



# SBBA NEWS

<http://www.sbba.us>

*Spring 2025*

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Dear SBBA Members,

Salisbury Beach is beckoning us to celebrate another wonderful summer with family and friends. The beautiful salt marsh, the cooling sea breezes, the sun's reflection on the rolling waves, all tell us to slow down and savor our special times in Salisbury.

There is nothing like this unique environment to bring family and friends together. I know my family cherishes every moment they spend with us at our beach house, as do I.

The SBBA's mission, and my mission as your president, is to make sure we do everything we can to preserve and enhance the way of life that we all enjoy in Salisbury. This past year had its share of challenges. We are fortunate that our public officials have been great partners in

helping us with our mission. As you will see in the pages of this newsletter, the beach nourishment project is complete, the Town is taking the necessary steps to preserve the public access ways, and more municipal and state projects are in the queue.

The SBBA Beautification Committee is hard at work planting flowers, unfurling the American flags for another season, and working on a few surprises. The efforts of our dedicated volunteers, combined with the support of the Town and State, allow this association to continue cultivating Salisbury Beach's special community spirit.

I also want to thank the SBBA Scholarship Committee volunteers who processed a

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Betterment Association  
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record number of applications this year, resulting in 18 recipients! We look forward to celebrating these high school graduates at our annual meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for being a member and for your continued support. You are what makes us great. I'll see you around town or on the beach. Let's make 2025 extra special, share some laughs, raise a toast, and take lots of pictures!

**Sincerely,**  
**Don Egan**  
Interim President

### Life Preservers Installed at Beach Public Access Points

DCR has installed Life Preserver Rings at several of the Public Access Points on Salisbury Beach and will be placing them at all access points for the summer.



### Beautification Committee Update

Happy Spring! Don't you LOVE the tulips? They were planted by six Triton High School AP Science students. A big thanks to their teacher, Thomas Horsley, for reaching out to us and offering their help.

As the weather improves, the Beautification Committee will be landscaping and planting flowers along North End Blvd, at the South End triangle, Railroad Street Park, the entrance on 1A, and under the Welcome Sign near 286. The cement containers that frame Hunt's parking lot will get a refresh to add a bit of life to the area behind the bus stop. You'll also see North End Blvd come to life with American flags hanging along the boulevard and throughout the beach. We always look to our neighbors for help with watering and weeding, so if you can spare some time, please reach out to me directly.

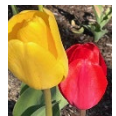
This year, we kicked off the Beach Clean-up on April 19th with 56 volunteers joining us to clean the area around the Center. We will continue to host beach cleanups led by Jesse Maneiro again this year. We will partner with Ground Swell, and the cleanups will be held on the 3rd Saturday of every month beginning May 17th from 9-11am. The remaining dates are June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th. Gloves, bags, pickers, and brooms will be available. Please meet next to Ground Swell and under the Music Tent at the Beach Center.

Our Adopt-a-Pot program was such a success last year that we are going to do it again. Here's how it works:

- You adopt a pot for \$100; we plant and water the pot.
- The planters will receive a placard to recognize or memorialize those who have adopted the flowerpots.
- You let us know where you would like the pot – on a Beach Access, along North End Blvd, or in the South End.

If you're interested in adopting a pot, contact me at [mbtimony@comcast.net](mailto:mbtimony@comcast.net)

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support.



**Maribeth Timony**  
Chair, Beautification Committee

**Beautification Committee**  
**50 Bottles of Wine Raffle**  
Tickets: \$10/ea or 3/\$25  
Drawing on July 21<sup>st</sup>.



[Info at sbba.us/wineraffle](http://sbba.us/wineraffle)

### Advertising in the SBBA Newsletter

If you are interested in advertising in the SBBA Newsletter, please contact Don Egan @ 617-875-8650 or [don.egan@sbba.us](mailto:don.egan@sbba.us)

Thank you to our advertisers who help to defray the cost of the newsletter!



## SBBA Scholarships

Congratulations to this year's SBBA scholarship recipients! This year we are able to award scholarships to 18 students, who are going on to pursue higher education in the fall. While congratulations are certainly in order for these impressive students, we would also like to offer congratulations to their families, our members and our larger Salisbury community. You all must be so proud of their achievements and their bright futures!

