
The SHPOA

Beach Buzz

Keeping Members Informed About Stone Harbor



November 2025

President's Message - Chris Yates, President

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. I hope your plate was full, your home was happy, and the blessings were overflowing. On to Christmas and Hanukkah!



I think this Buzz will be in your box before the December 2nd Stone Harbor Council meeting so I'd like to remind you to see the email we sent about the Occupancy Tax, linked below. It is not common for SHPOA to take a direct stand on an issue before the Council but here we do. Your trustees have spent a considerable amount of time over the last several years working on proposals for alternative revenues to help ease the singular reliance on property taxes to support Stone Harbor. One of those proposals, a 3% tax on hotels, motels, Airbnb, VRBOs, is to be discussed and, we hope, introduced at that meeting. Please take a few minutes to read the information and watch the [linked YouTube video](#). Then reach out to the Council and express what we hope will be your support.

Take care and we will talk next month.



Occupancy Tax: Urgent Call to Action!

You should have received an email earlier with a call to action regarding the potential implementation of an occupancy tax. If you didn't get a chance to read it, here is a [link to the article](#) so you can stay informed on the issue.

Membership Renewal - Mike Walker, Trustee; Chair, Membership Committee

We hope you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving! We want you to know how grateful we are for the ongoing support of our SHPOA members. As we look ahead to 2026, we invite you to renew your membership and stay connected to the updates, advocacy, and representation that keep Stone Harbor property owners informed and engaged. Renewing is simple—[CLICK HERE TO RENEW ONLINE](#), select Buy Now, and log in to view your account. Thank you for being part of the community working to preserve and enhance Stone Harbor.



It's Never Too Early to Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Stone Harbor Events:



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

SHPOA Membership Meetings - June 13 and September 12, 2026. These informational sessions offer an important opportunity to stay updated on key issues facing Stone Harbor.

Around Stone Harbor with SHPOA - Found in the Bay - Local Citizens Help Clean Up Our Waters - Susan Barrett, Trustee; Chair, Sustainability Committee, with local residents Janet Cass and Marthat Wright

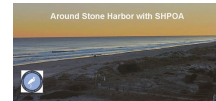
[This video](#) spotlights a grassroots effort making a real difference in the Seven Mile Island waterways. Hosted by Susan Barrett, SHPOA Chair of Sustainability, the piece features local residents Janet Cass and Martha Wright, who have taken it upon themselves to remove trash from the back bays while out kayaking.



Janet and Martha share how their simple routine—paddling, collecting debris, and carefully cataloging what they find—has grown into an ongoing environmental initiative. Their work provides valuable data on the types of waste entering our waters and highlights how individual action can support broader community stewardship.

This is a story of care, commitment, and the power of everyday citizens to protect the natural beauty of the Seven Mile Island. Follow them on Instagram – [found.in.the.bay](#)

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. [Click here](#) or on the image to watch other informational videos.



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 [click here](#).

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 - This Pennsylvania Railroad passenger car photo was also used on a mailable picture postcard for advertising and publicity purposes to attract potential investors to obtain parcels of land and develop more properties at the “New” Stone Harbor during the decade of the 1910s. The display sign on the railway car doorway shown here proclaims: “SPECIAL CAR / FOR / STONE HARBOR / SOUTH JERSEY REALTY CO.”

We have learned that the Risley brothers or “founders” of Stone Harbor had created the South Jersey Realty Company and had transported thousands of visitors on Free Inspection Trips in these special parlor and club cars expressly for the purpose of selecting Free Lots, under the company’s famous Bond Plan.

While it was the coming of steam locomotives that opened up the Jersey Shore to Philadelphians and other city dwellers, we would soon see that the increased affordability and immense popularity of the automobile and omnibuses or motor coaches during the decade of the 1920s would bring about the replacement of trains as a popular means of reaching Stone Harbor. It should be noted that by the early 1930s, there were no longer any active railway lines serving Stone Harbor. In the year 1931, the Great Channel Bridge was converted to automobile traffic only, and the Stone Harbor Railroad was excluded from its terminal in the Borough. So we next see ushered in a “new age” of road and highway building that will have great impact on the continued growth and development of the popular resort we now know as “The Seashore At Its Best”!

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/>.

