



## House of the week

Real Estate Resource



## Attorney by day, musician by night

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165th YEAR NO. 16 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019 \$1.00

# Fixed span to replace Middle Thorofare Bridge

## All three Ocean Drive bridges to be replaced as part of the project

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The preferred design to replace the Middle Thorofare Bridge would be an 80-foot tall, fixed span tracking to the south of the current bridge, along with higher Mill Creek and Upper Thorofare bridges along Ocean Drive.

Partners in the project include the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJPTO), county Board of Chosen Freeholders, New Jersey Department of

Transportation, Cape May County Bridge Commission and the Federal Highway Administration.

Public information sessions were held April 11 in Cape May and Wildwood Crest.

Joe Romano, chief bridge engineer, of Michael Baker International, said the project was in the local concept development phase following numerous meetings with stakeholders and citizens. He said next month, a concept development report would be submitted to the SJPTO, which would be followed by the local preliminary en-

gineering phase lasting two years.

Final design would take an additional two years, Romano said. He said the project is 2.7 miles long extending from Route 109 in Lower Township to Madison Avenue in Wildwood Crest. The project involves three bridges and one culvert, which will be expanded to accommodate high tide flows, according to Romano.

The Mill Creek, Middle Thorofare and Upper Thorofare bridges were constructed in 1939. The Middle Thorofare Bridge is classed as in poor condition,

while the Mill Creek and Upper Thorofare bridges are classed as fair condition, he said.

Romano said the bridges are safe to traverse.

"The county has been investing a lot of funds to maintain these over the years and hence one of the needs for this project," Romano said.

A total of eight bridge design and paths have been offered, he said. Alternative 3 has been chosen as the preliminary preferred design, he said.

"This is a southerly route across

Upper Thorofare and Middle Thorofare, we cross over the existing Ocean Drive and we avoid impacting the Fish and Wildlife property," Romano said.

He said the Middle Thorofare Bridge would have an 80-foot vertical clearance with an 80-foot horizontal width, pending Coast Guard approval. The new bridge would be a fixed bridge. The current Middle Thorofare Bridge is a drawbridge that requires frequent openings in the summer season.

See Fixed span, Page A5

# Split between school board, CMCEA grows

## Sides publicly clarify positions at meeting

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The teachers association and school board president followed the public reading of a letter expressing no confidence in the school's administration in March with further statements.

At the end of an April 11 Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education meeting, the Cape May City Education Association (CMCEA) and school board President Dawn Austin made statements to clarify an event from its previous meeting.

Preschool teacher Kelly Helbig, who is president of the CMCEA, stated in a letter that she read to the school board that the CMCEA wanted to reiterate to the public that its letter of no confidence was not a grievance.

"A grievance only occurs when there has been a violation of the contract," she read the board, as well as a group of about 30 to 40 parents and teachers.

"Our letter was not related to our contract or any violation of our contract or negotiations but the overall hostility of the working environment that is counterproductive to academic success of our children," Helbig said.