The SBBA is able to award these scholarships through the generous support and donations of our incredible members. We look forward to awarding scholarships every year, and we're only able to do so because you see the value in supporting our young people, just like we do! If you haven't already, (or even if you have), please consider donating to the scholarship fund, so we can continue to support our young people!

We look forward to seeing you all at our annual meeting. We will be acknowledging the scholarship recipients at the meeting!

Sincerely,  
**Liz Benoit**

Chair, Scholarship Committee

## SBBA Blood Drive

The SBBA is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood drive on **Tuesday June 24** from 2 to 7 pm at the Blue Ocean Music Hall. Our blood drive will be in memory of LeeAnn Condon who passed away in September.

Please make a difference by donating blood. Blood is needed for children and adults with rare blood disorders, people fighting cancer, after a car accident and many other reasons.

After giving blood, you will feel good knowing you helped change the lives of patients in need. You can schedule an appointment by calling 1800-REDCROSS or visiting RedCrossBlood.org and choosing Salisbury.

If you are able to give blood, please join us on Tuesday June 24. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,  
**Betsy Yarvitz**

## Beach Nourishment

The Salisbury Beach Nourishment project has been completed. The work began just before Christmas, stopping at the end of January after New Hampshire-based Ossipee Aggregate halted sand deliveries after supplying 30,000 tons for the project. The work was able to resume on Feb. 27 after the project secured 5,000 tons of sand from Torromeo Industries.

On top of the original \$1.75 million that had been approved for the project, an additional \$615,000 was approved on March 6<sup>th</sup> to secure the final 10,000 tons of sand needed to complete the project. The now-completed project totals 8,800 feet.

State Senator Bruce Tarr continues to be an important and effective advocate for Salisbury, please see his letter to our

members later in this newsletter. According to Senator Tarr, the project ended with the dune having a crest elevation of 17 feet and a consistent slope with a five-to-one ratio. In the Daily News he stated, "Anything less than that would not have conformed to the permits that were obtained for this project. And anything less than that would've not given us the sustainability and the resilience that this project has already demonstrated. It's been able to withstand those storms. And in fact, we're actually gaining sand on the beach due to the design of the project."

Grass has been planted by the state and by homeowners with grass made available by the SBBA so that roots in a root system to hopefully hold the sand in place to build up the dunes. The placement of sand fencing will hopefully also help prevent the lateral movement of sand along the beach.

At the last meeting of the Merrimack River Beach Alliance people from MIT made a presentation regarding the potential placement of manmade reefs in the ocean to hopefully break the wave action as waves approach the beach. While this project is years away it is a clear sign that more needs to be done as long range solutions are sought to help protect our beach.

Members of the SBBA are regular attendees at the MRBA meetings as well as the Salisbury Beach subcommittee of the group.

Sincerely,  
**John Housianitis**

## Letter From Senator Bruce Tarr

Dear Members of the Salisbury Beach Betterment Association,

After months of effort by the Merrimack River Beach Alliance (MRBA) and collaboration among state and local officials, non-governmental organizations, such as the Salisbury Beach Betterment Association (SBBA), and residents, I am pleased to report that the Salisbury Beach nourishment project was completed on schedule at the end of March 2025.

This important effort added a total of 45,000 tons of sand to the beach, strengthening the resilience of our coastline and helping to mitigate the effects of future dune erosion. Most encouraging, the restored beach has already withstood several storms since the work was completed and because of the design of the project, additional sand has accreted on the beach beyond the volumes placed by the project.

Thanks to Governor Healey, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Brian Arrigo, Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington, the Salisbury Board of Selectmen, and my House counterpart Representative Dawne Shand, who all played a pivotal role in helping to make this effort a success. In addition, an emphatic thanks to the SBBA for all the organization has done to support this project in

particular, and the MRBA and the Salisbury Subcommittee, in general. This project highlights the importance of collaboration and ongoing partnership when it comes to protecting vulnerable coastal areas.

After DCR allocated \$1.75 million to the project last year, work to fortify the dune began in December 2024. By the end of January, 30,000 tons of sand had been delivered and placed. Another 5,000 tons followed in February.

On March 6, the state approved a critical \$615,000 change order—funding which we worked diligently to secure—which made it possible to bring in the final 10,000 tons of sand and complete the project ahead of the March 31 deadline.

Of that \$615,000, more than \$430,000 came from the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund—created by the Legislature and funded by a portion of the revenue from parking fees at the Salisbury Beach State Reservation. This now-completed project spans 8,800 feet, with a carefully engineered slope designed to gain sand over time.

