



4-2-21

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 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.

I would like to continue to discuss and review the visitation guidelines for the campus. Overall, things have been going well regarding visitation on the campus. I would again request your patience regarding giving staff time to get to the door. The staff at the Baldwin Care Center are more readily available than staff in either Birch Haven Assisted Living or Birchwood Apartments. The staff at Baldwin Care Center have a better view from the main office which is located at the front door and the Office is staffed seven days per week during visiting hours. Nurse Manager staff are close to the main entrance of Birch Haven Monday through Friday during visiting hours. However, there is no one there on the weekend. The main entrance of the Birchwood Apartments is not visible from the Apartment Manager's office. There is a pendant at the front entrance of Birchwood Apartments that can be pushed to alert staff that someone is at the door. If you do not see anyone at any one of the entrances fairly immediately, we ask that you call the phone number for the Baldwin Care Center campus at 715-684-3231. Press Option #1 for Baldwin Care Center; press Option #2 for Birch Haven Assisted Living and Option #3 for Birchwood Apartments. The staff member answering the phone should be able to assist you regarding getting in to visit. The staff who are working are doing their best to respond to visitors. Please understand that they may be busy caring for a resident or tenant. I appreciate your patience during this transition to indoor visitation.



I would like to make everyone aware of a need that we have on the campus. We have three vehicles that we use for transports to medical appointments and for resident outings. We have a smaller van that can accommodate one wheelchair that is used for medical transports. We have another van that can accommodate a bariatric (wider wheelchair). We also have a 14 passenger bus that can accommodate two wheelchairs and twelve passengers including the driver.

The smaller van that is used for medical transports has almost 100,000 miles on it. It is definitely showing some wear and tear. During the past two years we have spent a lot on repairs. The 14 passenger bus is a 1999 vehicle. The body is in terrible shape and it has had to be repaired pretty extensively. We had not used the bus since last Fall when we needed it for an additional transport vehicle. During the time since last Spring when COVID-19 restrictions began we have not used it for resident outings. The Environmental Services staff went to start it because we are having many more medical appointments for residents and we thought we may have to use it for transports. When they started the bus it made a horrible noise. We were surprised to find that someone had stolen the catalytic converter! Apparently they can be quite valuable. It seems unfathomable to me that someone would steal from a senior campus. The organization would like to replace both the small medical transport vehicle and the bus used for outings. The cost of two used vehicles to replace the current vehicles creates a financial strain for the organization. We would like to begin a Capital Campaign to raise funds for this need. If you would like to make a contribution, please go to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com under Charitable Contributions. The information needed to contribute to the vehicle fund is posted there. Thank you so much for your consideration in supporting this important project to benefit the residents and tenants of the Baldwin Care Center Campus.

This week the Centers for Disease Control released a new document titled "Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes." The recommendations in this document were updated and organized to clarify infection prevention and control practices and stress those that should remain in place whether or not nursing homes are experiencing outbreaks. Additional guidance was included to address circumstances when quarantine is recommended for new admissions and for residents who leave the facility, as well as a section addressing quarantine and work exclusion considerations for asymptomatic residents and healthcare providers who are within 90 days of resolved infection. This guidance is intended to apply regardless of vaccination status. Resident

departures with family members are explicitly addressed in the guidance, noting that “In most circumstances, quarantine is not recommended for residents who leave the facility for less than 24 hours (e.g., for medical appointments or community outings with family and friends) and do not have close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection.” Both the residents and family members should be reminded of infection control practices including hand hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing while out of the facility. There have been questions regarding residents going out for Easter. I can tell you that the guidance still says that the safest visitation is outdoors. I would encourage family members all across the campus to visit outdoors this weekend as the forecast is calling for highs in the 70s. It is a much safer option than taking residents out and exposing them to large numbers of people. There are areas adjacent to each setting on the campus that have chairs, benches or picnic tables to use.



There are a couple of thank yous to pass along this week. Ole Ellefson’s daughter Jackie brought cookies for the staff of Birch Haven. They were delicious. Doris Hansen’s daughter JoAnn treated the staff of the Baldwin Care Center to assorted bagels and cream cheese from Buddy’s Bakery in Hudson. It was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you so much and have a safe and happy Easter!



*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

BEAUTIFUL

Beauty Salon is Open!

