

# Activities, off-site trips are in addition to levels of care for seniors at Mattison Crossing

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**M**attison Crossing at Manalapan Avenue, Freehold, is an assisted living and memory support community for seniors that provides its residents with a wide array of activities, made-to-order meals and a connection to off-site interests.

"What separates our community from the others is that we are able to do so much more, in terms of excellent activities. We also have a wide range of residents who are from all walks of life and different countries," said Devi Patel, R.N., executive director of Mattison Crossing at Manalapan Avenue.

Mattison Crossing also celebrates Jewish heritage and culture. It is the only community in Freehold offering kosher dining seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Patel said that Shabbat services are held on Friday night and Saturday.

"The rabbi stays in the building from Friday to Saturday and eats meals with our residents. He offers full services on Saturday," she said.

Mattison has its own synagogue, and in addition to weekend services offers High Holy Day services, readings and seders.

The kosher cuisine is prepared by Mattison's dining staff and supervised by its dining director, Patel said.

"As for cuisine choices, there are tons of leeway. Every day there are at least two specials at lunch and at dinner. It's like you went to a restaurant because you can pick what you want, it's all made to order, and if you want to have one item instead of another you can do that, too," Patel said.

Patel said Mattison care is offered at three levels: assisted living, in which residents live independently in apartments; Memory Support, which ranges from structured independence to total care;



Mattison Crossing calls Betty Brandell its "resident ambassador" who leads the knitting club and loves to play mahjong.

and respite, which provides rehabilitative care to seniors recovering from surgery or illness during a temporary stay.

Within Memory Support care, there are three plateaus, Patel said.

"The first is for residents who are not quite ready for the memory care unit but cannot live in normal assisted living without proper support. Residents take meals in the dining room and participate in activities.

"The second group has general memory impairment and lives in a structured environment, which includes three meals a day and some participation with other residents.

"The third level is for those who are unable to ambulate independently and are at the end stage of Alzheimer's disease. We provide feedings and end-of-life hos-

pice care," Patel said.

Mattison patients who receive respite care stay for a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 90 days.

"They get all the benefits of permanent residency. They come in for wound care, therapy care, or they are a new amputee and not ready to go home yet. We get them through those situations. About 90 percent of respite care patients do stay," Patel said.

Mattison Crossing, which opened in 2001, can accommodate 199 residents. Patel said the community has an international flavor, as residents come from Europe and South America, as well as from the 50 states.

Activities include wine club chats, midday movies, yoga and Yiddish gatherings, bingo and board games, poker



Residents of Mattison Crossing at Manalapan Avenue enjoy daily made-to-order lunch and dinner entrees in the community's dining room.

nights, and knitting and baking clubs. Mattison also boasts a library.

There is a café open 24 hours a day offering snacks, fruit, baked goods, and coffee and cappuccino. Patios and courtyards are available for outdoor seating in the good weather.

Bus trips are available to the nearby Manalapan Mall, plus to area restaurants and museums. The community has its own full time bus driver and shuttle service is available to locations up to five miles away from Mattison at no charge.

"If a resident has a doctor's appointment that is farther away, we can help get them transportation. We always have tons of trips to restaurants and the malls and when we have residents who want to see a Broadway show, our staff makes that happen!" Patel said.

Mattison Crossing does not accept Medicare or health coverage plans. Comprehensive residential living prices start at about \$3,800 per month and can rise to about \$9,000 per month, depending on care needs, Patel said. ■