

Dear Resident, Family Members or Friends,



This weekly newsletter is being sent to family members and responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents. Please share this information with other family members if you are the primary contact for a resident. This weekly newsletter is available at the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com. All of the weekly newsletters are posted there. If anyone has questions about the weekly newsletter, please feel free to contact me at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or contact me by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103. I hope that the information in this newsletter continues to be helpful. If there are other topics that I am not touching on that you have an interest in knowing about, please let me know.

Last week I discussed the retesting recommendation by the State of Wisconsin for COVID-19. The Department of Health Services was recommending that nursing facilities test staff every other week and test residents when they are exhibiting symptoms or there is a positive case at the facility. Right after the recommendation to retest staff every two weeks appeared on Thursday, I attempted to order testing kits through Exact Sciences, the lab that the State of Wisconsin has contracted with to provide the testing supplies and provide the test results for the COVID-19 tests. I was told that my order could not be taken at this time and that the order could not be filled. The lab indicated that the State of Wisconsin had indicated that the every other week testing for staff was put on hold. There has been no specific direction from the State of Wisconsin this week as to when the testing for staff might resume. Mid-week this week, I received information that the federal government is going to provide “point of care” COVID-19 testing to every nursing home in the United States. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator made the testing announcement at a press conference this week. She added that point of care tests will be used for both residents and staff. The point of care tests are rapid, on the spot tests. Distribution of the tests is to begin next week. The testing devices are to be given to 2,000 nursing homes next week. Nursing homes would receive tests in an order ranked by CMS as determined by the rate of the virus’ spread in the surrounding community. Critics of the point of care tests indicated that the error rates can be as high as 20%. I will keep you posted regarding when we receive these tests and when we will begin using them.

In the last newsletter, I also discussed the resumption of beauty and barber services. This week, the beautician returned to the beauty shop in Birch Haven Assisted Living. I am hopeful that we will be able to begin beauty shop services sometime during the week of July 19th. I do not have a firm date yet. The facility had to develop a very specific policy based on the guidelines provided by the State of Wisconsin. The guidance requires the beautician to wear (PPE) personal protective equipment including a facemask, gown and gloves. This really makes working difficult and may potentially slow down the process a bit. It is very warm working in all of that PPE. I will keep you posted as to how this goes and I will let you know the days of the week that beauty services are available in each setting when we are able to develop a regular schedule.

Last week was very exciting as we were able to begin in person outdoor visitation! This has been just wonderful for residents and family members. The weather cooperated last Thursday and Friday. Visitation also occurred this week on Thursday and Friday. I am scheduling visits for each week based on the weather forecast. It just happened to be that last Thursday and Friday and this Thursday and Friday were good weather days. It will not always necessarily be on those days. This past week we got through the second group of residents to have visits. So about two-thirds of the residents have had visits from their family members. The remainder of residents will have visits next week. After next week I will assess how everything went and potentially expand the hours for visiting. My goal would be to be to have each family member able to visit every other week. I know that it has been difficult for family members to make decisions about which family member can come because of the limit of one visitor per resident per visit. We will probably continue with the one person per visit for a while. The past two weeks have been a bit scary with the rise in the incidence of COVID-19 cases in the county, the state and nationwide.

I would like to remind everyone to be the example in the community by wearing a mask. I recently attended a visitation for a resident who had passed away. At the local funeral home, I was one of two people who were wearing a mask. There were a number of older people there who were not wearing a mask and not social distancing. Wearing a mask reduces the transmission probability dramatically. If people's habits do not change, I fear that we may go backwards and have to shut the entire facility down again. Our regulators are very serious about protecting our residents, as we are. I urge you to be personally responsible and wash your hands frequently and wear a mask when you are out in public and remember to social distance.



In addition to the outdoor visitations, the Activity Department has begun to expand their outdoor events for residents. On Monday there was an art & craft show where a few residents entered art projects and received ribbons. On Wednesday, a church service was held outside. We are hopeful to expand on this even more. People in the community continue to reach out and ask us what they can do for us. We appreciate anyone who has done anything for the residents of the Baldwin Care Center Campus.



This past week the staff of the Baldwin Care Center were treated to a fruit tray from an anonymous donor. It was a nice treat on a warm summer day.



I would like to mention the departure of one of the managers on the campus. Kayla Kinney, Assistant to the Nurse Manager in Birch Haven has accepted a position to work at the St. Croix County Government Center. Kayla has done in great job in the various roles she has held on the campus including Resident Assistant, CNA, Medication Aide and Assistant to the Nurse Manager in Birch Haven Assisted Living. We wish her the best in her new position!

*Eileen LaFavor
Administrator*

ART SHOW

ALBERT PARK COLLEGE

