

President's Message

Tisa Head

Spring is just around the corner, and I know that we are all looking forward to it!! But, even through the Winter, your SSCA and volunteers have been busy - - from everything to planting sea grass, to working on the pickleball project, to cleaning up Triangle Park and Circle Pond, inventorying the properties to identify work that will need to be done this year, and planning for our Annual Earth Week Clean-up! It has been a productive winter.

This newsletter is going out just in time to let you know about our first ever *Spring Into Action Volunteer and Membership Event* to be held on March 27 from 12-4 PM at the Pitts Center. Come by for some refreshments and to learn about volunteer opportunities!

Speaking of volunteers, it's that time of year when we need a Nominating Committee to identify members interested in running for the Board. Typically, at the April General Membership Meeting, a chairman of this committee is selected. If you are interested in filling this role or participating on the committee, please contact [me](#) . Or, if you are interested in running for the board, please let me know that as well!

As most of you are aware, the **Beach Nourishment** project is not quite finished for Southern Shores. Our beaches will be getting more sand (at the north end). To complete the project, the SSCA is allowing the contractors to mobilize and demobilize their equipment from Hillcrest Beach Access. The parking lot will be closed to the public for one week in March and one week in May to do this work. An email will be sent out to let you know the exact dates as we get closer. A pedestrian walkway will be marked to allow pedestrians to get safely to the beach cross-over during this time. Thank you for your patience!

Now a reminder – please mark your calendars for our **Annual Earth Week April 15-22**. Our kickoff will be at Hillcrest Access on April 16, come sign up to help clean-up our crossovers, parks, marinas and tennis courts throughout the week, and grab something yummy from the Fork 'et Me Not food truck that will be at kick off from 12-4 PM.

General Membership Mtg.
 April 10, 2023
 7 PM, Pitt Center
 Agenda on p. 3

Communications Schedule

Monday—Weekly Event Email
Wednesday—Social Media posts
 Send news and information to:
communications@sscaobx.org

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SSCA Office Hours:
 Monday: 4-6 PM
 Wednesday: 3-5 PM
 Thursday: 10 AM—NOON

We look forward to seeing you at the Volunteer/Membership Event and at our ***Quarterly Membership Meeting on April 10, 7:00 PM at the Pitts Center!***

Enjoy your Spring!



Tisa Head
President, SSCA

A flyer for the SSCA Volunteer and Membership Open House. The background is light blue and decorated with various flowers including white daisies, yellow sunflowers, and purple pansies. A white rectangular border frames the central text. At the top center of the border is the SSCA logo, which depicts a sailboat and people on a beach. The text is as follows:

**SSCA
VOLUNTEER AND
MEMBERSHIP
OPEN HOUSE**

**MONDAY, MARCH 27
12 - 4 PM
PITTS CENTER**

**Meet your neighbors, volunteers
and board members!**

**Learn about spring and summer
volunteer opportunities
and SSCA membership.**

**Light refreshments
Door prizes**

Let's Spring Into Action!

Contact coordinator@sscaobx.org
for questions and information.



SOUTHERN SHORES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 10, 2023 7:00pm
PITTS CENTER

AGENDA

Meeting called by:

Tisa Head, President

Type of meeting:

General Membership Meeting

Pledge Allegiance/Moment of Silence

Approval of Agenda

(Members)

Approval of Minutes

(Members)

President's Comments

Tisa Head

Treasurer's Report

Ernie Dash

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bylaws and Planning/VP
Membership/Slip Rentals
Secretary
Communications/Website
Volunteer Coordinator
Marinas & Westside Parks Maintenance
Properties

Don Pratt
Mike Guarracino
George Kirby (Absent)
Penny Lobred
Lisa Minerich
Rick Koch
Joel Newton

TOWN REPORT:

Elizabeth Morey, Mayor
Cliff Ogburn, Town Manager

New Business

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Adjourn

Communication Requests

Do you have a story, event or announcement that you would like to share with the SSCA Membership?

If so, please email us at: communications@sscaobx.org.

