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For Immediate Release

Photo: Host Anida Tension poses with Juniper Village at Paramus resident Josephine Zorat during their Drag Queen Bingo event this past October.

Bingo Event Provides LGBTQI+ Awareness to Juniper Village at Paramus Residents

November 15, 2022 (Paramus, NJ) – Juniper Communities, a leading provider of senior living communities, Paramus location’s website describes the residence as a place where their “team of compassionate professionals nurture the spirit of life in each individual through Juniper’s distinctive programs that encourage active bodies, engaged minds and fulfilled spirits.” A recent Drag Queen Bingo continued that sentiment.

Taking place on Thursday, October 27, 2022, residents gathered to play bingo with a beautifully made up drag queen at the helm as their number caller. Those who joined in dressed in feather boas and colorful wigs for the occasion and won prizes such as a \$250 rent credit. As an ally to the LGBTQI+ community, the idea to host the event initially came about from Juniper Village at Paramus’ Executive Director, Shain Cohen, who then brought it to the attention of Connections and Community Engagement Director, Everlin Kim. “We have been trying to do something that would bring more awareness to our residents. We wanted to figure out a way to open their minds,” Kim explains.

Juniper Village at Paramus plans to continue with its LGBTQI+ inclusivity. “We have residents who identify as LGBTQI+ and some that may not feel comfortable coming out, so we want to make sure that they feel a sense of belonging and that we fully support them,” stated Kim. They have already hosted an educational workshop for the residents, hired more staff who identify as LGBTQI+ and trained team members in partnership with Sage, the country’s largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older people.

“We are a work in progress and make mistakes along the way, but we thrive to create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community for our residents and senior population. We are open to forming partnerships with the LGBTQI+ community and/or organizations, learning from them and supporting them.”

Juniper Village at Paramus is located at 186 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. Telephone (201) 251-9600. Visit <https://junipercommunities.com/community/the-village-at-paramus>

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About Juniper Communities

Juniper Communities, a leader in quality, value and innovation in long-term care, operates senior living communities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Texas that emphasize residents' well-being, interaction and security. Its approach to housing and care offers residents the opportunity to live a full life, regardless of age or health. Juniper's innovative Connect4Life program has been proven to improve residents' care by decreasing hospitalizations, re-hospitalizations and urgent care visits, while offering potential cost savings to public programs such as Medicare. To learn more about the many ways Juniper Communities innovates in support of our residents, visit www.junipercommunities.com.