

# Cape May Star and Wave



## House of the week

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## Successful test adds to county UAS experience

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165th YEAR NO. 34 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019 \$1.00

# Maintenance sought for Fisherman's Memorial

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Fisherman's Memorial is in need of regular maintenance, which could be a fitting project for the fishing industry.

At an Aug. 7 meeting of the Municipal Buildings and Property Advisory Committee, Chairman Robert Elwell said the city received a letter of complaint about the condition of the park around the Fisherman's Memorial. He said he visited the park and found the American flag was not flying on the flagpole. The rope to the flag was broken and the grass overgrown on the property.

Elwell said since his visit, grass was mowed and sidewalks edged. "I got in touch with the firehouse and they went down and put a new rope on the flagpole and got a flag flying," he said.

Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan said the park has an electrical problem. Elwell said Public

Works indicated an underground wire was broken or corroded, cutting off power to a light illuminating the flag at night.

Committee member Larry Reed said the committee presented City Council with a report on Harborview Park and Fisherman's Memorial Park. He said he met with Gretchen Whitman, sanctuary director of the Nature Center of Cape May, who suggested a partnership to help maintain both parks.

Reed suggested continuing discussion at the end of the season with Whitman to determine whether she could work with local fishers and the U.S. Coast Guard to oversee regular maintenance of the Fisherman's Memorial.

Elwell said there had been discussion of two local fishing businesses adopting the care of the Fisherman's Memorial. Reed said he has discussed the possibility of forming a foundation to fund the upkeep.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A city committee wants to get a group or groups to perform regular maintenance at the Fisherman's Memorial.

In other discussion, Elwell suggested the committee survey the Transportation Center on Lafay-

ette Street to determine whether it needs any improvements. He said the city continues to attempt

to place more parking on the property without success.

The city has been attempting to negotiate with Cape May Seashore Lines to park cars on unused railroad tracks since 2015.

Reed asked if the city was maintaining the Bank Street parking lot. Elwell said it appeared the city had applied some weed killer to the property. He said cans and bottles litter the lot, "which need a good cleaning up."

Elwell said before the start of the tourist season, the city manager, deputy city manager, Public Works Superintendent Joe Picard and members of the Municipal Buildings and Property Advisory Committee and Parking Advisory Committee visited the parking lot.

He said lighting that was the responsibility of Atlantic City Electric has been repaired. Reed said the parking lot is underutilized.

Elwell said on a Sunday afternoon, he drove past the lot and a number of spaces were available.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer in Cape May

Beachgoers live it up on the sand and in the surf in mid-August in Cape May, where the weather is hot and the ocean is refreshingly cool.

# Palombo named new principal of Cape May school

By RACHEL SHUBIN  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Board of Education appointed Zachary Palombo as principal of Cape May City Elementary School on Aug. 15.

Palombo's recommendation came from acting Superintendent John Thomas. Board member Joseph McKenna abstained from the vote.

Palombo joins the elementary school from Lower Cape May Regional High School, where he worked as an assistant principal and anti-bullying specialist.

Board President Dawn Austin said the board received a letter regarding Thomas' continuation as acting superintendent.

"We need to work on John's contract and let it go to negotiations," board

member Anita DeSatnick said. "Whether we want to hold a meeting before school starts, but the county wants his contract worked on."

Board member Edward Connolly asked when the contract was due.

"My contract expired in June 2018," Thomas said.

"We have a wrinkle here, and we need to get together and have a meeting and get this done," Connolly said.

Thomas, acting as business administrator and board secretary, reported summer school was completed and the students had a good time.

"The Department of Education announced the second cohort of the Lighthouse District Program," Thomas said. "I believe it was 11 districts now joining the

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PALOMBO

# Board rejects clamshell parking lot for hotel

By RACHEL SHUBIN  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Planning Board denied a variance request in an 8-1 vote against the use of clamshells as the parking lot surface of the Cape May Lokal Hotel, located at 5 Stockton Place.

During the meeting Aug. 13, attorney Ron Gelzunas, representing Lokal Stockton LLC, applied for an amended site plan to approve and address several deviations from the previous approval.

The application will go

back before the Historic Preservation Commission.

"There is no surprise; the changes made were never vetted through my office," board engineer Craig Hurless said. "This is not normal; this is the only application I've ever seen come through the board after the case. This is not something the board wants to entertain and you can tell by the vote."

The boutique hotel was approved for a major rehabilitation including variances on the parking lot and fence construction.

"The property is open

and operating and although we have some deviations from what was approved, we do not believe the substitutions of materials pose any negative impact to the site or neighborhood," Gelzunas said.

The board initially approved a paver design for the parking.

"In the installation process, the applicants put a lot of time and thought into the product they were using," said Vince Orlando, partner at Engineering Design Associates. "The applicant's company is eco-friendly,

and when the applicant

made that change, it was consciously. They were thinking it was better for the environment and a better alternative."

Orlando also added the applicant knew they did not have time to go back to the board while staying on time with the project and opening date.

Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies said the change did not come as a surprise.

"It wasn't timing; you were approved for one thing the owner took it upon

Board rejects, Page A3

# LCMRHS's Belasco named County Teacher of the Year

TRENTON — The New Jersey Department of Education announced 21 teachers as the 2019-20 County Teachers of the Year on Aug. 14 during an awards ceremony at Liberty High School in Jackson Township.

The Cape May County Teacher of the Year is Thomas Belasco, who teaches English at Lower Cape May Regional High School.

"It is with great pride that I recognize these highly skilled, compassionate and dedicated County Teachers

of the Year," said Gov. Phil Murphy. "These teachers reflect the exemplary quality of educational leadership that we see throughout our state."

"New Jersey's educators are among the best in this country, as evidenced by the success of our students," Department of Education Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet said. "The teachers whom we recognize today instruct, inform and inspire children to achieve success

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