Once the request has been approved, we will include in one or all of the following:

Quarterly Newsletter:	January, April, July, October
Weekly Email Announcements:	1st of each month to include Event Calendar and Reminders
Monthly Calendar Email:	Sent out Monday with Announcements and Reminders
Weekly Social Media:	Posted each Wednesday on Facebook, Instagram & NextDoor This will include stories, reminders, events, etc.

All requests must include the following information and should be emailed to communications@sscaobx.org the Wednesday PRIOR to the first Monday it will be sent. Please do not send to SSCA Office Admin.

1. Subject
2. Recipients

We have the following Email List Categories

- All Active Members
- All Active & GraceMembers
- Boat Club – Primary and Secondary
- Tennis Club
- Lapsed Members
- Additional email lists can be used if needed.

3. Message
4. Beginning Date
 - Announcement sent on Mondays and will repeat until event is completed
5. Deadline of RSVP or Registration, if applicable.
6. Attachments or forms in **PDF format**
7. Flyers or Pictures that should be included.

Dune Crossover Status

The annual beach crossover condition survey has been completed, and the crossovers are in overall good shape. Sand on stairs is our biggest problem! The following crossovers have sand on stairs: 10th, 9th, Hillcrest, 8th, 5th, 3rd, 1st, Hickory, 228A, 192A, and 72A. 10th Ave is the worst as stairs on the ocean side are completely buried, while the viewing deck, west stairs and walk deck are partially buried. Most likely, all this sand is a result of the recent beach renourishment. Hopefully, once sand fences are installed, some of the problems will abate. Similarly, at 208A/East Dogwood the ocean side stairs are completely buried and there is couple of inches of sand on much of the viewing deck. Shoveling the sand off doesn't always help the situation if the sand is thrown off near the stairs and desk, which results in piles or ridges.

Chickahuak Accessible Ramp and 84A Ocean Boulevard

With the \$25,000 Dare County Tourism Board grant, we will begin work this spring on the accessible ramp from the Chickahauk viewing deck to the beach and from the west ramp to the viewing deck, and relocation of the existing stairs to the beach.

The crossover at 84A Ocean Blvd, just south of the Chickahauk traffic light will also be replaced this year.

The SSCA Relies On Your Help:

While there are lots of volunteers working for the membership in many different ways, they still can't stay on top of everything! So, if you see something - such as broken playground equipment, a loose stair tread, a fallen tree/branch, etc. - let the SSCA know about it (261 - 8617 or ssca@obxbeach.net). You're our eyes . . . please don't assume that someone else will find and fix the problem!

GOING - GOING - GONE!

Used trash (6) and recycle (4) carts available for a donation to the SSCA of \$40 - \$60. Five have new lids; two have a new axle and wheels. Text Joel Newton at 804-892-3378 for an appointment to select your cart!



Membership & Slip Rentals

Mike Guarracino

Membership

All SSCA properties are private property owned by SSCA members. These properties include the North, South and Loblolly marinas, the North Marina pavilion, the 34 beach crossovers, Hillcrest Tennis Courts, Sea Oats and Soundview Parks, and the Sunset and Kingfisher Overlooks. Membership dues help to support the maintenance and improvements of all these amenities. Membership is totally voluntary, but it is so vital to our community!

Through the end of February, about 75% of our SSCA memberships have renewed. If you have not renewed your membership yet and want to continue to support the SSCA, please renew as soon as you can (this can be done online at sscaobx.org). The dues for full-time residents, second home owners, and non-seasonal long-term renters is still only \$65. The dues for seasonal rentals (including those with rentals through Vacasa, VRBO, AirBnb, etc., as well as traditional local rental companies) is \$95. Tennis Club and Boat Club memberships are separate and continue to be \$25 each.

Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your Membership, this will be the LAST SSCA Communication you'll receive. Renew today to continue receiving SSCA Weekly updates, Newsletters, and other Community announcements! CLICK HERE TO [RENEW](#).

