

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. The newsletter is also distributed to residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Responsible parties can also direct other family members and friends to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com where current and previous newsletters are posted. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending the weekly newsletter to responsible parties. The Birchwood Apartment Manager distributes copies to the tenants. If there is a topic you would like to have discussed in the newsletter, please contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715- 684-3231, Ext. 103.



This week I would like to start by speaking about the Circle of Love Lighting Ceremony that was held on Monday, December 7th. We have so many people to thank for making that evening a success. Pastor John Hanson from Peace Lutheran Church provided the entertainment. Pastor Hanson provided musical accompaniment and lead everyone in singing favorite Christmas carols. A number of residents bundled up and came outside to watch the lighting ceremony. The names of the contributors were read. Many thanks to all current and former family members who contributed. We are including a list of contributors in this newsletter. Contributions this year will be put towards a very special Christmas gift for the residents. The residents also enjoyed the animals that came for the evening. Diana Rickard, daughter of Baldwin Care Center resident Annabelle Bazille, brought some animals from her farm for exotic animals. A camel named Faith and two sheep joined us to give us an authentic feeling of how that night in Bethlehem might have felt. Thank you so much, Diana! The staff that worked that evening did a great job with assisting residents with getting dressed warm and coming outside. The Dietary Department made and distributed special Christmas treats with hot drinks when the residents came back inside. It was a fun night for everyone. The Activity Department, Social Services and the Environmental Services Department all assisted in making this a special event for the residents. After the lighting ceremony we brought the tree indoors and placed it in the front lobby. We purchased a new tree this year that sits in a sleigh. It is beautiful! The Activity Department worked very hard these past few weeks and facility is all decked out with decorations everywhere. There are Christmas trees in each of the Hearth areas and in the lounges as well as outdoor decorations in each center courtyard. Even without the snow, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



This week the CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced new guidance on quarantine duration. The Centers for Disease Control and DHS indicate that the current 14 day quarantine is still the best option, especially for congregate settings like nursing facilities, prisons, etc. CDC and DHS now are indicating that people who do not develop symptoms after exposure can end their quarantine: *After completing day 10 of quarantine without testing *After completing day 7 of quarantine and receiving a negative test result (molecular or antigen) that was collected within 48 hours of the end of the quarantine. People must continue to monitor symptoms for the full 14 days. If the reduced quarantine option is used, the CDC warns that there is an increased risk of contracting COVID if you are using these new guidelines. The facility and Medical Director are currently reviewing and potentially revising the guidance as it applies to our assisted living settings particularly. We should have that revision done soon and will share it with you when it is completed.

This week I listened to information from the St. Croix County Department of Health regarding vaccines. Apparently specifics regarding the "hub and spoke model" should be public soon. This is a model in which planners organize routes for vaccine distribution as a series of "spokes" that connect points to a central "hub". There is a letter from Dr. Kathleen Findlay, Medical Director about the vaccine included in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

THANK YOU

This week I would like to thank the family of Iris Nadeau who donated baskets full of goodies for the Baldwin Care Center staff. The baskets included some healthier snacks including cereal bars, fruit snacks, granola snacks, almond snacks, flavored oatmeal packets and packets of hot cocoa. One of our former employees, Debbie Dahl who used to work in the Dietary Department, brought the Baldwin Care Center staff an incredible assortment of lefse, rosettes, cookies and other sweet treats. Thanks for thinking of us, Deb! We were also treated to items from a local church bake sale that Doris Hansen's family dropped off. It was delicious! Thank you to Rosemary Range's son Richard and daughter-in-law Genny for the gift card for Domino's Pizza. A thank you also to Brian Hurtgen's wife Marlene and family for the donation of candy and Best Maid cookies. Thank you so much to everyone who is remembering us during this holiday season. We definitely enjoy holiday treats and goodies!

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*



**It's the
Happiest
Season of
ALL**



December 9, 2020

Dear Resident/Family Members,

By now you have probably learned that COVID-19 vaccines will soon be approved and ready for distribution to the healthcare workers and residents in long term care. We have long awaited this exciting news.

