



Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This newsletter is being sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is sending this newsletter to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood apartment tenants. Responsible parties can direct other family members to the Baldwin Care Center website at [www.baldwincarecenter.com](http://www.baldwincarecenter.com) to read current and previous newsletters. If there is a topic you would like discussed in the newsletter, please contact me via email at [elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com](mailto:elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com) or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



On November 4<sup>th</sup> CMS published the rule regarding vaccine mandates for healthcare workers in long term care and other Medicare and Medicaid providers. The CMS policy requires providers to ensure that all staff get at least one dose prior to providing care or any other service by December 5<sup>th</sup>. All staff must be fully vaccinated by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The rule asks providers to have a plan in place within 30 days. The plan must include the policy and procedures the organization will follow. This rule covers 16 types of Medicare and Medicaid providers. The published rule is 214 pages long. The CMS rule includes both medical and religious exemptions. Individuals that receive these exemptions will have to test regularly. The CMS rule spells out accommodations intended to protect residents from unvaccinated exempt employees. The new CMS rule will be enforced through already established mechanisms including the annual reaccreditation process performed by the state Department of Health Services. This rule does not apply to assisted living facilities. CMS does not have authority over assisted living facilities or group homes. The Baldwin Care Center has provided education to employees regarding the vaccine, but there remain staff who indicate that they will not receive the vaccine for various reasons. When the mandate was published, unvaccinated staff members were reapproached regarding their decision not to receive the vaccine. There are some staff members who will be receiving the first dose of the vaccine prior to the December 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. There are staff who indicate that they will not receive the vaccine. There are certain departments that have a higher rate of unvaccinated staff than others. Those staff members work as CNAs in direct care and in the dietary department. The majority of unvaccinated dietary staff members are minors whose parents are making the decision not to vaccinate their children. Shortages in either direct care or the dietary department are very concerning. At this time in this workforce crisis, we cannot afford to lose one person, let alone several. My goal is to be very transparent regarding the shortages we are facing. Every facility in the state is facing this same scenario. We are all trying to think of creative ways to ease the shortage that will be created by this mandate. Please let me know if you feel that there is something you might be able to do to assist us with the ongoing staffing challenges.



During the most recent two week period we have seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases across the campus. Birch Haven Assisted Living had two residents and two staff that tested positive for COVID-19. The Baldwin Care Center has had three residents and three staff test positive for COVID-19. I will share with you that the vast majority of both residents and staff who have tested positive recently have been vaccinated. Even with the vaccine, we are seeing quite a few breakthrough cases. In discussions with St. Croix County Public Health we have developed a current plan for residents in the Baldwin Care Center with the recent outbreak. The Whispering Pines Neighborhood is the affected area.

The Woodland Heights Neighborhood had no exposure. The routine for residents who live in Woodland Heights has not changed. Those residents can dine together, meet for activities and can have visitors. The plan for the Whispering Pines Neighborhood is a bit different. Currently, residents may eat in the dining room with one person at each table. Small groups of resident may gather for an activity if they are all wearing masks. Family members may continue to visit, but we ask that they use the visiting booth. Family and friends should still enter through the front door and register for a visit. Family will be asked to enter the visiting booth from the outside porch entrance on the west end of the building. They may have to wait to visit if someone is using the visiting booth. We ask your patience through this process. We are uncertain as to when we will be able to reopen the Whispering Pines Neighborhood completely. The facility is testing staff members and residents daily with a rapid test and we are completing the PCR tests that are sent to the lab for processing. After we receive the result of the PCR tests from the lab, I will be consulting with the St. Croix County Health

Department and the Medical Director to determine when things can get back to normal. Please let us know if you have questions.



This week is the observance of Veteran’s Day. Veteran’s Day is held in honor of those who served in the United States Armed Forces. This is different from Memorial Day which honors those who died while serving. Veteran’s Day is celebrated on November 11<sup>th</sup> because the Armistice ending World War I was signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. Currently there are around 21.8 million veterans in the United States.

There are 9 million veterans over the age of 65. Around 1.6 million veterans are women. There are many services held throughout the country that honor veterans. The National Ceremony is held each year at Arlington National Cemetery. We would like to thank all of the veterans who reside on the Baldwin Care Center campus for their service!

We would like to thank the family of Bev Dorsey for the delicious cupcakes and donuts. We would also like to thank Darla Peterson, friend of former resident Martena Johnson and Mary Stasieluk, family of Paula Standaert for the generous donations of candy. Thank you so much to Brian and Marlene Hurtgen for the two boxes of cookies and bars from the Cookie Factory. They were delicious!



Eileen LaFavor,  
Administrator



**Baldwin Care Center**

Bernard Burnett Sr. (Marines)

Harvey Moe (Army)

Brian Hurtgen (Army)

Gerald Pagel (Army)

David Helder (Army)

**Birchwood Apartments**

Janice Terwilliger (Air Force)

Gerald Peterson (Army)

Frank Roessler (Army)

Jerome Goossens (Air Force)

**Staff**

Robert Jennings (National Guard)

**Birch Haven Assisted Living**

Lory Hawkins (Army)

Leroy Zulawski (Air Force)

Harvey Hielkema (Army)

Bob Larson (Army)



# BCC Out and About