Slip Rentals

Based on the 2022 SSCA Membership Survey and the wait list for wet, dry and kayak slips, we know that demand for slips is high! To try to meet that demand, your SSCA added two additional kayak racks in late 2022 - one at the Loblolly Marina and one at Soundview Park, and they have all been rented. We are looking at adding more kayak racks soon. In January, we submitted 2 Major CAMA Permit packages to the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, in anticipation of adding additional wet slips at the Loblolly and North Marinas. CAMA permit processing requires the review by 10 State and 4 Federal agencies, and that process can take 3 to 6 months to complete. If the permits are approved, the SSCA Board will solicit contractor bids to add 4-6 new wet slips at the Loblolly Marina and 2 transient wet slips at the North Marina. While these slips won't get rid of our wait list, it will give us a few more slips to offer our members. Unfortunately, there is no additional space at our current marinas for more slips.



While we know that some people rent slips, but do not always keep a boat in their slip for the entire season, the SSCA does not require a member, who has paid their slip rental fees, to always keep a boat in the slip. Members who have paid can use the slips when and as they wish.

With Spring just around the corner, several projects are in process or have already been completed that will enhance our facilities.

- Minor repairs at the North Marina piers and walkway are completed. Also, four curtain panels at the pavilion will be replaced.
- The Sea Oats Park seesaw needs repair, and we are looking into how that can be done.
- With a wait list for kayaks, we are discussing where and when more racks can be built.
- Grass cutting and trimming in the common areas and crossovers is a must each year. The ground maintenance contract has been sent to our contractor, with a start date of May 1.
- The commemorative plaque process established last year has been put into effect and the first plaque under the guidelines was mounted at the Hillcrest Beach crossover.
- Contractors have been contacted in preparation to resurface the Hillcrest tennis courts. This project is in the early stages; more to come as required steps are finalized.
- Sea Oats Park basketball court was vandalized with graffiti. The hope is that the clean up can be done by volunteers.

Pickleball Courts Update

Engineering plans have been completed and sent to our selected contractor. The town has reviewed and indicated that they will be approved when they are submitted for permitting. We are awaiting a finalized contract, which will be presented to the SSCA Board for approval. Once approved, a start date for the beginning of the building of the courts will be determined. The only site preparation needed prior work beginning will be a modification to the sprinkler system in place at Sea Oats.

**CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED!!**

The SSCA budget includes member contributions as part of financing the Pickleball Courts. Please consider making a contribution to your SSCA that can be used to build the pickleball courts. To date, more that \$5,000 in contributions have been received.

Treasurer Report

Ernie Dash

Our budget to date is on an upward path toward fully funding our 2023 budget and continuing to add to our Reserve Funds to cover future planned and unplanned expenses.

In our three major funding categories (Resident and Rental owner memberships and Marina rentals), we are \$8,820 ahead of where we were at this point last year. We have commitments for all our marina rentals and are confident that our membership goals will be met or exceeded this year.

Total bank funds have increased by more than \$69,000 in the past year, and we have budgeted to add at least another \$40,000 in 2023. Our 2023 budget includes plans to spend reserve funds for property projects, specifically repair and painting of the Tennis Courts and the building of Pickleball courts.

The COVID-delayed 2020 Audit has been completed and the 2021 Audit is in the final stage. There are no significant findings for either audit.

One final note:

We do need help in finding a new CPA firm to do our 2022 Audit. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of qualified auditors, locally and nationally. We are in the search mode and welcome any leads or even “certified volunteers.”

Triangle Park Refresh

Tisa Head

In the 2022 SSCA Survey, we received several comments that Triangle Park needs some TLC. Last Fall, we began cleaning up the park by removing the overgrown bushes and weeds to allow for easier on-going maintenance. That was just the beginning of achieving our goal to make this area more appealing and welcoming to residents and guests who drive by there every day!

There are several other things that are being done to spruce up Triangle Park. Next will be the installation of a wooden sign provided by the Town of Southern Shores that says, “Southern Shores, A Community of Volunteers”, highlighting our town’s unique characteristic of volunteerism to support its community. The sign will be placed at the corner and hide the unsightly green transformer.

Finally, landscaping will be done to beautify the park. The landscaping plan and installation will be accomplished by (you guessed it) volunteers! SSCA is working with the local Dunes of Dare Garden Club. (You may notice these ladies in their pink tee shirts as they walk along Rt 12 in Southern Shores picking up trash every month.) The Garden Club will lead a group of Garden Club and SSCA volunteers to help with creating a landscape plan with a purpose! That purpose is to showcase native, drought tolerant and low maintenance plants that attract pollinators for our birds and bees. The desire is to showcase what grows naturally here on the Outer Banks so that it encourages others in our community to think about planting these types of plants in their own gardens and yards.

