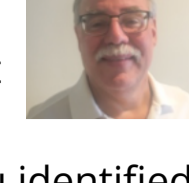




March 2023

President's Message

- Rich Fuchs, President



After a one-month hiatus I'm back! Special thanks to ChatGPT for standing in for me last month; it made Stone Harbor sound wonderful. Probably better than I could have done! Thanks to all the members who responded to our request to identify errors in the submission. We had several, you identified many corrections. I guess ChatGPT was just trying to put Stone Harbor in the best light possible. I'm not going to ask you to send corrections to my write-up; I get enough of those already from our Trustees and Editors. We'll bring ChatGPT back in the future and see what it has learned about our marvelous town.

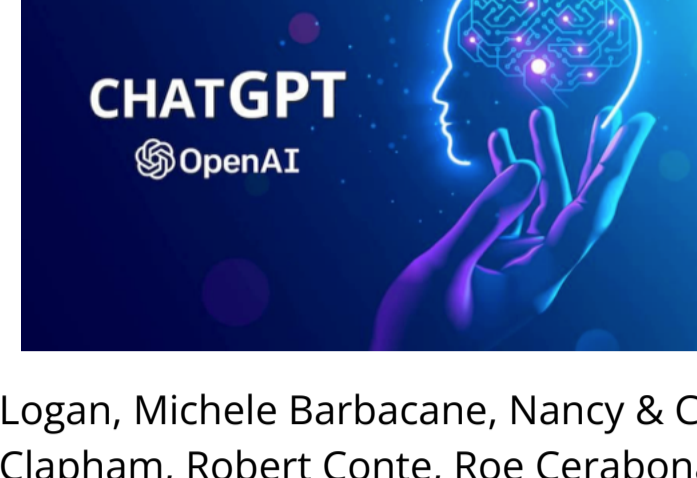
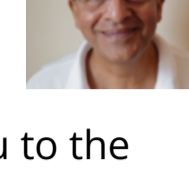
The SHPOA Board of Trustees met for Saturday, March 11th. Our Treasurer, Paul Grady, provided his monthly finance report as well as the status of our 2023 membership. Membership numbers are running strong, but we still have several members who have not yet renewed. We have a goal of growing membership numbers in 2023 and can use the assistance of all members. If you know of a friend or neighbor who is not a member, please encourage them to join. We continued our discussion on the Project of the Year and the Trustees voted on the nominations received and have selected several excellent ideas to move forward as our projects. More to come on that topic. The committees reported on their plans for 2023. The Sustainability committee continues to work with the Borough on issues such as flood management and the upcoming beach renourishment. The Community Engagement committee is planning for SHPOA participation in a number of interesting activities during the season, including plans for a SHPOA sponsored 5K race and sponsorship of a concert at the Tuesdays at the Tower summer series. Stay tuned for information on these events.

We continue to provide the perspectives of the members based on feedback you provide to us, so please keep your views and opinions coming. Comments can be sent to us via the SHPOA contact mailbox at Contact@StoneHarborPOA.org. We read all emails received and endeavor to respond. In addition, the viewpoints expressed are passed to our Council Liaison, Reese Moore.

We will remain your voice in Stone Harbor!

Members correct ChatGPT's take on Stone Harbor, NJ

-Homi Kapadia, Chief Information Officer and Chair, Communications & Technology Committee



Glad so many of you enjoyed reading **ChatGPT's take on Stone Harbor, NJ** in last month's Beach Buzz. Thank you to the following who played our game and found factual errors in what ChatGPT put together:

Barbara Carty, Becky Cahill Garofalo, Charlene Priar, Claire Reimer, Clare Furmanski, Debbie Cone, Diane Mattiford, Ellen McNeill, Erin Friday, James Durham, Jared Rabinowitz, Jay Blackman, Jim Cichelli, John Herd, John Joyce, Julian Miraglia, Len Trainor, Linda Ready, Mark Logan, Michele Barbacane, Nancy & Charlie Barejsza, Patrick McGrath, Phyllis Reger, Rich Bolte, Robert Clapham, Robert Conte, Roe Cerabona, Ron Workman, Sally Raub, Thomas Siani, Tim Rogers, TK Long, Tom Doyle, Tony Gurley, Tracie Steely, and Virginia Waring.

