

Christopher South  
Cape May Star and Wave

## Bread stand at Enfin Farms

Right, a new sign stands outside the new bread stand run by Elizabeth Degener along Sunset Boulevard. Degener said, "This used to be my great-grandparents' farm, my father's grandparents. His grandfather, Swifty, was a naval commander and had his Belgian wife Henriette moving all over the eastern seaboard during WWII. After the war ended, Swifty bought the property for his wife and settled in Cape May. She spoke French and named the property 'Enfin,' which means 'at last' in French. There has always been a big sign reading Enfin she put up in front of our house back in the 40s."



## More

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gram where we had a sustained, meaningful discussion of the health or mental health or the health of those who are suffering in connection to Hurricane Sandy. It's because there isn't a picture we can connect to it."

Panelists included Adrienne Fessler-Belli, Director of the New Jersey Department of Human Service's Disaster and Terrorism Branch, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Jeffrey Guenzel, Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Services with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families; Marlene Lao-Collins, Executive Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton; Zack Rosenberg, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of the St. Bernard Project; and Debra L. Wentz, Chief Executive Officer,

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

Guenzel said Hurricane Sandy victims are dealing with the loss.

"I think most people can handle a crisis situation for a certain period of time, but when it continues and you can't see that recovery, you can't see that life is coming back together, you'll see a lot more challenges," Guenzel said. "That's where we try very hard to get the help much earlier before people really realize what are the impacts of the disaster."

Rosenberg said people who suffer disasters need a predictable path forward.

"People can manage their expectations and their resilience if they understand where things are going to go, it's going to be efficient, if their expectations are managed," Rosenberg said.

Kennedy said instead of "clear, prompt and predictable," services for victims are "siloed, fragmented and disincentivized."

"It's scattered There's no 'everything under one roof,'" Kennedy said. "The incentives of state government and in corporate America are misaligned right now...How are you going to create a program that's a one size fits all? You can't."

Rosenberg said not only are the government and business missing the incentives, but the service providers and nonprofit organizations.

"We have to provide an all-under-one-roof model where clients can come to have one point of contact," Rosenberg said. "What's important is clients have a predictable place where they can have all of their needs met, and it's doable, but we have to be courageous. It can't be a turf battle. Far too often, most disasters across this country, it's a branded turf battle, and the people who are losing are

the people who we're claiming to care about."

According to Fessler-Belli, organizations are performing community outreach and contacting people directly affected by the storm.

"We have over 150 counselors who go into the community while people are rebuilding their house, hand out resiliency information, hand out a helpline number and work with them," Fessler-Belli said.

Lao-Collins said Sandy survivors are coming to Catholic Charities for gift cards to purchase clothing and need to pay utilities or are in hotels, and counselors can learn if the victims are experiencing trauma.

"It is through the conversation we have with them, that is they did not already have a mental health issue going somewhere that they begin to discover the trauma that they're facing, and them we can refer them appropriately," Lao-Collins said.

Rosenberg said the model

of disaster crisis counseling where professionals who aren't licensed clinicians in the community, and which evaluates success by how many contacts they make, is a "failure."

"People can only so many times say 'I need help.' They need to be connected to licensed clinicians who are able to engage in a clinical relationship," Rosenberg said.

Wentz said her organization has licensed professionals who unify services and "treat people as a whole person."

"What they have lacked is funding," Wentz said. "Most of our member agencies supplement any kind of funding they can get both with fundraising by extending their own giving and taking from themselves to help others."

Wentz said people are turning to abusive substance as a way of dealing with untreated illness.

Guenzel said society doesn't understand the impact for mental health on disaster and

trauma.

"I think there isn't the awareness. We need to bring that awareness and shine the light that there is reality to the point of the neck up responses that our bodies have," Guenzel said.

Adubato asked the panel about the special needs of children who are victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Rosenberg said the key to treating young people is to treat the whole family.

"If the parent's aren't well, it's nearly impossible for young people to be well," Rosenberg said.

Wentz said children need to get back to their daily routine and familiarity.

"Children need not only to be safe, but to feel safe and they need to be reassured by adults. They need predictable routine," Wentz said. "As time goes on, they need to be instilled with hope for recovery and that there is a new normal."

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159 Years Old  
1854-2013

## Job

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"Dead Man Down R 11:20, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55  
"Incredible Burt Wonderstone PG-13 11:50, 2:20, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45  
"The Call R 11:40, 2:30, 4:50, 7:40, 9:50  
Silver Lining Playbook R 11:10, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30  
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Mahon said she worked with all the department heads in Middle Township and found them all to be professional and capable, which will make her job so much easier. She said she also shares a common vision with the governing body.

"I like the direction the governing body is taking. We share the same vision, and I knew that from day one," she said.

She said that vision, now, is to make government smaller, more efficient, and to develop a cross-trained workforce. She said the state mandated 2 percent budget cap has forced all municipalities to be more creative in their approach to managing. She said Middle Township government will be more efficient which will

ultimately lead to a lower tax rate. She said those were lessons she learned in the Point.

"I come from a place with high efficiency. I understand it and I applaud it," she said.

Mahon said although she has been serving as acting administrator in Middle Township, she is going to take a vacation before reporting full time on April 8.

Thursday night the Cape May Point Board of Commissioners is expected to announce Mahon's departure and the appointment of Kimberly Hodsdon as the Point's new municipal clerk. Hodsdon has served as the human resources director in Wildwood, and is a registered municipal clerk and certified municipal registrar. She also comes with Mahon's stamp of

approval.

"She is a person who is extremely capable, very professional, highly intelligent... she is like a kinder, gentler version of me," Mahon said. "She has a really good background with the JIF, and has worked in small municipalities, so she understands the challenges."

Mahon said she agonized over the decision to take the Middle Township job, calling it a heart-wrenching process, saying the people she has worked with have become like family. However, she is also comforted in having a person like Hodsdon take over the job in the Point.

Mahon and her husband, Mike, a local contractor, have one daughter, 16, a junior at Lower Cape May Regional High School. Mahon said she would not have considered taking on such responsibilities in Middle Township had her daughter been younger. She said because her daughter is old enough to be more independent and will be driving soon it has freed her up to take the job. She feels the time is right for the change.

"It's an exciting opportunity to grow professionally," she said. "I'm starting a new chapter in my life."

Mahon said she would still be coming back to the beach at Cape May Point as often as possible, but she won't be thinking about work when she is on the beach.

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13	9:52	10:13	3:34	3:49	
14	10:33	10:52	4:18	4:28	
15	11:13	11:32	5:02	5:06	
16	11:55		5:47	5:45	
17	12:13	12:40	6:34	6:27	
18	12:59	1:31	7:26	7:15	
19	1:53	2:30	8:23	8:11	
20	2:53	3:35	9:24	9:13	

Moon Phases  
Last Quarter, March 4  
New Moon, March 11  
First Quarter, March 17  
Full Moon, March 27  
Perigee, March 5,30  
Apogee, March 18