

N.J. praises complex for those with autism

Ramsey project first of its kind for adults

By **ALLISON PRIES**
STAFF WRITER

RAMSEY - State officials on Tuesday praised Ramsey for the grand opening of its Airmount Woods development.

Airmount Woods is a supportive housing development designed specifically for adults with autism who have aged out of traditional services. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the nine-unit complex, located on Airmount Avenue, was held Oct. 25.

Residents are expected to move in early next year, Mayor Chris Botta said Tuesday.

"We're still working on final construction details," he said, adding that officials will have a construction meeting today.

A news release issued Tuesday by the Department of Community Affairs lauded the first development for autistic adults in the state.

"Airmount Woods Supportive Housing will provide an affordable, durable, and safe living environ-

ment that is sensitive to the challenges young people with autism spectrum disorders face," said DCA Commissioner Richard E. Constable III, who also is chairman of the state Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency. "Projects like these truly help individuals with special needs live successfully in communities throughout the state."

The roughly \$2.3 million project was funded with about \$924,000 from the Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, \$800,000 from Ramsey's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, \$200,000 from the Bergen County United Way and \$350,000 from the Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities Capital Fund.

The project is a partnership between Ramsey Housing Inc., the Bergen County United Way and Madeline Corp. New Horizons in Autism will provide around-the-clock assistance for Airmount Woods residents.

Email: priesa@northjersey.com

