



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## EASTER FINERY ON DISPLAY IN CAPE MAY

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## County may use central dispatch

### Officials visit Camden to gather info

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County is considering employing a central dispatch center for 911 calls.

Two dozen officials, including mayors, managers and police chiefs from a number of municipalities in the county, accompanied Cape May County Emergency Management Coordinator Marty Pagliughi to the Camden County Communications Center last week.

Pagliughi said a lot of information was garnered from the Camden County center to put together a pilot program that began March 3 for Avalon and Stone Harbor. Avalon is dispatching police for both municipalities while the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is dispatching fire and EMS calls for both municipalities.

Stone Harbor expects to save \$187,000 this year, while Avalon anticipates saving \$184,000, Pagliughi said.

A likely location for a central communications center is the emergency management office in the basement of the main county library on Mechanic Street. Other existing county buildings have not been ruled out as locations, Pagliughi said.

"The joint dispatch center has to be connected with the (county) Emergency Operations Center. They go hand-in-hand," he said.

Locating a central dispatch center in the EOC may mean taking part of the space from the library.

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## Historic items up for auction



This 1906 Hammond cable car from San Francisco is among the many items collected by Dr. Ralph W.E. Cox that will be sold at auction by Bonham's Auction House on May 10 at the Cape May County Airport. Cox died at the age of 97 in 2012, leaving behind hundreds of antique relics and artifacts. Unique items include a steam locomotive, two airplanes, numerous antique wagons, automobiles and carriages, high-wheeled bikes and coin-operated mechanized-music players.

### Antique planes, trains, automobiles to be sold from large Cox collection at Cape May Airport

By OWEN KELSEY  
Special to the Star and Wave

ERMA — The storied life of Dr. Ralph W.E. Cox is being commemorated in an extraordinary fashion May 10: The entirety of his estate will be auctioned off by Bonham's Auction House at the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum at the county airport.

Cox died at the age of 97 in 2012. After giving up a career as a dentist after World War II, he purchased surplus airplanes from the government and started United States Overseas Airlines at

the Cape May County Airport. The airline transported military personnel to the four corners of the globe and employed 1,000 people.

The airline came to a screeching halt when it lost its government contracts in 1962. While flying around the world, it was common for Cox to bring home items for a transportation museum he operated in the hangar currently housing the museum.

In mid-May, hundreds of antique relics and artifacts, ranging in all sizes

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This 1904 Ford Model AC is one of the rare items to be sold.

## Lower Twp. moves forward on police station

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council agreed Monday to hire an architect to produce a design for a new police station to be constructed next to the municipal complex in Villas.

In 1995, the township moved the police station from Villas to a 48,000-square-foot building at the county airport due to a growing staff.

Township Manager Mike Voll estimated the cost of construction of a new building at \$3.5 million, plus a possible

additional \$300,000 for site plan work.

He suggested a bond ordinance to finance the construction be introduced at council's next meeting, but Republican Councilmen Tom Conrad and Erik Simonsen stated they wanted the exact cost of a new police station before they were prepared to vote on a bond ordinance.

"I had questions. I thought they would be answered tonight and they haven't been," Conrad said. "I want solid numbers, not estimates."

Voll said he could not give

an exact answer on costs until the township received estimates.

Conrad said he also had questions about how much it would cost to remediate a current mold problem in the public safety building.

Simonsen said he believed all of council was on board with moving forward with the project if solid numbers were available. He said the building "was a mess" and there were no other options on the table.

Voll said he would return to council with a number to be bonded for the project.

Lower Township Police Chief William Mastriana said in 2011 that former police chief Brian Marker asked him to form a committee with Capt. Thomas Beebe to review the public safety building and consider moving police headquarters back to Villas. He said the committee looked at items ranging from available space to technology.

Mastriana said the committee produced a conceptual design for a new building. He said the current public

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## School-withdrawal vote may come in September

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Voters in Cape May, West Cape May and Lower Township may have a chance to vote in September on whether Cape May should be allowed to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

Cape May maintains that the school-funding formula puts an undue financial burden on its residents due to higher property values in the city. The city submitted a petition

to the state Commissioner of Education requesting a voter referendum on the issue.

At an April 15 Cape May City Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said the other districts' boards of education have 15 days to file an answer to the petition. Within 15 days of receiving any answers, the Commissioner of Education will submit the petition and any answers to a board of review consisting of

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