



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Willie Hall



Willie Hall, a lifelong Jersey City resident, has lived at Hudson Senior for about seven years. He enjoys playing poker and pool in the Community Room of the building.

Willie Hall has spent his entire life living in Jersey City. When he became a senior citizen, he decided he wanted to stay in the city he called home so he put in an application for Hudson Senior, New Community’s senior building in Jersey City. When an apartment became available, Hall moved in and has been a resident in the building for about seven years.

“I don’t think I could live anywhere else but Jersey City,” Hall said. “I was born and raised in the Lafayette section and from there I moved over to Montgomery Street downtown. And then from there, I moved up to Roosevelt Avenue. And after that, I stayed up in the Heights.”

He now resides at Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City. Hall said the building is in a good location in McGinley Square with many shopping opportunities. He also said Journal Square, which is a major hub in the city, is only about 10 blocks away.

Hall participates in some of the activities at Hudson Senior. Every Friday night he plays poker with a group of friends in the Community Room of the building. He also enjoys playing pool with some of his neighbors.

“He’s an outgoing person. He likes to play poker and pool in the Community Room,” said Hudson Senior Property Manager Sandy Le. “He also likes to help people.”

Hall is 74 years old. He’s divorced and has three children and two grandchildren. One son lives in Toms River, one son lives in Clifton and his daughter lives in Colorado. Though there is quite a distance between him and his children, who are all in their 40s, Hall sees them occasionally and keeps in touch.

In his younger years, Hall did a variety of work, including loading trucks, driving trucks and working for a company driving a taxi in Jersey City.

He says Jersey City has calmed down over the years from the way it used to be. The rents, however, have increased dramatically with many who work in New York moving into the area. The higher cost of living is one of the reasons Hall decided to move to Hudson Senior.

“I’ve never seen rents this high. It’s crazy,” he said.

Hall enjoys the quiet of Hudson Senior, which he said lets him sleep as long as he wants. When he’s not in the Community Room or out of the building, he enjoys looking at Facebook to see what’s happening in the world.