

## ■ NEWS

# Fuller Village executive director Felton retiring in June

After more than 16 years as executive director of Fuller Village, Deborah Felton is retiring effective June 30, 2023.

Chris Heavey, chairman of the Board of Directors of Milton Fuller Housing Corporation, recently made the announcement in a letter to the Executive Committee of the non-profit community which was founded in 1997.

"We thank Deborah for orchestrating the success of the Fuller Village community and her continued leadership with an outstanding management team," Heavey wrote. "She led our organization through the worst two and a half years of a global pandemic, and it was her leadership that kept our entire community safe and healthy."

Prior to joining Fuller Village, Felton was a practicing attorney, but it was her years at Fuller Village that she found most rewarding.

"We have an extremely dedicated and professional management team and staff at Fuller Village and that makes a significant difference in the lifestyle we offer to our residents," she said. "Building community has always been an important goal for me personally. It has been very rewarding to work with the residents to foster a caring and supportive community. Having the opportunity to meet people who normally would not be part of my personal circle of friends has been enriching and rewarding. I am thankful to have spent a good part of my professional career in the senior industry."

The residents' appreciation for Felton's impact on the community is evident in their praise for all she has done for Fuller Village.

When long-time resident Betsy Buchbinder was asked how Felton will be remembered for her 16 years leading Fuller Village, she summed up her feelings with Maya Angelou's famous quote, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Buchbinder fondly recalls how Felton extended to all residents her concern for them as individuals, and her sentiments are shared by Fuller Village residents Peg and Paul Riley.

"There are many aspects of Deborah's leadership

style that are important to the operation of Fuller Village," they wrote. "Her basic value of respect for all people guides her approach to leading. The shared values of the members of the leadership team she assembled enable positive interactions between staff and residents."

In addition to serving as executive director, Felton served on the Board of Directors for five years.

"The board has been extremely supportive of the many programs and services we have developed over

the years and the improvements we have made on this beautiful campus," she said.

Two years ago, Fuller Village made a significant investment in solar energy and, more recently, added charging stations and purchased an electric vehicle.

"We have worked with Mass Save to take advantage of many additional energy saving programs throughout the Fuller Village campus," Felton added.

Over the years, Felton touched every aspect of the 60-acre campus.

In 2017, she oversaw the design and construction of Fuller Village's new fitness

center, yoga studio, and new library. She was also responsible for refurbishing all the common space, building a new lounge, and redecorating the dining room.

Every summer, Felton hosted a tennis pro and last year she had the tennis courts relined to accommodate pickleball, which is one of the fastest growing sports in the community.

A resident of Milton for 36 years, Felton has been active in the community with the Milton Public Schools, town government, and Congregation Beth Shalom of the Blue Hills, in addition to serving as co-chair of Milton's "*No Place for Hate*" program.

She was most recently a member of the Town Administrator Screening Committee and has been involved in many local election campaigns.

Felton's plans after Fuller Village include spending time with her husband, Robert Baylor, and her three daughters and their families.

The search for a new executive director has begun and Heavey hopes to have someone in place by next spring.



**Deborah Felton**