The most cited error was the one about beachfront eateries. All the corrections received, along with their frequency of mention include:

Beachfront eateries	17
2 miles of beaches	7
Fishing charters	5
Theatre performances	5
Scenic bike paths	4
Rent umbrellas and chairs	3
Town offers surf lessons	2
Beach volleyball	2
Art shows	1
Crystal-clear water	1

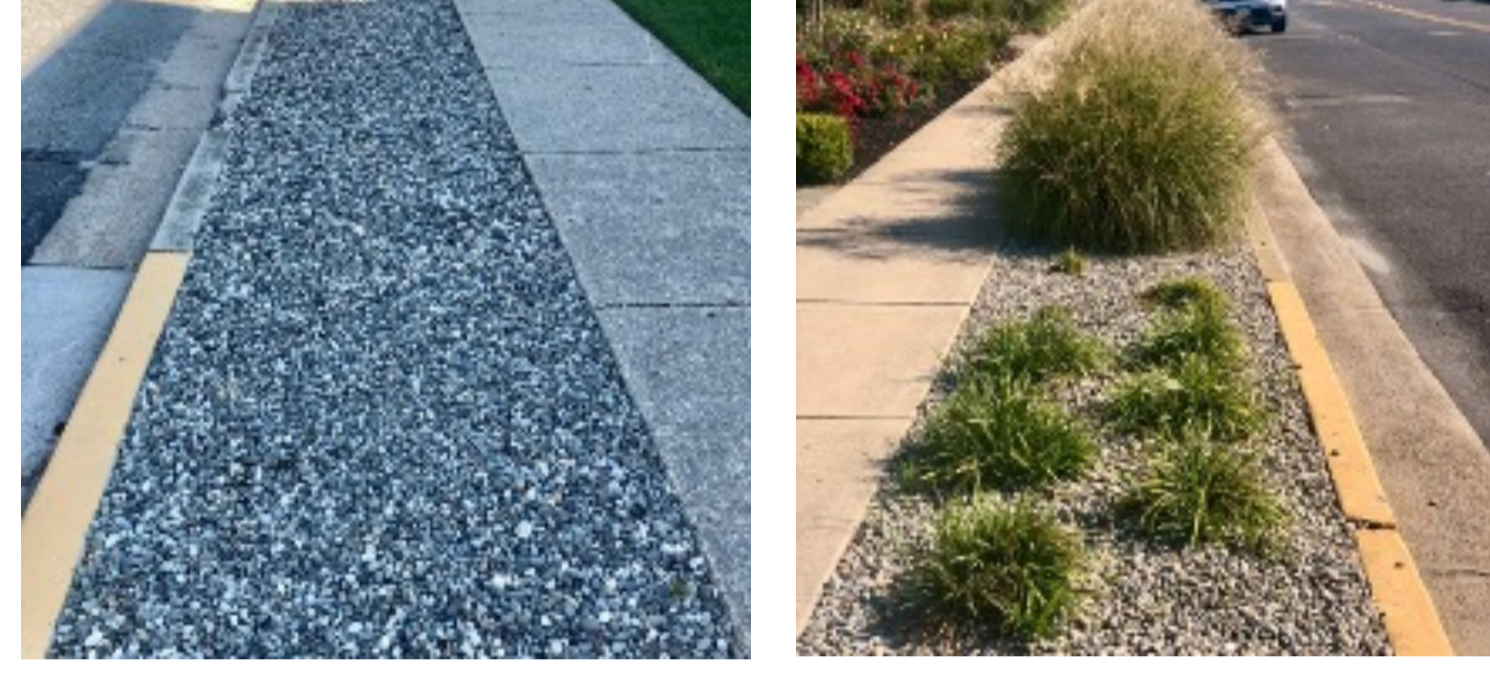
Certainly a lot of great suggestions for our Tourism Department to consider going forward! Let's see what ChatGPT and other AI (Artificial Intelligence) programs bring to us in the future!

Borough Watering Ordinance

-Geoff Woolery, Trustee & Chair, Sustainability Committee



Borough Ordinance #1607 went into effect on January 1, 2023. It states that automated watering of grass, trees, or landscaping located between the curb and the sidewalk may now use only drip irrigation. "Manual" watering is not limited. Your Trustees have been exploring different ways in which homeowners can update this area of their property to allow for this important water conservation effort while maintaining *curb appeal*.



