



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO PLANT MINTS

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## Airport possible drone test site

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Cape May County Airport is under consideration as a testing site for drones by the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership.

All that delays drones taking to the air from the county airport is a suitable project, according to Mid-Atlantic Executive Director Rose Mooney. The partnership became operational Aug. 13 under the lead of Virginia Tech, which has the ability to set up launch and recovery sites, she said.

"There needs to be a specific project coming in to start the testing there, it's only under consideration at this point," she said. "Nothing's done until we get a customer and get FAA approval."

She said Rutgers University was leading efforts with a New Jersey contingency on where drone testing should first fly in the state. The partnership has also selected Eagle's Nest Airport in Ocean County as a suitable testing site.

"I'm not sure where initially the priorities are, but I know that Cape May is in discussions," Mooney said.

A drone-testing project could originate from a university, industry or government, she said. Drone testing recently got under way in Blacksburg, Va.

"We're trying to enable legal, safe UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) operations," Mooney said.

While photographers have used some drones locally, Mooney said that is an illegal use of an unmanned aircraft. The minimum fine from the FAA for flying a drone is \$10,000, she said.

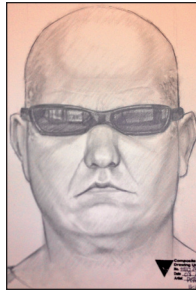
Mooney said test sites have been set up to help the FAA get rules in place so

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## Police seeking white male for lewd behavior

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape May police are investigating a report of lewdness that occurred at about 5:30 p.m. Aug. 14 near the intersection of South Lafayette and Windsor streets.



Detective J. Walker's investigation, based on witness accounts, indicated the subject exposed himself to the two victims before departing the area.

Based on witness descriptions, a composite drawing was created to help identify the unknown/unidentified suspect, who fled the area after being observed by the victims.

The subject was described as a

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Auctioneer Lee Fox, of Pitman, stands among the many items from the collection of the late Dr. Ralph Cox that will be up for auction Sept. 6 at the family's property at 301 Route 9 South in the Erma section of Lower Township.

## More rarities up for auction from Dr. Ralph Cox's estate

### Second round set for Sept. 6

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — It's like a sequel to the movie "Planes, Trains and Automobiles." More antique cars, aircraft and trains from the estate of Dr. Ralph Cox are headed for the auction block. A sale of large items from the collection held May 10 at Naval Air Station Wildwood netted more than \$1 million.

The sale, conducted by Bonham's Auction House, respectfully disposed of some of the most expensive items from the collection of the late aviator, ranging from antique cars to an 1870 Silsby Steam Fire Pumper. A barn filled with mostly smaller, more affordable items from the collection will be auctioned Sept. 6 on the family's property, 301 Route 9 South, next to Cape Shore Resort.

Among the items available for sale: a bell from a steam locomotive, typewriters, a number of gas lights from Philadelphia circa 1896, a single-wheel horse racing sulky, a player piano, a huge 1910 Wurlitzer organ from the Capital Theater in Lebanon, N.H., Victorias, many school desks, street signs from New York City, a large bellows from a blacksmith shop, post office boxes along with the postal clerk's window and a number of Model T car parts.

After giving up a career as a dentist following World War II, Cox purchased surplus airplanes



This old locomotive bell is among the items up for auction from the Cox collection. Auctioneer Fox said he would move fast on items to complete the auction in one day.

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 at its peak.

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 Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum.

Auctioneer Lee M. Fox, of Pitman, will be conducting the sale.

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## City leaders questioned over cost of school fight

Some wonder whether price of withdrawal bid makes economic sense

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — How much is Cape May willing to spend on its bid to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

That question was asked of City Council at an Aug. 19 council meeting. Resident Anita DeSatnick asked Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman how much money has been spent to withdraw from the district or change the funding formula during his term on council.

He said the city spent \$48,000 on a feasibility study and \$22,000 on a court case necessitated because "the county clerk did not understand that she was not allowed to put a question on the ballot and would not take it off until she was told by the judge to take it off."

"This year we put \$75,000 in the budget," Wichterman said. "I don't know what we've spent this year, but it's been miniscule so far."

He estimated about \$10,000 or less has been spent this year on the school issue.

"We're trying to save at least \$3 million," said Wichterman, referring to projected savings if the tax burden were to fall heavier on Lower Township and West Cape May.

DeSatnick said she obtained records through the Open Public Records Act that indicated \$77,000 has been spent in the past year.

"I think that's a lot of money," she said.

DeSatnick said she understood Cape

See Expense questioned, Page A2

## Cape May City Council race heating up

Two more candidates add their names to the mix seeking three seats on City Council in the November elections.

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