

# Antiques/collectible auction, appraisals in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Everyone hopes to buy an old painting or piece of pottery at a yard sale for \$20 and find out later it's worth a fortune. Our hopes are raised by watching television shows such as "Antiques Roadshow," "American Pickers" or "Storage Wars."

Cape May's Convention Hall will host an event known as the Hidden Treasures Presentation and Auction on Oct. 24. More than 500 lots from multiple estates will be up for auction.

Prior to the noon auction, Joe Bodnar and staff will offer auction value appraisals for the public at Convention Hall. For \$12, two items can be appraised, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the food bank at the First Presbyterian Church of Cape May. Only 100 appraisal tickets will be sold.

Bodnar said he evaluate antiques, collectibles, art, jewelry, toys, dolls, trains, sterling silver, lighting, furniture and glassware. He has been in the auction

profession for more than 20 years and has been a board member, vice president and president of the New Jersey State Society of Auctioneers. Bodnar is also a member of the National Auctioneers Association, the Train Collectors Association and New York Auctioneers Association.

Are there hidden treasures still to be found at yard sales or has everyone become so savvy from watching the collectors' television shows that they know the value of every piece?

Profitable items can still be found, he said. Bodnar said he came here during a town-wide yard sale and purchased a grouping of 1960s flags from America and Great Britain for which he paid \$50.

"I ran it through my auction here in Edison the following month and I got \$1,600 for it," he said. "Where else can you go and make \$1,400 in an hour?"

He said when he was 17, he went to a yard sale and bought a pair of 6-foot-tall candlesticks with bronze

medallions in the middle for \$15. He later sold them for \$3,000.

"After that I was hooked, that was it," Bodnar said.

With eBay and the internet, it is not quite as easy to find such a profitable turnaround as in the past, he said. That has also caused individuals to overprice items they want to sell, he said.

At the Cape May event, Bodnar will give a 15-minute presentation on antiques and collectibles and what is trending in the business prior to his appraisals.

"I do know a little bit about everything but I do get stumped, too," he said. "If there's something there that I can't figure out, I make recommendations on the proper steps to take to really get some more information about the piece and how to properly evaluate it and get a fair market evaluation or I'll even do more research and contact them at a later date."

He said he never knows what may come through the door.

"What I tell everybody

is what you think is worth money really isn't, and all the stuff you dismiss as junk, that's what's really worth the money," Bodnar said.

Sports collectibles are a hot item, he said. While autographed items from Babe Ruth or Mickey Mantle may come to mind, many times what is relevant today is worth more money, Bodnar said.

"If you get someone like Derek Jeter, somebody that's more contemporary and newer and that's a superstar, he has a lot more value than say a superstar like Dan Marino that was more '80s, unless you've got someone in their 40s or 50s reminiscing about the past," he said.

He said an autographed baseball has more value if it includes a photo of the player signing the ball.

"What's the story about it?" Bodnar asked. "Those kind of things all make a difference in price."

Three months ago, he acquired about 30,000 autographs from one estate.

"What he did is write to 10 to 15 celebrities a day to

try to get them to sign things and he amassed this big collection of autographs," Bodnar said of the collector.

Bodnar said none of the autographs had a certificate of authenticity or documentation but the collection sold at good prices due to the backstory of the collector.

Is your collection of old Beatles and Rolling Stone records valuable? Bodnar said records have made a comeback.

"Records from the '60s are still OK but I'm seeing more '70s and '80s," he said. "Eighties is much more popular in my market that I see versus the '60s and '70s."

Persons in their 40s are "buying back their memories as a kid," and those are the memories that are selling for a little more than '60s rock 'n' roll, he said. Items such as picture records or imports may produce more interest, Bodnar added.

He holds auctions at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center in Edison that may have 3,600 pieces and run 12 hours. Bodnar said

he is no stranger to Cape May; his wife has vacationed here all her life and the couple makes several weekend excursions each year.

"Over the course of the last six months, what I've been doing in all of my estate work, we've been holding back pieces that I think might do well down there," he said.

Among the items are Victorian furniture, an advertising collection, a 14-carat gold coin collection, nautical items and Cartier bracelets. Bodnar said he is also bringing affordable items to Cape May from the \$25 to \$300 range.