We've asked a few local landscapers to provide approximate costs to help homeowners with preliminary decision making. These are not actual estimates but meant to give you a range of alternatives to spray head sprinklers. The options below assume 60' frontage:

- 1 Remove grass and irrigation system and replace with pea gravel--\$2,000 to \$4,000 (photo 1)
- 2 Remove grass and irrigation system and replace with native, sustainable plants having NO irrigation at all--\$3,000 to \$4,000 (photo 2)
- 3 Remove grass and irrigation system and replace with native plants and drip irrigation--\$3,700 to \$5,500.
- 4 Retain grass but just replace spray irrigation system with drip--\$3,000 to \$5,000.
- 5 Remove grass and irrigation and install synthetic turf--\$7,000--\$12,000.
- 6 Cut and cap the spray heads and leave the lawn natural with no watering --\$500 to \$1,000.

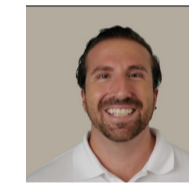
When discussing water conservation at the shore, it's important to understand where our water comes from. Stone Harbor, like most of coastal New Jersey, relies on groundwater for our supply. Over pumping of the groundwater is causing the ground levels to sink, called subsidence. This, along with rising ocean levels, is a significant sustainability concern. Houses, driveways, patios, and pools decrease the porous surface that allows rainwater to seep back into the ground and prevent water from replenishing the aquifer recharge.

The Atlantic City 800 (or AC 800) is the groundwater basin that is shared by many municipalities in southern New Jersey. The lowering of the water table through subsidence has caused saltwater to invade freshwater wells of Cape May, Lower Township, and the Wildwoods. Cape May constructed an expensive desalination plant and The Wildwood Water Utility drilled new wells inland using an aquifer recovery and storage system to keep drinking water available for Wildwood residents. We do not want this to happen to Stone Harbor - the cost would be astronomical to build a desalination plant and this plant would have to be off-island, creating even more problems.

We as homeowners have the responsibility to reduce water consumption and decelerate saltwater intrusion into the AC 800 - this landscape ordinance helps move us in that direction. Regulating and enforcing outdoor water usage can help homeowners and landscapers properly irrigate. Also, by using native plants that are drought tolerant we can reduce the frequency and duration needs. Utilizing other methods will also help: replacing grass with rocks and gravel or dune grass or even using synthetic turf in some instances. If we really love Stone Harbor, we need to do everything we can to conserve this precious natural resource and reduce storm water runoff.

Community Engagement Committee Update

-Jay Blackman, Trustee & Chair, Community Engagement Committee



It's hard to believe that summer is right around the corner! The community engagement committee has been in talks working through logistics of putting together SHPOA's first sponsored 5k race. Dates are currently under consideration, but we are hoping to provide you with a fun, competitive event with great turnout! Proceeds from the event will go towards initiatives around Stone Harbor.

There are a few upcoming events where we hope to see you. The first beach sweep is coming up on April 1st. We also hope to see you at the beach opening ceremonies on Memorial Day weekend. SHPOA is excited to be sponsoring the band "Fat Mezz" on August 22nd for the Tuesday at the Tower Concert series. They were a big hit last year playing songs from the 70's-90's. A full listing of events around town can be found on our website at <https://www.stoneharborpoa.org/#calendar>. We hope to see you there!

Historical Stone Harbor

- Courtesy of Stone Harbor Museum



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



Circa 1910 - A striking view of 96th Street under construction. Looking west we see the making of the Stone Harbor Boulevard linking Stone Harbor with the mainland. A draw bridge in the making over the Great Channel destined for an official opening on July 3, 1911 with important dredging equipment in the background.

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/harlan-history/> and also consider donating to the Stone Harbor Museum at <https://stoneharbormuseum.org/donations/>.

Contemporary Stone Harbor

-Scott Jarden, Trustee's Member, Communications & Technology Committee; Lead, Social Media



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



You never would have thought how nice that old house was going to look. We need more re-builds like this that creatively use an old structure. I think the original owners, Mr. & Mrs. Greenlee would be proud of this transformation.

Announcement

Beach Sweep on Saturday April 1st



Spring is in the air and our **semi-annual Beach Sweep is only 1 week away**. Please register today at <https://cleanoceanaction.org/be-the-solution-to-ocean-pollution> and help out at this great event. This year's focus will be on the dunes given the upcoming beach fill. See you April 1st at 96th Street beach; this is no April Fool's joke!

Member's Buzz

In this section we will 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.



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!



SHPOA's site with beach cams and now updated with embedded weather and tide information can be found 24 x 7 at <https://www.stoneharborpoa.org/gallery/stone-harbor-beach-cam-weather-station-tide-chart/>.



The Beach Buzz editorial team: Homi Kapadia, Scott Jarden, Cynthia Burton, Ted Kestner, Jay Blackman, Joe Carlini