

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

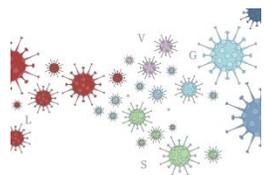


This newsletter is being sent to responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending this newsletter to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood Apartment tenants. Responsible parties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



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

Throughout the course of the year that I have been writing this newsletter, I have often times discussed the information that I have heard on the weekly/biweekly webinars presented by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Wisconsin DHS has decided that they will not be holding webinars on that regular of a basis. Webinars will now be held on specific topics and be presented on an as needed basis. The regional Division of Quality Assurance Offices will be holding webinars approximately every quarter to discuss regulatory guidance. The Division of Quality Assurance are the state employees who conduct the annual survey of nursing facilities. I guess it is a good sign that the Department of Health Services does not feel that it is necessary to update nursing facilities as often. It signals a slowdown in the amount of information that is changing. It also signals a slowdown in the number of deaths and cases of COVID-19. It is remarkable to think where we have come in this process – from being completely locked down last spring to now allowing regular visitors. We are so thankful that COVID-19 vaccines were made available to our population first. I also marvel at the technology that created an effective vaccine in less than one year. Prior to this it has taken several years for vaccines to be developed. I continue to encourage everyone to receive the COVID-19 vaccine now that it is available to anyone over the age of 16.



Over the past couple of weeks the COVID-19 positivity rate has increased in St. Croix County. It is back to over 5% which means we have to return to testing once weekly. We had been getting accustomed to testing staff every two weeks. Apparently the increase has to do with the variant strain of COVID-19. The variant strain is far more contagious leading to a surge in cases. With this being the case, we need to be vigilant about infection control practices while visiting in tenants or residents of Birchwood Apartments, Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center. There continue to be instances of visitors not following the rules. Please do not request to have more than two people visit at one time. Two visitors can be adults or one adult and one child may visit at one time. Please try to come during the scheduled visiting hours for each setting. If you are having a difficult time visiting during the visiting hours, please call me or the manager of Birch Haven Assisted Living or Birchwood Apartments to make an arrangement for visiting. Since the visiting hours are available seven days per week, they should be convenient to most people. The Baldwin Care Center is beginning to have some volunteers who have been fully vaccinated to assist with screening visitors that come. Again, I ask your patience in the visiting process on the campus. The staff is doing the best they can to screen visitors.



I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Capital Campaign so far for the transport vehicle for all of the residents of the Baldwin Care Center campus. Thank you to the family of LaVerne Mealey for their generous donation. LaVerne is a resident of Birch Haven Assisted Living. Many thanks to the families of Baldwin Care Center residents Ken Peterson, Doris Hansen and Evelyn Rademaker for their charitable donation to the vehicle fund. We truly appreciate it. We are looking for a 14 passenger bus currently. We are hopeful to try to find one before the Windmill Days celebration, so we would be able to take residents in the parade. I will be taking the Valentine King and Queen in my convertible for the parade. I was very excited to hear that there was going to be a community celebration this year. The residents and the staff are looking forward to participating this year. We missed so many things over this past year. It is nice to look forward to getting back to some sense of normalcy.

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

Happy 106th Birthday!



George Schlegel