Stay-tuned for our call for volunteers to help us achieve this goal!

Boat Club

George Berry

No Boat Necessary!

The Southern Shores Boat Club (SSBC), a club under the SSCA, is actually more of a Southern Shores Social Club. While some of us have a boat or had a boat or dream to someday have a boat, more than 70% of the members don't have a boat. What is our purpose? The SSBC gathers to learn, eat, socialize and have fun! Planning has started for the July Independence Event where around 200 attendees come to enjoy our famous Low Country Boil along with the very popular brats and burgers. SSBC hats, tee shirts and popular hoodies will be for sale at both GAMS and Main Events.



The Educational Speakers Presentations, or GAMS (a New-England term referring to the sharing of information) are held the second Thursday of every month. The Duck Wood Country Club has restarted their warm Breakfast Buffet, with the SSBC subsidized cost of only \$12 per SSBC member. A real bargain! Some of the previous topics from past meetings include Wicked Tuna, OBX Captains, Mid-Currituck Bridge Engineers, The Rum Guys, Dare EMS, Master Gardener, Berlin Air Lift, Identity Theft, Bee Keepers, TOSS Town Manager, Oregon Inlet Update, Nags Head Woods Preserver, Found Lost Colony, Elizabeth II, and Dare Special Olympics.

2023 SSBC Member GAM Breakfast Schedule:

- 04/13/23: OBX Beach Nourishment
- 05/11/23: Buffalo City Distillery
- 06/08/23: Navy Hydrofoil Program
- 07/13/23: TBD
- 8/10/23: Remarkable Women of the OBX
- 9/14/23: NC National Guard
- 10/12/23: Pirates and Lost Colony Found (reprise)

In addition to GAMs, the SSBC hosts five (5) main events for Club members at the SSCA North Marina every year. Attendance ranges from 100-200 people.

SSBC Events schedule for 2023:

07/01/23	July Independence Event with Low Country Boil
09/02/23	September Labor Day Event with Blue Crabs
10/07/23	October Kids Crab Tournament (Pre-Teen and Teen Cash Prizes)
11/18/23	November Oyster Roast Event
12/16/23	Holiday Event Special

Come join us to meet your neighbors and have a great time along with eating some good food. 2023 Membership through the SSCA is only \$25 per family - the best bargain on the beach!

Contact [George Berry](#), SSBC Commodore, 703-473-0528, for more information.

Tennis Club

Jay Dunlap

We've had a mild winter and play has continued without pause at the tennis courts! Hopefully, with Spring on the horizon, we will see more warm, dry, longer days and more chances to play. Please remember to use the sign-up sheets just inside the gate to schedule your play time.

To get courts in shape for safe play, there are two battery powered blowers and a wet vacuum available for use. With several dips in the courts, the wet vacuum can be used to remove water from the deepest ones. Old beach towels are useful as well to remove remaining water. When finished, please return these tools to the storage box, coil the extension cord and plug the batteries into the chargers.

Please welcome our new tennis board (we have some carry overs and new faces):

Jay Dunlap - President
Tom Kent - Vice President
Suzy Rich - Secretary
Tony Bigbee - Property
Ron Nelson - Social

Please mark your calendars for the (tentative) schedule of events this year:

Earth Day Celebration and Clean Up - Saturday April 15 10am.

Priorities are to clear and trim foliage around the courts and gazebo and level gravel in the parking lot. Refreshments will be served.

Spring Social - Saturday April 29 3pm (rain date April 30)

Kid Fun Day 1pm and Fall Social 3pm - Saturday September 23.

We have an ambitious plan to improve the tennis property in 2023. As you read this, we will have repaired and painted the gazebo using volunteer labor. Hats off to tennis member Joe Meagher for making this happen. Also on the list is to repair and repaint the tennis courts. At our last meeting, it was pointed out that the

(continued on page 11)

courts were last repainted in 2006-07. It was agreed that the courts have held up well, but work should be done this year. We have contacted two contractors and requested detailed proposals. Once they are received, the proposals will be presented to the SSCA Board for approval to begin work. Funds to pay for this work are in the Tennis Court Reserve Account.

