

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This newsletter is sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the Baldwin Care Center. The newsletter is distributed to residents of the Baldwin Care Center also. 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. The Birchwood Apartment Manager makes copies of the newsletter available to tenants. If there is anything that 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.

CORONA VIRUS

COVID-19 UPDATE

This week I am very excited to let you know that we received a negative result for all Baldwin Care Center staff and resident tests that were done on Thursday, October 29th. The test results came back over the past weekend. We were concerned as we had recently had two direct care staff members test positive. The residents will again be tested this week as part of the outbreak testing we conduct after a positive result. Two weeks of negative tests should be received to make certain that we do not have an asymptomatic resident or staff member. The facility will continue to test staff twice weekly because of the high COVID-19 positivity rate in St. Croix County. The list of each county in the country is published by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) indicating whether they are in a low, medium or high county related to the positivity rate. The counties are designated as green for low incidence (10%). As of last week, over 70% of the counties in Wisconsin were indicated as red counties with a high positivity rate over 10%. Because of the positive employee who had worked on the Whispering Pines Neighborhood, quarantine for residents went through Thursday, November 5th.

Unfortunately, the news is not good regarding visitation. I was looking forward to beginning to schedule indoor visits. Unfortunately, with the high COVID-19 positivity rate in St. Croix County we are unable to begin indoor visitation. Indoor visitation had begun in Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living. They needed to cease visitations when St. Croix County was indicated as a red zone. CMS indicates that visitation can occur in counties with low (green) or medium (yellow) incidences of COVID positivity rates. It is difficult to know how long it will be before the positivity rate drops. Wisconsin certainly has become a hotspot for COVID-19 recently. Both the Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living have ceased visitation for the time being because of the increased positivity rates. The only visits that are currently allowed are compassionate care visits at end-of-life. I am hopeful we will see a change in the near future so we can begin visitations, especially with the holidays coming up.

Both the Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living have received their laboratory waiver numbers so that they can complete COVID-19 testing in their facilities. I have received a confirmation that one of the facilities has submitted the payment. I am waiting for the other facility's confirmation. Each facility should be receiving the rapid antigen tests soon. When the tests are received we will be testing half of the staff every other week. We would like to make certain that we do not have any asymptomatic staff. The assisted living facilities have not had the same requirement that skilled nursing facilities have had regarding testing staff regularly. I am anticipating that assisted living facilities may have to begin regular testing in the near future, especially if the positivity rate continues to climb.

Each week I receive an update from Western Wisconsin Health regarding pertinent issues related to COVID-19. The CEO outlines how many COVID-19 cases there are in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It also summarizes the number of staff and patients in the hospital who are COVID-19 positive. Obviously over the past couple of weeks, those numbers have continued to rise. This week there was information regarding hospital capacities in the state and local area. Both large hospitals located in metropolitan areas and smaller rural hospitals are experiencing a bed availability issue. Overall,

hospitals are at over 80% capacity. The three hospitals in Eau Claire are near capacity. Most hospitals are experiencing staffing issues because of COVID-19 positive staff and staff that have to be quarantined. This is becoming a serious issue.



There are several Thank yous to pass along this week. The family of Sally Stratton, who was a resident at Birch Haven Assisted Living brought baked goods and a meat and cheese tray as a thank you to the staff. They also sent a beautiful bouquet. The family of Becky Sempf gave Birch Haven Assisted Living a generous monetary donation in memory of Becky. The donation will be used for a bench for the front porch of Birch Haven. The family of Eleanor "Toots" Holle, who was a recent resident of Birch Haven and former resident of Birchwood Apartments sent donuts and a beautiful card to the staff of Birch Haven Assisted Living. Thank you to everyone for remembering the residents and the staff of Birch Haven Assisted Living. I would also like to thank Shari Henrich from the New Centerville United Methodist Church. Shari put together a book that she had printed for the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. The book is titled "A Gift of Love". The book consists of a compilation of beautiful nature photos with corresponding Scripture verses intended to bring joy and comfort. Thank you so much for this very special project for the residents. A big thank you to Leah Johnson-Freer and family for all of the beautiful blankets, manicure/pedicure sets, grooming sets for men and activity books. Thank you for remembering the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. These are wonderful and special gifts that our residents will truly appreciate!

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

Halloween Costume Contest



1st Place – Angela Tellijohn



2nd Place – Eileen LaFavor



3rd Place – Krista Frogness

