



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 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 to the Baldwin Care Center website at [www.baldwincarecenter.com](http://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](mailto:elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com) or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



Late Wednesday afternoon I was informed that one of the Baldwin Care Center staff tested positive for COVID-19. We had not had an employee test positive for three months. The employee works part-time in the Dietary department. The positive result was found during the routine testing we continue to do for unvaccinated staff. The employee who tested positive was completely asymptomatic. This employee did not have direct contact with residents. The employee only worked on the Woodland Heights side of the building. Obviously when we have a positive test we need to follow state and federal guidance regarding quarantine, enhanced infection control and increased testing. The guidance indicates that we must test all residents and staff. We began doing that by immediately testing all staff with a rapid antigen test. On Thursday we tested all residents in the building with a rapid test. All results were negative. We are required to begin outbreak testing as soon as possible. We must use the PCR tests, which are the tests that must be sent to a lab for processing. Unfortunately we did not have an adequate supply to test residents and staff. The State only allocates adequate testing supplies based on the routine testing schedule. We do not have tests in reserve for instances when there is a positive case. The tests were ordered on Thursday, but the delivery is between 3-5 days. Unfortunately there is a holiday weekend which will delay delivery by another day. I am hopeful to have the tests between June 2nd-4th. Then we must test all residents and staff with a PCR test and wait for lab results. If all of the results from these tests are negative we should be able to get back to normal again. Except for compassionate care visits, visitation had to be put on pause for right now. We may be able to open up for visitation by this week. Please call the facility to make certain we are open if you were planning on visiting after the Memorial Day holiday. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. I know it feels like a step backwards. Family and residents have both been enjoying visits so much. It has really improved resident's moods.



In last week's newsletter I mentioned that LeRoy Dull, Maintenance Technician was retiring. On Tuesday, May 25th, the Birchwood Apartment tenants wished LeRoy well on his new adventure by presenting him with a gift and sharing some coffee and cake. On Thursday, both Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center recognized LeRoy's retirement. Both Birch Haven and Baldwin Care Center held a potluck dinner followed by ice cream cake, which is LeRoy's favorite. Staff in both settings recognized LeRoy with a brief program. As some of you may know, I enjoy writing poetry. I wrote a poem titled "Oh-Fish-Ally Retired". LeRoy and his wife Barb enjoy fishing. He should have more time now to enjoy that. LeRoy explained that when he started working in the Maintenance Technician position in 2006, he thought it would be a nice part-time job that he would stay with for five years. Here we are 15 years later! It has been a joy to work with LeRoy over these past 15 years. He brought so many talents to this position. He definitely was a jack-of-all trades. LeRoy also brought joy to so many residents on the campus. Both staff and residents will miss him.



We should remember the significance of the holiday occurring this weekend. Memorial Day is a federal holiday for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in performance of their military duties. Memorial Day became an official federal holiday in 1971. It originally was called Decoration Day. It originated in the years following the Civil War. By the late 1860s Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to the many fallen soldiers, decorating their graves and reciting prayers. Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veteran's organization. Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people take weekend trips or throw parties or have barbeques perhaps because Memorial Day weekend unofficially marks the beginning of summer. Let us not forget that many brave Americans who gave their lives so that we may have the freedoms that we do. We would like to acknowledge and recognize the residents and staff who have served our country. Thank you for your service.

*Eileen LaFavor,  
Administrator*