If you have any questions regarding the Tennis Club, please contact **Jay Dunlap** at Tennis@sscaobx.org

Sea Grass Planting: our Winter Project

by Len Schmitz, Better Beaches, OBX

In 2013 Better Beaches OBX was formed by restaurateur **Donny King**, after witnessing the damage from Super Storm Sandy. He noticed the devastating effects of ocean overwash on the Beach Road in Kitty Hawk whenever there was a major storm. He also noticed that vegetation on the dunes protected the road and houses. With the help of the town of Kitty Hawk who purchased beach grass, he started to plant the grass to fortify the dunes. In 2017, after Kitty Hawk did beach replenishment which included dune building, Better Beaches started planting beach grass on the new dunes. You can really see the difference after 5 years. The dunes have grown, and there has been very minimal damage to Beach Road since the beach grass has been planted.



*Len Schmitz
Better Beaches OBX
Southern Shores Resident*

The town of Southern Shores contracted for beach nourishment in 2022, including installation of sand fencing along the 4 miles of Southern Shores beach. Better Beaches OBX volunteers would plant grass along 1.2 miles of the project; the town of Southern Shores would plant the other 3 miles.

Over the last few months we have had 15 days of beach grass planting. Fifty cases of grass were planted (that's 80,000 spriggs). With the help of our wonderful volunteers, we have covered over a mile of dunes - from just south of the cell tower up to Mockingbird Lane. We will hopefully finish planting another 1500 ft this season - reaching Hickory Trail, by March 17th.

We have had a great turn-out of volunteers - from Corolla, Duck, Kitty Hawk, and Kill Devil Hills, but the majority of volunteers have been from right here in Southern Shores. Most of the days there have been around 15-20 people, but on Sunday March 5th, we had 41 volunteers, resulting in planting 550 ft. in just one hour. I'm hoping for some better weather over the next few weeks, so we can finish up our winter volunteer project this year.



Group Sea Grassers, March 5, 2023

Next winter, we plan on starting where we left off at Hickory Trail, and proceed north. The goal will be to plant from Hickory Trail to the town line which is just past 13th Ave. Beach grass planting season is from Mid November to Mid March. With the help of our Southern Shores volunteers, I am confident we will reach this goal.

Hope to see you next fall.

SSCA Volunteer Spotlight- Read All About It!

Sally Newton and Lisa Minerich

We have four Little Free Libraries (LFL) in Southern Shores located at four beach crossovers including Chicahauk, Triangle, East Dogwood and Hillcrest. In 2017, **Lori Keating** brought the idea here to Southern Shores. She and her husband assembled the structures. **Paul Schollaert and Joel Newton** installed them. The grand opening was held on April 15, 2017 and the LFL's have been going strong ever since!

The motto of the LFL's is "Take a book, Return a book." Their philosophy is for people to take books to read, share, or return to the same or different LFL location and leave books that others will enjoy. Each LFL is maintained by a steward who volunteers to stock books and keeps an eye on condition of library. Our LFL Steward volunteer team includes **Sally Newton** at Triangle, **Judi Flakowicz** at Chicahauk, **Connie Serafin** at East Dogwood, **Kathy Sanborn** at Hillcrest, **Carol Hayhoe**, **Carolyn Hoover**, **Sally Meagher** and **Tisa Head** along with many other community volunteers who lend books and "keep an eye on the library" like **John Bianchi**. **Judi Flakowicz**, who stewards at the Chicahauk LFL, takes special interest in children's books and was a library assistant for part of her 21 years at an elementary school in Fairfax County, VA.



Joel measuring and hanging door on Little Free Library.

Since all of the Southern Shores LFL's are close to the ocean the wind, salt and sand can take a major toll. Currently, **Joel Newton** is constructing new library doors and restoring some of the structures. After that some artistic Southern Shores volunteers have offered to refresh the paint and add their painting design talents. **Carolina Coto**, a well known local artist, who painted Chicahauk LFL is looking forward to a young collaborative artist, **Hope Salemi**, to refresh her painting.