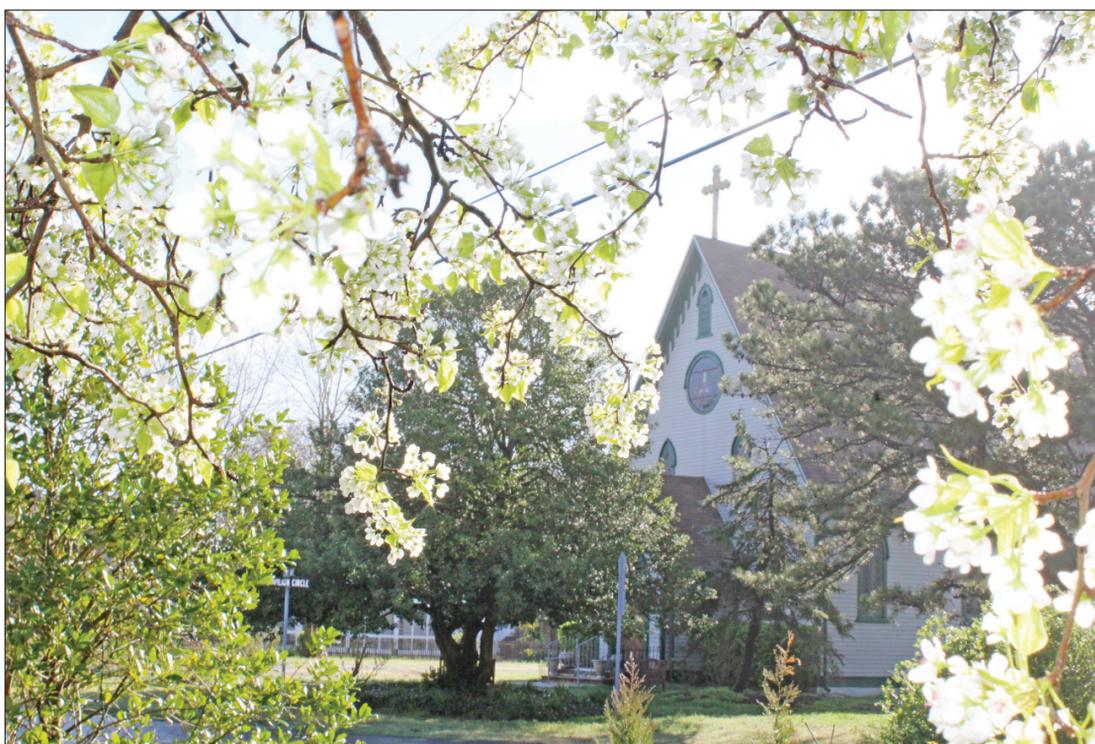
At the March 14 meeting, members of the CMCEA announced they had lost all trust, faith and confidence in the current administration and its ability to lead the city's school district. The members also stated they were submitting a vote of no confidence in their current administration.

A vote of no confidence is a symbolic vote taken by members of a union expressing a collective lack of faith in an individual to perform a basic job with the goal of letting whomever is in charge know changes need to be made.

"Our unanimous vote to approve a letter of no confidence resulted from the permissive atmosphere of toxicity which, according to the letter, has gone on unaddressed for too long," Helbig stated after making reference to how the CMCEA felt it was left no other course of action.

Helbig stated the letter of no confidence noted an atmosphere of hostility, retaliation and disrespect had been fostered by the current administration. She stated the administration belittles and disrespects staff members by screaming and scolding them instead of addressing

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Spring rising late this year

Cape May Point is in spring bloom but slightly behind inland towns due to wind from a 48-degree ocean. Trees and daffodils are flowering at Pavilion Circle overlooking St. Agnes Chapel by the Sea.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The intersection of Leaming Avenue and Park Boulevard will become a four-way stop.

## Leaming/Park junction to become four-way stop

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — With its out-of-alignment streets and poor visibility, due to a shopping center parking lot, the intersection of Leaming Avenue

and Park Boulevard has caused drivers to stop with the front of their vehicles encroaching into the traffic lane when driving westbound.

All that is about to be

See Four-way, Page A8

## Cape May Point plans to keep cars off beach

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Following an incident of a pickup truck being driven onto the beach and becoming stuck in the sand, Borough Commission is considering measures to keep vehicles off the borough's beaches.

At an April 9 work session, Commissioner Bob Mullock said he discussed having gates at any entrances to the beach large enough to accommodate a vehicle with public works and police. He said they expressed concerns with gates in general.

Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk said she arrived on scene during two instances of vehicles on the beach. She said the vehicles entered the beach at Harvard Avenue where gates are in place but were not locked.

"My concern really is li-

ability issues," van Heeswyk said.

She said there were concerns the tide would envelop the truck.

"They got down to a point where the sand got so soft, they just sunk right down in," van Heeswyk said. "That's the new blown sand from the winter which hasn't settled in yet."

Borough equipment and personnel were used to extract the pickup truck. She said members of the public questioned why a tow truck was not called and why borough personnel and equipment were put at risk.

Mullock said he preferred to have public works personnel protecting the beach from additional damage as well as not have the vehicle sink to the extent that the beach would have to be closed.

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### INSIDE

Pervious walkways suggested for Lake Lily project.

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Early education key to avoiding drugs and alcohol.

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SPRING BREAK 2019

APRIL 17 - 26

# WILDERNESS

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