scene. Look carefully at the tower on the right and you should be able to see the start of a circular staircase that eventually, upon completion, will ascend to the top of the tower.





This third image is a rare antique ocean-facing photo featuring the new waterworks. It also shows a Pennsylvania Railroad train with steam locomotive parked along Second Avenue. It is probably a working train that appears to be carrying some freight or construction materials, has a steam lifting crane for loading and unloading freight and has at least one attached passenger or personnel car. The pump house roof now boldly displays four words in large white letters: "STONE HARBOR WATER Company". Most interestingly, festive patriotic bunting frames the pump house and traces the entire spiral staircase. In addition, an oversized American Flag is flapping in a strong breeze at the top of the standpipe in this spectacular photo taken around 1912. Finally, there are at least 2 houses shown here in the distance that are noteworthy: the distinctive "Pebbles" house built in 1909 shown on the far right in this photo; and the "Rosery" house built in 1912 shown here between the train engine and the standpipe. It is with great pleasure that we can announce that both these houses are still standing as of 2026.

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.



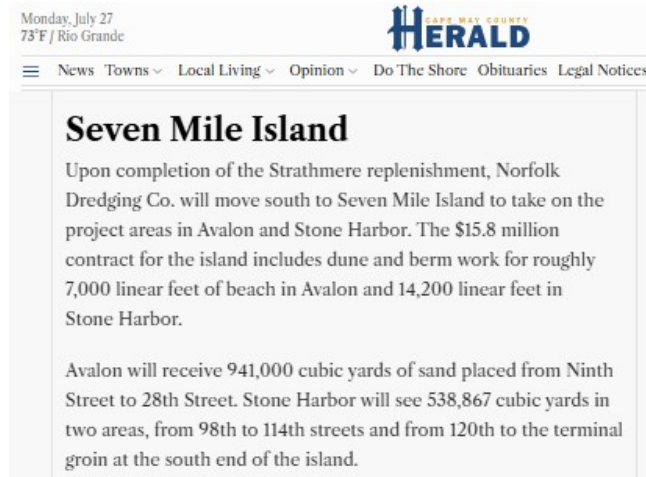
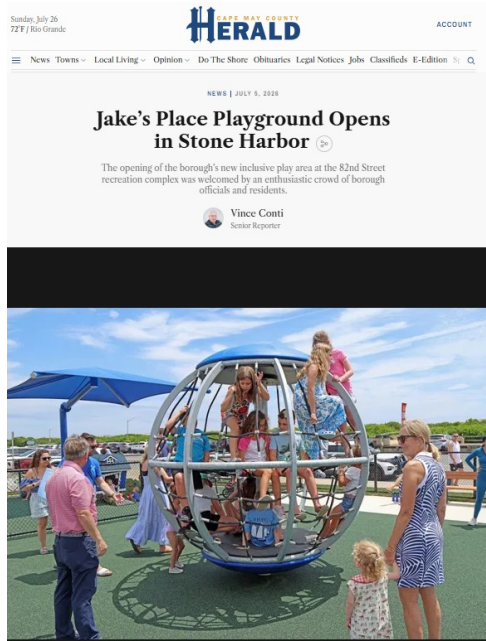


Family time on the beach, July 4th, 2026

Media Buzz

Below are two Cape May County Herald articles. One focuses on the opening of a community playground, while the other addresses the ongoing beach replenishment efforts.

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](#).



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



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. 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](#)
- [The Reeds at Stone Harbor Webcam](#), courtesy of Fox29

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.
