



February 2026

President's Message - Chris Yates, President



Welcome to winter in Stone Harbor! Who remembers the last time folks were skating in the bay and moving big piles of snow all the while wrapped up like Eskimos? It's a different experience with charms of its own but spring is just around the corner.

It's been a busy winter. We've seen quite a bit of activity at Borough Hall and we will continue to bring you summaries of all that. The county schedule for the replacement of the 96th Street bridge has slipped again. On his way out the door the governor signed the REAL Act, with potentially significant implications for all shore towns, including Stone Harbor. Changes in state and federal funding for beach replenishment and maintenance, along with permitting changes, are pushing shore towns to reevaluate how they approach challenges with their beaches. SHPOA is working with the Borough on these issues, offering the expertise of our Trustees and members, to achieve the best outcomes possible. It's a long list and we are committed to keep you up to date on these and other developments.

We are also in the midst of the fun stuff — the Harbor Hustle, our Project of the Year, Tuesday at the Tower, and the spring meeting.



We still have need for Trustees, particularly volunteers who have a background and experience with technology. If you have a few hours a month to spend with SHPOA, please reach out to us at Nominations@StoneHarborPOA.org. It's not a heavy lift but you can make a real difference.



Sat., March 14, 2026
Saturday, March 14th
Harbor SHhhiver Polar Plunge. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Saturday, April 11th - First of two Beach Sweeps. More details to follow.





Saturday, June 13th, 9:00 AM - **SHPOA Membership Meeting** at the Harbor Square Theater.

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



Improving Your Renewal Experience - Mike Walker, Trustee; Chair, Membership Committee



We sincerely apologize to any members who have experienced difficulties while renewing their SHPOA membership.

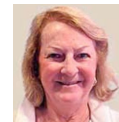
We know some people have had issues, and we understand how frustrating technical issues can be. We want everyone to know that we are actively working to resolve these problems and improve our renewal process. Your membership is important to us, and we never want a technical glitch to stand in the way of your continued involvement.



We truly value every member of our community. If you are encountering any issues renewing, please contact us by [clicking here](#) and we will address the matter promptly.

In the meantime, you may mail your renewal check to SHPOA, PO Box 155, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247 and we'll handle the rest. Membership is \$45 for one year, or \$40 per year for a 2-4 year membership. Thank you!

E-ZPASS Benefit for New Jersey Seniors - Phyllis Moore - Secretary



New Jersey E-ZPass offers a 10% discount on off-peak tolls for drivers aged 65 and older on the NJ Turnpike and Garden State Parkway. You can find more details [here](#).

Additionally, Seniors may obtain an E-Z Pass discount from the Delaware River Port Authority for their four (4) bridges: Commodore Barry, Walt Whitman, Ben Franklin, Betsy Ross. [The application](#) is on the New Jersey E-Z Pass website. Vehicles must be registered in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or Delaware.

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 photograph, taken at Stone Harbor sometime in the latter 1920s or early 30s, shows 4 women posing in a most amusing fashion and having fun for a momentary re-enactment of driving and riding on a Stone Harbor Terminal Railroad Company trolley car.

While no longer in service, this abandoned trolley in derelict condition as you can see served as a great local prop for this most interesting photo. At one time and mostly during the decade of the nineteen teens, this very trolley used to operate and provide vital electric rail service between Cape May Court House and Stone Harbor between 1912 into the early 1920s. Here this dilapidated trolley not only served as inspiration for a great photo opportunity but also as a sad reminder of the glory days of this type of passenger transport service. This out-of-service railroad equipment epitomized the effect that in due course the advent of the automobile and new highway construction would have on the discontinuance of many years of railroad service (both electric and steam driven) to and from Stone Harbor. As one era ends and another begins in Stone Harbor, we might find it entirely fitting to remember Bob Dylan's popular hit song written and released in 1964. I refer to Dylan who sings and offers his so-called lyrical wisdom to fans, "The Times They Are a Changin'". Stone Harbor surely is "on the rise" or as some would say, "up and coming"!

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/>.

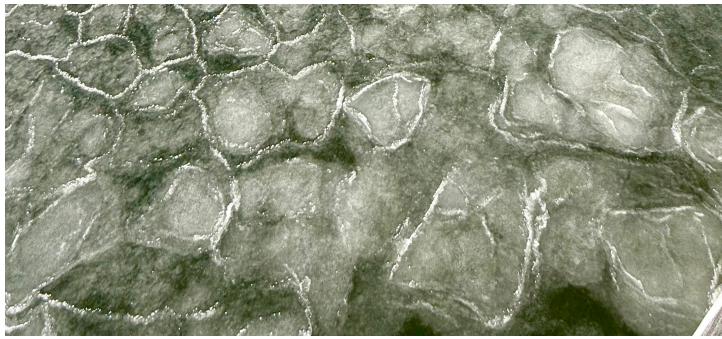
Contemporary Stone Harbor

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



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





Sunday, Feb 8th, 2026, Paradise Bay, air 7f, water 34f and wind 30-40 mph

Media Buzz - 96th Street Bridge Work Delayed

Thursday, February 19
39°F / Rio Grande

HERALD CAPE MAY COUNTY


ACCOUNT


News Towns Local Living Do The Shore Opinion Obituaries Classifieds E-Edition Spout Off

NEWS | FEBRUARY 18, 2026

96th Street Bridge Work to Start Later Than Planned

The new expectation is that construction will begin this fall and be completed by May 2030.

 **Vince Conti**
Senior Reporter



The 96th Street Bridge. File photo

Work on replacing the 96th Street Bridge between Stone Harbor and Middle Township is expected to start about a year later than originally planned.

Stone Harbor Administrator Joseph Clark said that permit delays due to two federal government shutdowns have pushed the project off its earlier schedule, and that the new expectation is for construction to begin this fall.

Related

NEWS | FEB. 18
For this Villas Priest, Ash Wednesday Started at Wawa

NEWS | FEB. 17
Mullock Enters the Race for Van Drew's Seat

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.



Jeff Bartlett, a SHPOA Member had the following question for us, and given similar questions we've received, thought to share it, along with our response.

Jeff's Question:

On the 3% occupancy tax, can we work around the exemption for property owners that rent out individually or via real estate firms? Those occupants probably outnumber those via computer apps or hotel/motel visitors. Those exempted utilize just as many borough services and facilities as anyone else. The exemption logic doesn't make sense.

Jeff Bartlett, SHPOA Member

SHPOA's response:

Jeff,

Thank you for your question to us.

We wholeheartedly agree with you on this. The tax should apply to all rentals, including those placed through realtors. The challenge here is that the New Jersey state statute does not explicitly permit this. The realtors and many others take the position that the state statute enabling municipalities to impose the tax precludes the tax from applying to rentals made by licensed real estate agencies. We have done a significant amount of our own research and analysis and believe the law may be subject to challenge, so as to enable the extension of the tax to those rentals. At this point, the borough has not determined to extend the tax beyond hotels, motels, and certain internet-enabled rentals.

Stone Harbor would need to take an aggressive position on this and levy the tax, at which point it is almost certain that realtors and perhaps some landlords would contest the tax in court. Another pathway would involve an effort to amend the state statute to explicitly include additional types of rentals. Those would be the pathways to proceed.

If you have any ideas about how we might advance this effort to extend the tax, we are all ears and would appreciate hearing from you or any other member at BeachBuzz@StoneHarborPOA.org.

Thanks,
SHPOA

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. 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.