

April 2019



Age-Friendly Teaneck News & Updates

As Teaneck works to create a more age-friendly environment for its residents, we'll keep you posted about new developments, important programs and events of interest. Thank you [Homewatch CareGivers of Bergen](#) for sponsoring this month's newsletter!

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Hot off the press! Our newest newsletter has arrived!

Volume 3, Issue 2

Age-Friendly Times

News from Teaneck's Age-Friendly Community Initiative
Special Housing Edition

Bergen County Now Has Affordable Housing Navigator

Finding affordable housing in Bergen County feels like a search for water in a desert. Demand is high, supply is low; and on top of those tough market realities, there is no universal application or wait list for all of the affordable units that are scattered around the region, in buildings managed by entities many have never heard of.

What many older adults could use is a central clearinghouse of information on affordable housing, Age-Friendly Teaneck and other groups have long advocated. In response, the Bergen County Division of Senior Services is now providing one.

In January, the division hired a full-time "Housing Navigator." Since assuming the post, Maureen McCormick has spent weeks researching records and legal notices in Bergen County's 70 towns to compile a list of the names, locations and other details of existing developments that contain affordable units and new ones that are soon to open.

The research took time because affordable housing in New Jersey comes in all shapes, sizes and subsidy categories. Some units are in complexes run by public housing authorities. Others are in **NAVIGATOR on back**



NAVIGATOR NEWS
Housing List
A service of the Bergen County
Department of Human Services--
Division of Senior Services

Shared Housing Program Helps Match Roommates

An 85-year-old woman wanted to stay in Bergen County – where she had lived her whole life – but could no longer afford the region's expensive rents on her fixed income.

With her housing search nearing a dead end, she sought help from the Shared Housing program run by the Women's Rights Information Center in Englewood.

The program's director interviewed her and asked for references before recommending she share the home of an Englewood woman who, despite working full-time, was struggling to keep up with all of her monthly bills.

Despite a 20-year difference in their ages, the two women bonded quickly, amazed to discover they belonged to the same church.

The decades-old Shared Housing program has long been the only non-profit in Bergen County to serve as a matchmaker between overburdened homeowners and home-seekers priced out of the traditional housing market. Many of those home seekers have as little as \$500 to \$700 a month to spend on housing – far below market-rate rents – but perhaps enough to help ease the financial strain of a homeowner feeling the pinch.

Thanks to two new grants, one from Women United in Philanthropy and the other from the Bergen County Division of Senior Services, the Shared Housing program is expanding, hoping to increase both its reach and its services.

The program's part-time director, Susan Bendes is now being assisted by a new full-time housing adviser, Paula Madera.

The program – open to men and women of any age – helps prospective roommates identify and avoid **SHARED on back**



Shared Housing
Special Housing Edition

This edition of Age-Friendly Times is generously underwritten by this sponsor



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[Senior Health and Resource Fair](#)

Medical screenings for older adults and representatives from various community resources can be found at the Rodda Center at 250 Colonial Ct. from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM tomorrow.

[Click here to view flyer](#)

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up and grow old!***

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