He will not buy items but strictly works on commission at auction.

"To me it is a conflict of interest. You can't give an appraisal for something and offer money for it," he said.

Local delivery of furniture is available. Admission is free. People must register in advance if they would like to bid on items. Doors open at 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, and the auction begins at noon.

## LCMR school board honors three staff members, appoints vice principal

By RACHEL SHUBIN  
Special to the Star and Wave

ERMA — The Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education presented three

commemorative plaques to recognize staff members' New Jersey Department of Education achievements.

Receiving the plaques were Cape May County

Teacher of the Year Thomas Belasco, Cape May County Counselor of the Year Janis White and New Jersey Environmental Science Teacher of the Year Jeffrey Martin.

"It's very unusual to get one of our high school faculty to be a faculty member of the year but three in the same year is just extraordinary," Superintendent Jo-

seph Castellucci said. "We are so proud of these folks, it's really a special thing they've all been honored. It's like Miss America, this is the reigning year."

White is the counselor for freshman students. She helps them with their transition into high school.

"She deals with their unique and specific issues and makes the transition into high school a priority for her students," Castellucci said. "She's involved in helping kids get through the day, she listens and has an ear to the track. Even though she only deals with freshmen before they go to the rest of the counselors, they stay in touch with her throughout their time here."

Belasco received the award for Teacher of the Year during an Aug. 14 ceremony at Liberty High School in Jackson Township.

"To say [Belasco] is an English teacher would not be doing a justice to all the things he does in our district and all the things he's done in the years he's been with us," Castellucci said. "He's been a class adviser, student council adviser and a coach. He teaches English, AP English, AP research and he used to teach public speaking. He's a renaissance man."

Belasco also embraces LCMR's resiliency initiative, Castellucci said.

"It's very important to make sure we care for all the special needs of our students in this very stressful time and age we live in," Castellucci said. "He sponsors our resiliency and mindfulness club for our students, which started last year. It was fascinating and well attended."

Castellucci said Belasco is starting a mindfulness initiative for the faculty in addition to sponsoring the student club.

"Mr. Martin, I don't know where to begin. He's known as the fish man since he teaches marine biology," Castellucci said. "His students are responsible for the aquariums throughout

the classrooms. A lot of his best efforts are out in the marshes, on boats, measuring beach erosion in Cape May, collecting samples and saving turtles."

Martin started the environmental sustainability program and he is the coach of the baseball team.

"If you have to pick one thing, he is concerned about our environment and wants to make sure our students understand the importance of caring for environment," Castellucci said.

In other business, the Board of Education unanimously appointed Desiree Vargas as Lower Cape May Regional High School vice principal.

Alexis Faison and David MacDonald joined the Board of Education as student representatives.

Board President Richard Hooyma thanked Faison and MacDonald and welcomed them to the Board of Education.

"Aug. 26 was our freshman orientation and as a peer leader, I guided people around the building," Faison said. "We showed students extracurricular activities and they felt more comfortable going to high school."

Faison said the student body had a Run for the Fallen ceremony Sept. 26 and many students attended.

"Oct. 19 is our homecoming bonfire and pep rally," MacDonald said. "Each class made banners with different themes. Oct. 20 is our Cape May Halloween Parade, which is a really great community event."

The homecoming game is scheduled for 1 p.m. Oct. 19, due to the PSAT schedule.

"I'd like to recognize student Dakota Black," Hooyma said. "Dakota was named a commended student by the National Merit Scholar program. That means he's placed in the top 50,000 scores of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2018 preliminary SAT. That is a very unique honor and I'd like to recognize him with a certificate and congratulate him."

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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
2	11:28	11:52	4:57	5:38
3	12:21		5:47	6:37
4	12:49	1:19	6:42	7:38
5	1:52	2:21	7:42	8:42
6	3:00	3:25	8:46	9:45
7	4:07	4:25	9:49	10:42
8	5:05	5:19	10:47	11:31
9	5:54	6:06	11:38	

### MOON PHASES

First quarter, Oct. 5 • full moon, Oct. 13

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