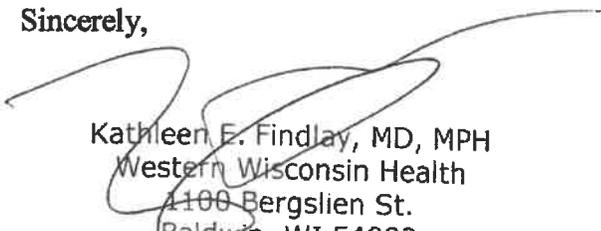
We understand that some of you may be concerned about the safety of these new vaccines, as they have been developed and tested far more quickly than those in the past. We want to assure you that the speed with which these vaccines were developed is not due to skipping important safety steps, but rather the result of focused, collaborative work performed by experts across the globe. Vaccines approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have undergone the same level of rigorous testing for safety and efficacy as other vaccines, and have been tested in tens of thousands of people, including older adults. Two independent advisory committees of experts from academic institutions also monitor vaccines to ensure their safety.

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines require two separate doses given about three or four weeks apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated, with more pronounced discomfort after the second dose. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. Sometimes there is misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions, as you may have heard someone say a vaccine has "made them sick" or given them the disease that the vaccine was intended to prevent. We want to be clear that this is not the case. The COVID-19 vaccine cannot give you a COVID-19 infection. The vaccine works by helping the body create antibodies to fight off the virus. Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.

We, along with thousands of other long term care facilities, are participating in a program with the Centers for Disease Control to help us most efficiently distribute these vaccines to our residents free of charge once they are available. We will keep you informed of this process as we move forward. Our staff will also have the opportunity to get vaccinated through this program, if they have not been vaccinated previously.

I encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, its possible side effects, and what to expect after you or a loved one receives it. As we have been saying over the course of this difficult year, we are all in this together. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of our staff and residents have been and remain our top priority. We are confident that the worldwide, unprecedented scientific achievement of these COVID-19 vaccines will eventually enable us to enjoy life with our loved ones again. We look forward to doing our part in this effort by getting the COVID-19 vaccine, and hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Findlay, MD, MPH
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Medical Director

2020 CIRCLE OF LOVE LIGHT CONTRIBUTORS

RICK & CATHY ARNFELT	IN HONOR OF VIRIGINA FREDERICK, IN MEMORY OF DALE FREDERICK, GEORGE & JOSEPHINE FREDERICK AND HENRY AND IDA DEMOTTS
DARLENE KEARNS	IN MEMORY OF LYLE KEARNS
EVELYN RADEMAKER FAMILY	IN HONOR OF EVELYN RADEMAKER
BRUCE KETCHUM	IN MEMORY OF BOB KETCHUM
JAN RIVARD	IN MEMORY OF ORVILLE RIVARD, KAREN PETERSON AND KATHY YATES
DARLA PETERSON	IN HONOR OF GERALD & MAVIS PETERSON, DAVID & JERINE WERNER & LOUIS deSPAIN
FAMILY OF IRIS NADEAU	IN HONOR OF THE EXCELLENT STAFF AT BALDWIN CARE CENTER
ROSEMARY RANGE FAMILY	IN HONOR OF ROSEMARY RANGE
JEAN LINDUS	IN MEMORY OF MARY KOCH & KENNETH LINDUS
BARBARA KETCHUM	IN MEMORY OF BOB KETCHUM
TAD AND KATE JENNINGS	IN MEMORY OF ROSS PIERSON AND IN HONOR OF SUE PIERSON
GLENN AND KANDIS MEYER	IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY MEYER
RAYMOND AND JAN PRICE	IN MEMORY OF LADONNA PRICE
JERRY & CHAR BRETL	IN MEMORY OF BILL & ELLA KELLY AND JOHN AND AGATHA BRETL
JACKIE LAFAVE AND TERRY SUNDE	IN MEMORY OF LUCILLE SUNDE AND JACK SUNDE
DARYL AND SUSAN FRANK	IN HONOR OF MARY MONSON, OUR BEAUTIFUL MOMMA AND GRANDMA. HER LIGHT SHINES!
MARLENE HURTGEN , CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN	IN HONOR OF BRIAN HURTGEN
LINDA WIERENGA	IN HONOR OF NANCY VANSOMEREN
DORIS HANSEN FAMILY	IN HONOR OF DORIS HANSEN
ROBERT & DENNIS METZGER	IN HONOR OF ELLEN METZER
HANNAH WILSON	IN HONOR OF JOANNE JACOBSON AND DONNA HILMANOWSKE