

## Sorry to see city left out of credits for Dylan biopic

After I moved to Cape May in 2004 to manage the Victorian Motel, my Philadelphia neighborhood upbringing motivated me to immerse myself in the community.

My vision of Cape May was one giant neighborhood where everyone played a role, not necessarily competing with one another but working toward the common goal of promoting the city.

Years later, I was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May. In that role, much of the community got to know me while I was still learning about them. I have been called ambassador, mayor or shadow mayor (anything worse, I don't want to know about it). One thing is certain: I am a cheerleader for all things Cape May.

The arts and music in our city hold a special place in my heart. For whatever reason, this town is a magnet for talented and brave musicians.

When Searchlight Pictures chose Cape May for scenes in a motion picture, I nearly fell off my barstool.

On Christmas Day, my wife, Suzanne, and I saw "A Complete Unknown." Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in James Mangold's biopic, the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in U.S. history.

It was a fantastic production. When Perry Street appeared, the audience cheered. The cinematography and low-lighting shots were epic. The intimate results are astonishing given the size of the on-street production companies.

The production went on for days last May, with street closings and barricades everywhere.

Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music.

To think that Dylan started in a speakeasy, smoke-filled open mic night introduced by Pete Seeger, I could not help but think of our MQ Murphy hosting an open mic every Sunday night at the Mad Batter.

It was at this moment a teary-eyed connection happened. This scene could have occurred in Cape May, not just shot in Cape May.

Dylan's worship of his idols, such as Woody Guthrie, was human. Watching Joan Baez come out of room 212 at the Victorian Motel, renamed for the movie, was just a wow moment.

During his meteoric rise, Dylan forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance



### AROUND TOWN

By John Cooke

that reverberates worldwide.

Outside of the Dylan story, one endearing scene at the end of the Newport Folk Festival was Seeger stacking chairs into the back of a truck. Again, for the love of the music, I am reminded of MQ packing out of the Mad Batter Restaurant and Bar at the Carroll Villa Hotel on a late Sunday night.

In the movie, dozens of locals found work as extras after driving to Jersey City for costume fittings. If you look carefully, you might see Cape May City Elementary School teacher Jay Eppenbach wearing a fedora in the party scene on the second-floor balcony of the Viking Motel. The West Cape May Firehall became a location for makeup artists to perform their magic.

You won't see credits for the movie's location. While the film centers around the Newport Folk Festivals in the mid-'60s, Cape May might be recognizable only to people who live here or have visited. Without a location credit, it is unclear if the movie would impact tourism.

In 2011, TripAdvisor listed Cape May as one of the best beach towns in America. This was not a popularity contest, but part of its scientific algorithm that measured people's comments and reviews.

That accolade had an immense effect on tourism. In contrast, when the actors were interviewed on an ESPN GameDay broadcast about the movie, Chalamet never mentioned Cape May.

One thing is sure: the city rolled out the hospitality mat for the production crews. Actor Ed Norton, who plays folk music legend Seeger in the film, had bought coffee multiple times at Coffee Tyme on the Washington Street Mall.

For all the hoopla, inconvenience and hospitality our city extended the production company, the least we could have expected was a thank you to the city of Cape May, its leaders and residents.



HEY! WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF SUNFLOWER SEEDS...URP!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT THE SQUIRRELS DO SEEM LARGER.

KASH

### OTHER SIDE

## Wind farms would threaten U.S. security

By MARK ALLEN

Sweden, one of the newest members of NATO, has denied 13 permits that would have allowed the development of wind turbine farms off its east coast.

The Swedes did so late last year out of concern for the defense of its nation. For the geographically challenged, Sweden's eastern coast borders the Baltic Sea which borders Russia on its other side — the very same Russia that invaded Ukraine two years ago, and the same Russia that has long had designs on absorbing Sweden itself.

Hence Sweden's defense concerns.

That caused me to ponder our own defense concerns, especially within context of the recent spate of unidentified "drone" activity over New Jersey.

After all, to put it bluntly, New Jersey, all coastal New Jersey, and especially Cape May's Other Side, is literally on the front line of our nation's defense. We are the tripwire.

As a former fighter pilot, I know something of radar, early warning systems, homeland protection and how to avoid and defeat what are called "point" defenses.

I am well aware how clutter can confuse defense radar, how it can cause multiple false returns and, most importantly, how to avoid and defeat those defense radars — it's how I spent two decades of my life.

The thought of a literal forest composed of thousands of 800-foot-tall wind-powered electricity generators sitting

just off our coast blocking the signals of our nation's defense radars used to keep me awake at night.

That was just one of the reasons that I was opposed to both Ocean Wind project off our coast, and it's why I rejoiced when Ørsted canceled those projects Aug. 14, 2024.

We're not out of the woods yet, though. Just up the Garden State Parkway, Atlantic Shores is poised to construct its own wind farms 10 to 20 miles off Atlantic City. The farms are expected to go online as early as 2027 and 2028. Coincidentally, the existing wind farms off Block Island, R.I., have since become problematic polluters of those offshore waters. It appears that the science of wind is waffling a bit.

Which brings us to the doctrine of, "Reasonable use of Offshore Waters." This is a long-established and widely accepted doctrine to which both the United States and New Jersey claim to subscribe.

I'll bore readers with a definition, because it's important: "Reasonable use of offshore waters refers to the principle that a nation or individual can utilize the waters beyond their coastline for various purposes, but must do so in a way that does not significantly harm the marine environment, doesn't impede other nations' legitimate uses of the same waters and respects international laws governing ocean use, such as the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea."

