



## House of the week

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## Fishers want say on future of wind energy

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165th YEAR NO. 39 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 \$1.00

# Elementary teachers start year without contract

'We never didn't settle, we never got to impasse, we never got to mediation and now we have all those things.'

— Edward Connelly, Board of Education member

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape May City Elementary School teachers have been working without a contract since June 2018 and one parent wants to know when the issue will be resolved.

Peter Hardy asked the Board of Education during a meeting Sept. 19 "how much longer can we expect our teachers to continue to

put their best foot forward without contract extensions?"

Board member Edward Connelly said negotiations with teachers began in February 2018 but were suspended for the summer.

Connelly said a meeting was held with an impasse mediator before summer and again Sept. 10.

"In both of those instances to this point in time, we have not been able to reach agreement among the parties, so

we continue through the process," he said.

How long the process will continue is an unknown, Connelly said. He said he has been involved in teacher negotiations six or seven times during the past 20 plus years and teachers had never gone this long without a contract.

"It was very unusual to start a school year without a contract," said Kathy Lucas, a second-grade teacher.

Connelly said he was cer-

tain both sides would like to come together and get the contract issue resolved. He said the negotiation process would continue.

Hardy asked what would happen if teachers received job offers from other districts that offered more security.

"You all stay here and they'll leave," he said.

Connelly said teachers have the right to accept other offers but to this point in time, he had not seen that

occurring. Hardy asked if the school was doing all it could to retain its teachers.

"We are," Connelly replied. He said school board members, who are volunteers, are putting in extra hours to reach an agreement. Connelly said we are living in a different time and some things are becoming more difficult than in the past.

"We never didn't settle,"

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## Committees update city on progress

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The chairs of the city's dozen advisory committees meet together quarterly to share information and update Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies on the progress of their work.

On Sept. 20, Inderwies said the roundtable discussion helps alleviate overlapping work and certain committees need to work together.

Beach Safety Committee Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said beach taggers, lifeguards and emergency medical technicians did an exemplary job protecting bathers this summer. He said the committee would begin evaluating its goals for 2020, which would include expanding its educational outreach.

"We have established a database with Cape Regional (Medical Center) collecting data in relation to the beach- and surf-related injuries," DeSatnick said. "We are now starting to look into beach profiles as brought up to the Army Corps and DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and I'm asking the city to start a dialogue with those agencies as soon as possible."

DeSatnick said U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew was on board with the work of the committee. Council needs to start moving on the issue since the committee is working only in an advisory capacity, DeSatnick said.

The U.S. Army Corps and DEP are willing to consider Cape May becoming a demonstration beach for a different replenishment template that would need to involve the city engineer, he said.

"This committee can move forward doing the homework and research, bring back the data and the information to council and they can decide which direction we will go," DeSatnick said.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee Chairman Bill Murray said the committee distributed bike maps with suggested safe routes this summer. He said the committee worked with Inderwies and the Department of Public Works to improve crosswalks and sight lines.

The Cape Island Bike Map will be updated for 2020, according to Murray. He said the committee is working with the city manager and county for completion of a safe route to Cape May City Elementary School for students from Coast Guard housing.

Murray said the committee also is working on the creation of safe bike path from Madison Avenue to the Emlen Physick Estate to keep riders off Washington Street.

"We're working toward the selection and installation of signage which coordinates with the bicycle paths," he said.

The committee is recommending install-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The eight identical Stockton Cottages were built on the west side of Gurney Street from 1868 to 1871. Edward Warren and William Sewell invested \$50,000 and engaged architect Stephen Decatur Button to design them.

## Marking 150th anniversary City honors Stockton Cottages, owners

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Stockton Cottages, one of the most photographed groups of houses in the city, are turning 150.

Owners of the cottages were recognized by City Council at a meeting Sept. 17.

Mayor Chuck Lear said 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of eight identical cottages being constructed on the west side of Gurney Street from 1868 to 1871. He said Edward Warren and William Sewell invested \$50,000 to construct the cottages and engaged architect Stephen Decatur Button to design them.

The cottages took their name from the Stockton Hotel, then the city's largest and most noted hotel, which was located across the street, Lear said.

He said Button designed eight identical cottages with the main staircase set back into the middle of the structure, allowing a wrap-around porch and leaving the front parlor open to the comforting sea breezes.

"Mr. Button's designs included a wealth of wood-crafted ornaments and gingerbread embellishments to the exterior of the cottages with a crowning 6-foot mahogany acroterion on the rooftop of each cottage, a



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Some of the owners of the Stockton Cottages hold up a banner at a City Council meeting during which they were honored for their efforts to upkeep the historic homes.

signature Button design," he said.

Lear said the Stockton Cottages survived the great fire of 1878 through the heroic efforts of the Cape May Fire Department and have been lovingly maintained by a series of owners and their families. The cottages have been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places and a photo of the homes is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Laurice Albed, owner of 16 Gurney St., wrote a narrative about her cottage that stated her parents bought the home

in the late 1930s from the estate of the original owner, Mrs. Edward Warren.

"Since then four generations of us have lived and laughed and loved this house," she stated.

Albed said her father owned two stores in Convention Hall that were destroyed in the 1962 nor'easter.

Jim Decurtis, an owner of 24 Gurney St., said his family purchased the cottage in 1983 and began renovating the house. He said the façade was covered with asbestos shingles that cov-

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## Determining cause key to providing aid to homeless

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Special to the Star and Wave

"Let us not just speak of the good, but let us do the good which is needed."

These words were spoken by Tim West, pastor at Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene in Erma, as he gave his opening statement and benediction Sept. 12 at a Cape May County homeless seminar.

"We are excited not only to be the host in this community but to come in and see if we can find some unity to help," West told the crowd of about 70 to 80 people in attendance, ranging from local political leaders and parishioners of local religious organizations to high school students who wished to bring back information to their schools to see if they could help.

The speakers for the evening were the Rev. Jeremy Montgomery, president and CEO of the Sunday Morning Rescue Mission, the second-oldest homeless shelter in Philadelphia; as well as Pastor Alfred De Feo, who is a member of the organization Dwelling Place network. The organization has recovery sites called Freedom Homes throughout the United States and addresses concerns of citizens who are homeless and/or facing complications from addictions.

The seminar was organized by Cape Hope, a local organization dedicated to providing assistance and guidance to people who are or at risk of becoming one of the many members of the growing homeless population in the county. The goal of the evening was to have a discussion about how the county could address the homeless and transient population.

"Homelessness does exist in Cape May County," said Denise South, director of Cape Hope. "It does. We cannot deny it or turn a blind eye to it. I have spoken to many homeless people who have told me they will leave their homes to avoid abuse or violence. But when they leave, they leave into homelessness."

South also made it aware to all in attendance the reason why some of the county's population are unaware of their homeless neighbors is due to the transient nature of people in the area.

"People will leave the area for

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