



Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This weekly newsletter is sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the residents of the Baldwin Care. The newsletter is also distributed to residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Responsible parties can direct their family members to the Baldwin Care Center Campus website at www.baldwincarecenter.com to read the current and former newsletters that are posted there. Birch Haven Assisted Living is sending the newsletter to responsible parties also. The Birchwood Apartment Manager makes copies of the newsletter available to the tenants there. If there is something you would like discussed in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



This week I would like to talk about the positive staff cases we have had recently at the Baldwin Care Center. In last week's newsletter we discussed the direct care staff member who tested positive. That employee has actually returned to work. The only symptom she had was a headache. Her initial positive test was discovered during a routine weekly testing with a rapid test. She then went to a local health care provider for a confirmatory molecular test, which was also positive. Unfortunately, because that employee had worked in both neighborhoods in the building, we needed to quarantine the entire building. In the midst of the quarantine of the whole building we had another employee test positive for COVID-19. This was also a direct care staff member. This employee had some mild head congestion. When the result of the molecular test came back, it was positive. Both of the employees indicated that they had been using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment while in contact with residents and staff members, so there is low risk to residents and other staff. The quarantine for the entire building was scheduled to end on Friday, October 30. The most recent positive employee case only worked on the Whispering Pines side of the building. Unfortunately that means that the quarantine for the Whispering Pines Neighborhood will extend through November 5th.



There was another development this week that occurred in St. Croix County that impacts visitation. St. Croix County had a COVID-19 positivity rate that exceeded 10%. This means that the county is considered a red zone. This has several implications for the Baldwin Care Center. This means that we need to test staff twice per week. As I have mentioned earlier, it is difficult to have all employees who work different shifts and some who only work weekends because of school or other work or family commitments, come in on one particular day during the daytime hours to get a COVID-19 test. We now plan on testing employees at the Baldwin Care Center on Mondays and Thursdays. These tests are picked up by a courier and transported to a lab in Wauwatosa, WI. The test results are supposed to be available within 48 hours, but that is not always the case. With the increase in the positivity rate all over the state, the incidence of testing increases for many facilities. I anticipate that the labs may be overwhelmed with the increase in tests from all over the state. The staff here will continue to contact you if there is a positive case of either a resident or a staff member shortly after we receive that result. The other issue that this creates involves visitation. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services guidance is clear regarding visitation. No visitation is allowed in counties that are in a red zone. Visitation will be discontinued on the entire campus which includes Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living. Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living had begun indoor visitation in the vestibules of those buildings. The only visits that will be allowed now are compassionate care visits for residents who are in an end-of-life situation or a situation that is determined by the Medical Director as appropriate for a compassionate care visit. I know that this is difficult for family members and for residents. Unfortunately, I have no control over this situation. If the county positivity rate were less than 10%, visitation could be allowed. The actions of others in the community are impacting the residents here on the campus. Visitation can resume when the positivity rate declines. This week some of you may have seen the information that was made public this week regarding COVID19 vaccines. U.S. health officials said they are cautiously optimistic that a COVID-19 vaccine will be



available before the New Year and reinforced the message that long-term care residents and staff will be the first to receive the vaccine. Skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities nationwide were contacted by the federal Health and Human Services department and asked to make a selection as to which pharmacy they would prefer to receive the vaccine from. The options presented were CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, a local pharmacy provider or the facility can procure their own testing supplies. Facilities have until November 6th to make a selection.



This week the residents and staff have had a great time looking at and judging all of the submissions for the pumpkin decorating contest. It is amazing how creative some staff are! There are additional pictures on the Baldwin Care Center Facebook page. Staff also had fun dressing up for Halloween on Friday. We held a Halloween costume parade so the residents could see the costumes. Thank you to all staff who participated in the pumpkin decorating and the costume parade.

This week we would like to thank Jeremy, a resident of a local Aurora facility for making dream catchers for all of the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. The staff and residents were delighted to see all the different creations that Jeremy made to brighten the day for our residents here.

Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator



Pumpkin Winners!



*1st Place
by Jan Poitra-Gross*



*2nd Place
by Krista Frogness*



*3rd Place
by Angela Telljohm*

Thank you BCC staff for all your wonderful, creative and fun submissions! Congratulations to our top 3 winners!



Mary Monson

