

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This newsletter is being sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for 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 their family members to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com to read current and previous newsletters. If there is a topic 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.

Since the publication of the last newsletter, we have had some sporadic gastrointestinal illness primarily amongst staff in the Baldwin Care Center. Neither Birch Haven Assisted Living or Birchwood Apartments residents or staff have experienced any of this type of illness. Since the last newsletter, we had another Baldwin Care Center staff member and one resident test positive for COVID-19. During the previous two weeks there had been one staff member and two residents. All of the residents and staff experienced relatively mild symptoms and all are doing well. Throughout these past couple weeks when the facility has experienced positive COVID cases, we have had staff rapid test to make certain no more staff were positive. All staff and residents have also been PCR tested twice weekly. Those tests are sent to a lab for processing. We have had no further cases. We will continue to PCR testing until we have had two weeks with no cases.



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have recently revised the following document: Guidance for the Interim Final Rule – Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination effective 4-5-22. The prior guidance was from December 28, 2021. The memo discusses how surveyors will survey facilities for compliance with this guideline. CMS expects all facilities' staff to have received the appropriate number of COVID-19 vaccine doses by the timeframes specified in the memorandum unless exempted as required by law. There are still 25 states that this guideline does not apply to. This guideline currently applies to Wisconsin. The facility vaccine policies and procedures apply to facility employees, licensed practitioners, students, volunteers and individuals who provide care, treatment or services for the facility or its residents under contract (agency staff). Facility staff vaccination rates under 100% constitute non-compliance under this rule. Non-compliance does not necessarily lead to termination of the facility's Medicare and Medicaid contract. Facilities will generally be given opportunities to return to compliance. Within 30 days of the issuance of the memo, 100% of staff should have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending request for, or have been granted a qualifying exemption (either medical or religious), or are identified as having a temporary delay as recommended by the CDC, the facility is compliant under the rule. Currently, I am awaiting an exemption request from a new employee, but otherwise we should be compliant with the rule based on staff who have been vaccinated or who have been granted an exemption. Staff who have been granted an exemption should adhere to additional precautions that are intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Examples of those precautions might include requiring staff to use a higher level of source control, such as an N95 or requiring at least weekly COVID testing.



I have an update for you regarding staffing on the campus. Currently the Birchwood Apartments are fully staffed. Birch Haven Assisted Living is looking for Resident Assistants on the PM and Night shifts. Day shift staffing is looking pretty good right now. There are fewer open shifts on the PM and Night shifts. We have had some recent successes with hiring Resident Assistant staff in Birch Haven Assisted Living. The Baldwin Care Center has also hired some CNA staff recently. Baldwin Care Center also has an indication that college students will be returning beginning in May and are interested in

full-time positions. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Baldwin Care Center currently has agency staff that is being contracted through the State of Wisconsin. Recently, the Birchwood Apartments have seen an increase in tenants moving in. With the increase in staff at both Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center, we are looking at being able to care for more residents than we have recently. We did not want to accept residents if we did not have adequate staff. I remain hopeful that things are looking a bit brighter in regards to the staffing crisis. I don't want to boast too soon though. I will continue to keep you apprised of the staffing situation on the campus.



I would like to pass along some thank yous this week to Bev Dorsey who dropped off some beautiful hydrangeas and an Easter lily. The staff and residents of Baldwin Care Center are enjoying the beautiful plants. We would also like to thank Norma and Carroll Klanderman for the hams for Easter dinner for the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Thank you so much for the delicious donation!

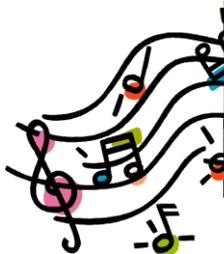
*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*



BCC is Blooming with New Activities



*BCC residents had a blast
drumming to some great music!*



New Music Entertainer Larry Hopwood of "Two Frets Up" from Durand, WI performed for BCC residents on April 6th.