The latest sand placement has already shown promising results, with measurable beach growth. The Town of Salisbury’s Environmental Consultant Tom Hughes has conducted two LIDAR flight surveys with his preliminary findings suggesting that the sand is holding its position for now—though a major storm could shift that balance.

To further support the dune system, sand fencing has been installed to trap windblown sand and grow dune volume naturally. In addition, beach grass has been planted to help secure the dunes and add another layer of natural protection.

Presently, we are continuing to explore more permanent options for long-term coastal resilience. One exciting possibility is the artificial reef concept being developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). This innovative approach would involve placing an artificial reef system roughly a half mile offshore to reduce wave energy before it reaches the beach. This concept remains in its testing phase and is expected to take about five years to complete—but we are advocating for Salisbury to serve as a primary test location and in communication with the MIT team with updates on progress.

While this work plays a critical role in restoring a healthy dune system, more must be done to safeguard the long-term vitality of the beach and everything it protects and provides, including public infrastructure, marshes that provide carbon sequestration, benefits to the regional economy, and the quality of life for the entire region. Toward that end, the MRBA and its Salisbury Subcommittee are working with federal, state, and local officials to pursue a study through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluating the impact of nearby jetties on sediment flow and beach health.

This completed nourishment project has undoubtedly made Salisbury Beach stronger and more resilient in the short term. However, we must be clear-eyed in recognizing that this is not a permanent solution, it is a stabilizing measure in the interim while a longer-term strategy is developed and finalized. In order to transition to that strategy, the MRBA, Salisbury Subcommittee, state, federal and local officials, and other stakeholders are once again working together to identify, explore, and pursue options for a sustainable, forward-looking maintenance approach that reflects the needs of the community.

Looking towards the future, I have also filed legislation this session to enhance the preservation and management of the dune and beach system through the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund.

**S.663, An Act relative to the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund, includes:**

- Expanding the scope of the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund to protect both public and private properties throughout the entire beach system;
- Requirements ensuring resources from the Fund be used to purchase materials for dune and beach stabilization, including plantings and sand fencing, and support future nourishment and resilience projects;

- Providing matching funds for eligible projects led by other governmental or non-governmental partners;
- And raising the DCR parking fee at Salisbury Beach Reservation from \$3 to \$4, with included provisions to adjust for inflation.

I remain, as always, committed to the ongoing protection of Salisbury Beach and the safety of those who live, work, and visit here.

Thanks for reading this update and thank you to the Salisbury Beach Betterment Association for the opportunity to share it.

I am honored to serve you and encourage you to stay connected:

- Through office hours at many local Senior Centers and public buildings in Salisbury and throughout the region
- By mail: Senator Bruce Tarr, State House Room 308, Boston, MA 02133
- By telephone: (617) 722-1600
- By email: Bruce.Tarr@masenate.gov
- By following us on social media:
  - Facebook: State Senator Bruce Tarr
  - Instagram: @SenatorBruceTarr
  - X (Twitter): SenBruceTarr

**State Senator Bruce Tarr**  
Chair, Merrimack River Beach Alliance  
Chair, Salisbury Subcommittee



**Annual Meeting**

Please join us for the SBBA annual business meeting on Monday, July 21, at the Blue Ocean Music Hall, 4 Ocean Front North in Salisbury.

Doors open at 6:00pm, the business meeting starts at 7:00pm.

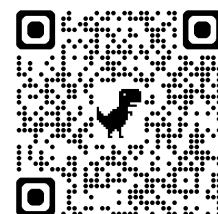
**Membership**

The SBBA is continuously advocating on behalf of our members on issues that improve the quality of life at Salisbury Beach.

We are proud of our members' volunteer efforts that include; planting beautiful flowers at public spots throughout the beach area, displaying the American flags that grace our streets, monthly beach clean-ups, Red Cross blood drives, and the SBBA scholarship program.

Our commitment to pursuing beach and dune resiliency is vital for the preservation of our community. The strength represented by your membership is important to our effectiveness and success. Please help the SBBA continue our efforts by renewing your membership today and inviting your friends and neighbors to join us! Share this newsletter and ask them to scan the QR code or go to <https://www.sbba.us/join>.

**Dianne Masiello**  
Chair, Membership Committee



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