

HeathVillage

Voice

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SENIOR HALL OF FAME 2026 INDUCTEES

Bruce & Carol Hawthorne & Jim Taylor

Heath Village Retirement Community proudly announces the induction of residents **Bruce and Carol Hawthorne and Jim Taylor** into the Hackettstown Area Senior Hall of Fame Class of 2026. The honorees were recently recognized at a celebration luncheon and induction ceremony at David's Country Inn in Hackettstown.

Established in 1997, the Senior Hall of Fame honors Northwest New Jersey seniors whose service has made a lasting impact on their communities. Bruce, Carol, and Jim exemplify that spirit of service, and Heath Village is proud to call them members of our community.

For nearly 50 years, **Carol and Bruce Hawthorne** have dedicated themselves to helping children and families in need. The Hawthornes spent 25 years fostering **120 children**, many of whom came to their home with little more than the clothes they were wearing. To support their work, they created Dayspring Ministries. During this time, their family also grew to include their triplets and four adopted children.

In the late 1990s, their work expanded internationally after Carol visited Haiti and witnessed the community's tremendous need. Over the past 27 years, Dayspring Ministries has helped build schools, churches, and most notably, **My Father's House Orphanage**. The Hawthornes raised nearly **\$1 million** to construct the orphanage. After 30 years as Executive Director, Carol recently retired, Bruce, however, continues to serve as Chief Financial Officer, overseeing the \$31,000 donation that Dayspring still sends each month to Light & Peace Church.

Jim Taylor has devoted an extraordinary **56 years** to volunteer firefighting. At 18, while working on his family's dairy farm, Jim attended fire school and began his lifelong service with Washington Township's Fairmount Fire Company. Jim continues to drive the firetruck. He is also a "Tender Task Force" driver, meaning he is trained to drive the water truck to fires where more water is needed or for the removal of water. Jim has also received special training to be certified as the Fire Police. In this role, he helps coordinate the response to fire emergencies not only in Morris but Warren and Hunterdon counties as well. He is also the Vice President and Trustee of the Fire Fighter Association for Fairmount Fire Company.

Even after moving to Heath Village in 2025, Jim answered **more than 100 fire calls**, often leaving a game of Rummikub or a round of pitch-and-putt without hesitation. However, Jim's commitment extends far beyond firefighting to organizations and causes including National Night Out, Wreaths Across America, the American Legion, and the Church of the Messiah. Whether helping at emergency scenes, placing wreaths on veterans' graves, cleaning cemeteries, delivering food, or assisting families in need, Jim continues to answer the call to serve.

Heath Village congratulates Bruce, Carol, and Jim on this well-deserved honor and thanks them for the countless ways they have made a difference in the lives of others.

Article by: Melissa Nichols, Director of Resident Care Coordination & Outreach, Heath Village

Photos by: Senior Hall of Fame Event Photographer

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Pictured from left to right: Bruce & Carol Hawthorne with Norman Worth, President, WRNJ



Jim Taylor pictured with Melissa Nichols, Director of Resident Care Coordination & Outreach, Heath Village



Jim Taylor with his wife Mary Ellen Coiro

Helping Neighbors *One Device at a Time*

When I moved to Heath Village in June 2024, one of the first resident programs I discovered was **Advice for Device**, created by Melissa Nichols, Director of Resident Care Coordination and Outreach at Heath Village. The program's goal is to bring students from Centenary University to Heath Village to help residents navigate their technology questions and challenges.

Having spent my career in Information Technology with the Bell System, I thought it would be a great opportunity to put my experience to good use. I began by simply sitting in on the Advice for Device sessions at Paddy's Pub, observing the types of issues residents were experiencing with their phones, tablets and laptops, and occasionally helping with follow-up questions.

Before long, word spread, and residents began reaching out to me directly for help with everything from smartphones and computers to Wi-Fi, televisions and printers. Fortunately, most of the problems are relatively simple to solve.

People often ask what the most common technology challenges are. I'd say printers and Wi-Fi account for about 80% of the requests I receive. Forgotten passwords are another frequent issue. I always smile when someone hands me a neatly organized list of passwords with the old ones crossed out—that certainly makes my job easier!

The biggest challenge usually isn't fixing the technology; it's explaining the solution in a way that is helpful without overwhelming someone with unnecessary technical details. My goal is to solve the problem without making someone feel like they're "drinking from a firehose."

One of my most rewarding projects was helping Bud Foster transition to a new senior-friendly computer selected by his children. Bud and I have a long history. We first met more than 30 years ago at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Morristown, where Bud and Jean were married. So, it was especially rewarding to work with Bud on this project.

Because I don't accept compensation for helping my neighbors, Bud and his family instead made a donation toward a beautiful fountain that has since been installed in our Community Garden. When I heard about the donation, I couldn't resist joking, "I said firehose, not fountain—but that's close enough!"

