



**EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT  
QUESTIONNAIRE**  
FALL, 2015



**PUMPKIN PATCH  
PAINTING  
COMMUNITY CENTER**  
FUN FOR KIDS!

**national  
caregivers  
month**

**CARING FOR  
CAREGIVERS EVENT  
COMMUNITY CENTER**  
NOVEMBER 17, 2015

# ER LAUNCHES ACCESS FOR ALL

## Access for All is About . . .

Towns and municipalities throughout Bergen County are catching the diversity and inclusion wave spearheaded by James Thebery, Director of the Division on Disability Services for the County’s Department of Human Services. Mr. Thebery’s vision is to establish Access for All Committees in each town that create opportunities to bring together municipal and business leaders, police, fire, health and public safety officials, as well as concerned citizens. Their collective focus is to offer those differently-abled or with special needs, in each community, access to information, services, resources and municipality-owned or operated buildings.



**Access for All  
ensures  
everyone has  
access to  
services,  
information and  
Borough buildings.**

In support of this County initiative, the East Rutherford Borough Council adopted a Resolution to form an Access for All Committee. Led by Chair, Sherrill Curtis, the team comprised of community and council members includes: Ellen Engels, Councilman Michael Homaychak, Joanne OBara, Ruth Polifronio, with oversight by Councilman Joel Brizzi and Committee Liaison, Thomas Banca. Building on the successful practices of other Access for All towns, the Committee’s initial goals are to: discover and respond to the needs of the community; provide access to information and resources; along with delivering social events and educational workshops that foster diversity and inclusion amongst community members while providing networking opportunities for those differently-abled or with special needs, their family, friends and caregivers.

## Commitment to Community

The Committee operates in partnership with Access for All Committees established in neighboring towns (i.e.: Rutherford, Lyndhurst and North Arlington), as well as others in central and northern Bergen County. Throughout the year, they will host community events designed to deliver or provide access to information about services and resources, legislative updates, and support options available on a county, state or federal basis.

## Join us at the Community Center

**The Pumpkin Patch - October 27, 2015** offered a fun after school pumpkin painting, event featuring light snacks and activities for community children including those with special needs or differently-abled (aged 12 or under).

**Caring for Caregivers - November 17, 2015; 5:30PM to 8:30PM** - Guest speakers Barbara London, President of Freedom Home Health Care, and Thomas Murphy, Esq. share insights on effectively managing day to day and legislative issues related to aging children or parents with special needs. The event features a light supper with opportunities to network with other caregivers. **Learn more or register at: [www.er.org](http://www.er.org)**

## In Case of An Emergency

The first-ever UN Global survey (Geneva 2013) of persons living with disabilities on how they cope with disasters revealed only 20% of respondents could evacuate immediately without difficulty in the event of a sudden disaster. If given sufficient time, 58% feel they would still have either some, or a lot of, difficulty, while 4% would still not be able to evacuate. Respondents cited a degree of difficulty either hearing (39%) or seeing (54%), walking or climbing steps (68%), and difficulty communicating (45%). These are concerning statistics.

To address evacuation challenges for special needs or differently-abled residents, the Access for All Committee collaborated with Police Chief Larry Minda to develop a voluntary emergency management questionnaire. Based on successful models in other towns, the questionnaire will be mailed to all residences in October. The Police Department's Records Management will maintain the information, allowing first responders to deliver the most efficient and appropriate methods of emergency or disaster management support. For more information call the Records Department at: 201-438-0709.

*Discover the abilities, and possibilities . . .*



Access for All strives to provide a wide variety of information, resources, events and support for those with special needs in our community.

Volunteer with us!

Learn more at:

[www.er.org](http://www.er.org)