Further, understand that the test for "reasonable" is defined as "beneficial," and those beneficial uses include: human set-

tlement (the city of Cape May), agriculture (or aquaculture, as in oysters and scallop beds), trade (transportation and commerce), industry (fishing and tourism) and amenity (surfing and sun bathing).

Based on these definitions, how do we plug the proposed wind farms into the equation of "beneficial uses?"

It has been established that vast fields of these behemoths would deter human settlement, interfere with aquaculture — oyster and scallop beds as well as fishing — block commerce and transportation, and certainly ruin a day at the beach.

There are very real concerns that they may also harm the marine environment, both the fauna and flora. So then, where do we go from here?

Other Side friend Darragh Corcoran, the Irishman from Galway and summer resident of Cape May whom I met at the C-View a few years ago, would remind each of us that we are all stakeholders, meaning it is our obligation to get involved and communicate our concerns, thoughts and preferences to our elected officials, from the mayor to our state and federal representatives to the president.

If we fail to do so, we forfeit our voice.

As Corcoran says, "Remember, you can't eat wind."

Mark Allen is a retired lieutenant colonel with 27 years' flying experience with the U.S. Marines and Air Force National Guard. The Other Side radio show is broadcast at 1 p.m. Fridays on WCFA-101.5 FM

## How to contact representatives

### U.S. Senate

Sen. Andy Kim, 7B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-4744; Go to [www.kim.Senate.gov/contact](http://www.kim.Senate.gov/contact).

Sen. Cory A. Booker, 141 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-3224; Go to [www.booker.senate.gov/contact.cfm](http://www.booker.senate.gov/contact.cfm).

### U.S. House of Representatives

Congress, District 2, Jeff Van Drew, 331 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 225-6572; (202) 225-3318 (fax), website [vandrew.house.gov](http://vandrew.house.gov); District Office: 331 Tilton Road, #3, Northfield, NJ 08225. (732) 233-9539.

### Governor

Gov. Phil Murphy, State House, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 292-6000.

### Legislators, District 1

Sen. Michael Testa (R), Assemblyman Erik Simonsen (R), Assemblyman Antwan McClellan (R) — Contact state legislators at: School House Office Park, 211 S. Main St., Suite 104, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210; Phone: (609) 778-2012; email: [Sentesta@njleg.org](mailto:Sentesta@njleg.org), [asmmsimonsen@njleg.org](mailto:asmmsimonsen@njleg.org), [asmcclellan@njleg.org](mailto:asmcclellan@njleg.org).

### Local Government

Cape May: Mayor Zack Mullock and City Hall, (609) 884-9535

Cape May Point: Mayor Robert Moffatt and Borough Hall, (609) 884-8468, ext. 20

Lower Township: Mayor Frank Sippel and Township Hall, (609) 886-2005

West Cape May: Mayor Carol Sabo and Borough Hall, (609) 884-1005

## VICTORIAN VIEWS

By R.E. Heinly

### Christmas tale from Cape May Kraken

Regular readers of this column need no introduction to the Cape May Kraken or her companion, the Great Osprey. The pair are our pelagic protectors possible only in the most unique and spirited town in America.

Both are fanatically devoted to their maternal relationship to us. While the Great Osprey soars above our town, the Cape May Kraken, in her gigantic pink splendor, lives beneath the waters of the Cove, emerging only periodically to protect us from miscreant outlanders and locals alike.

She lives there with her par amour Old Jumbo, aka the Light of Asia, the giant Victorian elephant who once was the centerpiece of South Cape May now submerged below the water.

She occasionally slithers ashore when needed or when she so desires.

I'm honored to be their communicator to Cape Mayans. All such communications, of course, are telepathic via the magic of the city. I then impart their messages and wisdom via this column.

This Christmas season, the Kraken in particular wanted to bask in the unique pleasures of a Cape May, rewarding herself for her protective services. She reported that she did so in several ways to savor our unique holiday experiences.

Did you notice her first in the Cape May Christmas parade? She disguised her eight-armed self as Sleipner, the eight-legged, winged steed of

Odin who in Germanic and Nordic legend circles the Earth on Christmas Eve, delivering gifts to good boys and girls of all ages. Odin and Sleipner were the inspiration for Santa Claus/St. Nicholas and his eight flying reindeer.

The Kraken then disguised herself as a helicopter (it was very difficult for her to keep her tentacles aloft for a long time) and secluded herself at the Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum to watch the festivities at Naval Air Station Wildwood's Christmas at the Hangar.

Next, she simply secreted herself in the nearby woods at Historic Cold Spring Village to

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## WAVES FROM THE PAST

### Vocational training comes to county

By KAREN BRUNO  
For the Star and Wave

A front-page story in the April 5, 1919, edition of the Cape May Star and Wave entitled "Cold Spring Boy Makes Good" described the success of Swain Hoffman, who enrolled in a course at the Cape May County Vocational School during the winter of 1917-18.

The school was founded in 1915 by the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders and was the second county vocational school founded in New Jersey. The Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act was passed just two years later,

providing the first federal funding for classes in agricultural, trades and industry, and homemaking. These funds may have made possible Hoffman's course of study that winter.

James Stackhouse was the first teacher hired by the school. He taught agriculture at central locations throughout the county and at home farms of his students.

As a result, Stackhouse discovered an outbreak of hog cholera. He taught both his students and their parents methods of containment and insisted that the Board of Education purchase instruments needed to control the outbreak.

Consequently, cases of cholera were reduced, preventing further outbreak and emphasizing the value of vocational education.

During summer 1918, Hoffman was successful applying what he learned from Stackhouse while working on his own farm. He was so inspired by this experience that he went to Rutgers College of New Brunswick that fall and completed another course.

The Cape May Star and Wave pointed out that Hoffman had acquired a high school diploma and skills that would serve him in his chosen career.

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