At a recent Residents Meeting, Mary Ellen Bove mentioned Whiteglove IT Services as a resource when professional technical support is needed. I've had the opportunity to work alongside Whiteglove as the "boots on the ground," helping before or after their visits by describing technical issues in terms that can make service calls more efficient. In appreciation for my time, Whiteglove has generously made donations to the Heath Village Friendship Fund rather than offering compensation.

I've always enjoyed solving problems, and it's especially rewarding to use my experience to help friends and neighbors here at Heath Village. Technology can be frustrating, but if I can make it a little less intimidating—and maybe share a laugh or two along the way—I consider it time well spent.



Pictured left to right: Gabor Kiss, Bud & Jean Foster



Article by: Gabor Kiss

Photos by: Sales & Marketing

Rudi Goes

A Little Dog with a Big Love for Adventure



I've always believed that some of life's greatest joys come in small packages. For me, that package is Rudi, my six-pound Yorkie who is a bundle of energy, personality and unconditional love.

Rudi's favorite word might be "go." Whether I'm heading to the store, taking a road trip, going on vacation or simply running an errand, Rudi wants to be right there with me. And when she has to stay home, she makes sure I know just how disappointed she is!

Her love of adventure inspired me to write *Rudi Goes*, my first children's book. I wanted young readers to experience Rudi's enthusiasm and discover how much fun a little dog can bring to everyday adventures. I hope this first book is just the beginning of a series featuring many more of Rudi's journeys.

Recently, I had the wonderful opportunity to share *Rudi Goes* with the children at Friendship Center, the intergenerational center located on the Heath Village campus, where my wife, Christina, serves as Director of Sales and Marketing. I was especially excited to bring Rudi along so the children could meet the real star of the story!

The children listened eagerly as I read, enjoyed meeting Rudi and even purchased signed copies of the book. I also donated a signed copy to the Friendship Center library. In return, the children surprised me with drawings and colorful pictures they had created. I treasure every one of them.



Having an intergenerational center at Heath Village is truly something special. It brings children and older adults together, creating opportunities to share stories, laughter, creativity and meaningful connections.

For me, sharing Rudi's story with the children was more than a book reading. It was a joyful experience I'll never forget—and one that reminded me just how much happiness can come in a very small package.

Article by: Ron McLaughlin, author of Rudi Goes

Pictures by: Sales & Marketing



Author Ron McLaughlin reads Rudi Goes to students at the Friendship Center, joined by his wife, Christina McLaughlin, Heath Village's Director of Sales & Marketing, and the book's inspiration, their beloved Yorkie, Rudi.

Heath Hiking Expands with New Connection to the Highlands Trail

One of the things I enjoy most about living at Heath Village is having access to our incredible network of hiking trails. Now, thanks to a recent collaboration between Heath Village, Washington Township and the NY-NJ Trail Conference, those opportunities have expanded even further.

As a private landowner, Heath Village worked with Washington Township and the NY-NJ Trail Conference to create a new Highlands Trail spur that utilizes a section of our hiking trails along with Washington Township Open Space. The spur connects at two points to the Highlands Trail, which stretches across northern New Jersey from the Delaware River to the Hudson River.

This new trail spur enhances the hiking experience for both public hikers and Heath Village residents by creating a scenic alternative to a section of the Highlands Trail that previously followed suburban streets. By allowing limited public access through our posted woodlands, Heath Village has helped create a route that replaces sidewalks and curbs with beautiful woodland scenery, wildlife and sweeping views from the ridge overlooking the valley.

For those of us who live at Heath Village, this also means we can leave the car behind. The new spur passes two trailheads leading to Washington Township's Cataract Falls Park, a popular destination dating back to the heyday of Schooley's Mountain tourism in the 1800s. It's an easy two-hour round-trip walk from campus. If you're looking for a longer adventure, the Highlands Trail also provides access to Stephens State Park, Schooley's Mountain County Park and the Columbia Trail in Long Valley.

Our Heath Village trail system itself is something truly special. It consists of eleven interconnected trails winding through approximately 100 acres of beautiful woodland above our campus. Whether you're looking for a leisurely stroll or a more challenging hike, there's a trail for every ability and interest.

What makes these trails even more meaningful is that they're truly a labor of love. Residents have helped create and maintain the trail system by building a trail kiosk and bridge, blazing the trails and performing ongoing maintenance. Our Landscaping and Outdoor Maintenance team also plays an important role, maintaining the wood-chip-covered main trail and clearing large fallen trees to keep the trails safe and enjoyable year-round.

Whether you're an experienced hiker or simply enjoy spending time in nature, these trails are one of the many features that make Heath Village such a wonderful place to call home.