Keep in mind that the LFL's are well used and busy in the summer season. Visitors often borrow books and rate of return is more challenging for volunteer stewards to monitor. Fortunately, local residents donate books to help make this difference.



Sally and Joel Newton's daughter Allison Bertrand was visiting from Texas. One of her co-workers had written a book about a teenagers experience with STEM and she brought a copy to donate to the LFL at Triangle.

Spring into Action!

Lisa Minerich

Earth Week in Southern Shores is April 15-22! The Southern Shores Civic Association (SSCA), the Town of Southern Shores (TOSS), the Chicahawk Property Owners Association (CPOA) and our community of volunteers are making a difference by cleaning up our beach, crossovers, parks, tennis courts and marina areas! Earth Day is celebrated on April 22. This year is the 50th anniversary of celebrating Earth Day around the globe! Billions of people are joining together in promoting awareness for the health of our environment.

Please volunteer at one of our Earth Day clean-ups during the week and together we will make a big difference. The meeting time is **10 AM**. The location plan for clean-up in Southern Shores is as follows:

- April 15 Hillcrest Tennis Court area
- April 16 CPOA Beach Access Paths -Meet at TOSS Chicahawk Parking Lot
- April 16 Hillcrest Parking and Beach Crossover Access
- 12:00-4:00 Earth Day Kick-Off with *Fork 'Et Me Not* Food Truck .
Don't miss this Award-Winning Food Truck!
- April 17 Sea Oats Park
- April 18 Soundview Park
- April 19 Trinitie Park—CPOA Day
- April 20 Triangle Park
- April 21 North Marina and Pavilion
- April 22 North Marina and Pavilion (Day 2)
- April 23* *Rain Date (if needed)



Upcoming Events

SSCA presents
MARCH FITNESS

MONDAYS
MARCH 6, 13, 20 AND 27
10 AM
The Pitts Center



Improvement Through Movement Classes taught by Lisa Minerich, OTR/L

Improve your range of motion, flexibility, balance, coordination, function and energy!

Contact coordinator@sscaobx.org for info or questions.



April 15-22, 2023

Southern Shores Civic Association (SSCA)
Town of Southern Shores (TOSS) and
Chicahawk Property Owners Association (CPOA)



This year is the 50th anniversary of celebrating Earth Day around the globe! Billions of people are joining together in promoting awareness for the health of our environment.

Please volunteer at one of our Earth Day clean-ups during the week and together we will make a big difference. Bring a pair of work gloves and let's Spring Into Action! The meeting time is 10 AM. The location plan for clean-up in Southern Shores is as follows:

April 15	Hillcrest Tennis Court area
April 16	CPOA Beach Access Paths -
	Meet at TOSS Chicahawk Parking Lot
April 16	Hillcrest Parking and Beach Crossover Access
12-4 PM	Earth Day Kick-Off with
	Fork' et Me Not Food Truck
	<i>Don't miss this Award-Winning Food Truck!</i>
April 17	Sea Oats Park
April 18	Soundview Park
April 19	Trinitie Park - CPOA Day
April 20	Triangle Park
April 21	North Marina and Pavilion
April 22	North Marina and Pavilion (Day 2)
April 23*	*Rain Date (if needed)*

Contact us:

Lisa Minerich, coordinator@sscaobx.org - SSCA Volunteer Coordinator
Carolyn Hoover, carolyn_hoover@hotmail.com - CPOA Volunteer Coordinator



www.sscaobx.org



**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Outer Banks Flotilla
Vessel Safety Check Event
Southern Shores North Marina
May 6, 2023 from 9 am to 2 pm**



An opportunity to get your boat or paddlecraft inspected by a qualified Coast Guard Auxiliarist for free!



The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer **free** Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) for recreational boats of all kinds. The VSC can be performed in the water or on a trailer and it usually takes 15 to 30 minutes. Vessels passing safety checks are awarded a U.S. Coast Guard / Auxiliary Decal that informs boating law-enforcement and safety agency's that your boat was in full compliance with all Federal and State boating laws during a safety check for that year.

You can learn more about Vessel Safety Checks and schedule a home visit online at:
<https://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>

For additional information contact David Lorenz at:
lorendwi@gmail.com or 757-572-1267