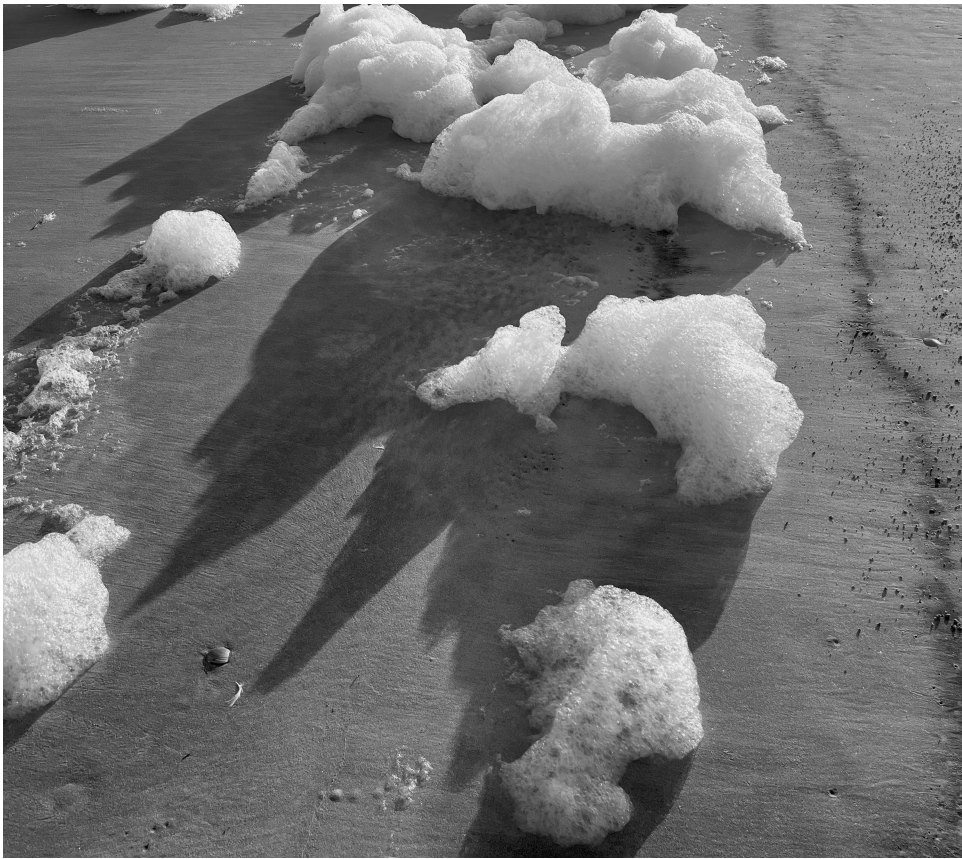
Contemporary Stone Harbor

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



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





For those who know, this is my Ansel Adams look from 104th Street last month. You don't see that very often in Stone Harbor.

Media Buzz

SHPOA Borough Engagement Committee Sets Priorities for 2025–2026: Occupancy Tax Revenue and Stone Harbor Library Options

For the 2025-2026 term, the SHPOA Borough Engagement Committee has determined to focus upon two issues of substantial importance to the Borough of Stone Harbor, namely the availability of revenue from a potential occupancy tax, and the advisability of alternatives for the Stone Harbor library. Two recent articles in the Cape May County Herald reported upon these important matters.

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](#).

Thursday, November 6, 2025

CAPE MAY COUNTY
HERALD

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Stone Harbor Planning to Add Occupancy Tax

By Vince Conti

November 5, 2025

STONE HARBOR – Council member Ken Biddick says the borough is preparing an ordinance to add a municipal occupancy tax of 3% on hotels, motels and short-term rentals obtained through online apps like Airbnb and Vrbo.

Biddick said the idea of using an occupancy tax as a new revenue stream for the



Saturday, November 22, 2025

CAPE MAY COUNTY
HERALD

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Stone Harbor Considering Leaving County Library System



The Stone Harbor library.

By Vince Conti

November 6, 2025

STONE HARBOR – The Borough Council is considering withdrawing from the county library system, as it can now fund itself by the library tax for other

...the county library system, so it can use funds raised by the library tax for other allowable purposes.

During a report from the council's Administration and Finance Committee Nov. 3, council member Ken Biddick said the borough is seriously considering an exit from the county system. There was no talk of dissatisfaction with the services of the county system; Biddick was clear that the reason for such a move would be the ability of the municipality to divert surplus funds raised by the library tax for use in allowable areas of the general fund budget.

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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.

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



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.