Article by: Dick Kline

Photos by: Sales & Marketing



Resident hikers pictured left to right: Maria Katonak, Linda Bradway & Dick Kline at the Cataract Falls trail head.



Trail marker where township trails connect with Heath Village land.



Trail kiosk and bridge built by Heath Village residents.

Sock Hop

Fun at Heath Village

There's something about hearing an old favorite song that can take you right back in time. That's exactly what happened at the Sock Hop Dance at Heath Village.

The room was filled with familiar tunes, happy faces and plenty of memories. Residents came dressed in their best retro looks and gathered to enjoy the sounds of the '50s and '60s, from classic rock 'n' roll to favorite oldies. The dance floor quickly filled with plenty of dance moves—some familiar and some that may have been invented along the way! Our DJ, Rock 'n' Roll Randy, kept the party hoppin'.

Between songs, we reminisced about our younger days and shared stories of dances, music and memories from years gone by.

Whether we were dancing away or simply enjoying the music from the sidelines, everyone had a great time. It was a fun-filled trip down memory lane—and proof that we still have the moves to rock around the clock!

Article by: Frieda Burrowes

Photos by: Activities Department



Newcomers



Making a Splash

Summer Fun at Heath Village



Summer at Heath Village is always something to look forward to – and this year, residents made the most of every sunny day, warm evening and opportunity to get out and enjoy the season together.

From poolside relaxation to outdoor adventures, there was no shortage of ways to make a splash around campus. Residents gathered with friends for refreshing dips, leisurely afternoons in the sun and plenty of conversation and laughter along the way. Whether taking a swim, enjoying the water or simply soaking up the summer atmosphere, the pool became one of the season's favorite gathering spots.

One of the best things about summer at Heath Village is that there is always something happening – and always someone to share it with.

As the days grow shorter and the first hints of fall arrive, we can look back on a summer filled with sunshine, smiles, memories and the joy of being part of a vibrant community.

It was a summer well celebrated by our residents, who certainly knew how to make a splash!

Article by: Sales & Marketing

Photos by: Sales & Marketing



In Memoriam

Marguerite "Margy" Raser

May 23, 2026

David Walter

August 12, 2026

Patricia Wald

June 26, 2026

Jean Torgersen

August 17, 2026

Shirley Daniels

June 28, 2026

Mary Dauch

September 4, 2026

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We've had an amazing summer at Heath Village! Come see what makes our community so special. Call 908-852-4801 to schedule a tour or register for an Explore & Tour event, and ask about exciting updates to our Independent Living expansion. Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all that's happening at Heath Village!

The Friendship Fund Charitable Gift Annuity

Making an annuity gift: You irrevocably transfer money or securities to our Friendship Fund. In exchange, we pay you (and another, or a survivor, if you like) a fixed amount annually for life. In effect, your transfer is doing two things -making a charitable gift and purchasing a fixed income for life.

Income tax benefit: You get an income tax charitable deduction in the year you make your gift. If you let us know your date of birth and the amount of your contemplated gift, we can calculate your deduction.

How annual payments are taxed: A large portion of each annuity payment received is tax-free. The tax-free amount is fixed at the outset and remains constant for the period of your life expectancy.**

The rate of return is attractive and guaranteed for life - without investment worries or responsibility.

Rate Examples: One-Life Annuity Rates 1/1/2023

Age**	Rate
75	7.0 %
76	7.2 %
77	7.4 %
78	7.6 %
79	7.8 %
80	8.1 %
81	8.3 %
82	8.5 %
83	8.7 %
84	8.9 %
85	9.1 %
86	9.3 %
87	9.5 %
88	9.7 %
89	9.9 %
90+	10.1 %

The Friendship Fund Charitable Gift Annuity is a wonderful opportunity for giving, as it benefits the donor as well as residents of Heath Village. We hope that you will discuss this opportunity with your legal or financial counsel.

Enjoy campus life at HEATH VILLAGE

A UNIQUE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Independent living in one of the garden-type units ranging in size from studio apartments to two-bedroom cottages. Dining and meal plans are optional.

We're Growing! Call to learn about our exciting new Independent Living expansion.

Mayflower House is a residential health care facility with 24 hour staff, meals, housekeeping, laundry, medication monitoring all included in the monthly cost.

Assisted Living Coming Soon!

The Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation offers long-term care, sub-acute, rehabilitation and respite care services in a new state-of-the-art facility.

All monthly rates include 24-hour emergency call service and annual carpet cleaning; use of lounges, chapel, library, swimming pool, computer equipment, craft rooms, fitness center and other community facilities; bus service to Hackettstown, club cart service within the Community and on-site parking.

Affordable monthly rates.

Optional community fees.

Come and see for yourself.

Call 908-852-4801 for an appointment.