

Dear Resident, Family Members and 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 and friends. Every weekly newsletter is posted on the Baldwin Care Center website at [www.baldwincarecenter.com](http://www.baldwincarecenter.com). If anyone ever has questions about the newsletter, please feel free to contact me at [elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com](mailto:elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com) or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103. I hope you find the topics pertinent and useful. Please let me know if there is anything else you would like me to include.

Last week I discussed the announcement by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding sending point of care instruments and testing supplies to all nursing facilities in the country. There was further clarification as to who and when those supplies would be sent. The first tests should have begun arriving this week at nursing homes across the country. Priority is based on National Health Safety Network (NHSN) reporting and areas that the CDC defines as COVID-19 hotspots. Every nursing home is required to report weekly to the National Health Safety Network how many COVID positive residents and staff they have, their staffing levels and whether the facility has enough supplies. Obviously nursing facilities that have positive COVID 19 cases, limited supplies and staff will be receiving the point of care tests first. This test will provide an almost immediate indication as to whether someone has COVID 19. Early detection can certainly help stop the spread of the virus to vulnerable residents in long term care facilities. HHS indicated that distribution of the tests will be a “slow roll out”, taking place over several weeks or months. They are also indicating that this is a one-time procurement. Nursing homes will have the option to purchase the tests after that. We have no idea how costly the tests are. Without adequate testing supplies available it is difficult, if not impossible to follow the guidance by the State of Wisconsin regarding testing employees every two weeks. Last week I believe I mentioned that the lab that the State of Wisconsin contracts with to provide tests and results testing to nursing facilities had told me that they could not fill the order that I had requested because testing supplies were limited. I will continue to keep you posted regarding the ongoing testing of both residents and staff.

Beauty and barber services are beginning to return to the Baldwin Care Center campus. The beautician, Katie Thomas, has begun providing services at Birchwood Apartments and at Birch Haven Assisted Living. She will begin coming to the Baldwin Care Center on Tuesday, July 28th. Her schedule going forward will be to come to the Baldwin Care Center on Tuesdays, Birchwood Apartments on Thursdays and Birch Haven Assisted Living on Fridays. If you have an interest in having your family member’s hair done, please contact the specific location and let the staff there know. Just a reminder that there are very strict guidelines in place regarding salon services. It may take the beautician longer as a result of these guidelines. She also has a lot to catch up to do also, so please be patient.

We have now had outdoor visitation in place at Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center for several weeks. The Outdoor Visitation Guidance for Nursing Homes was published this week. The policy that I had written and implemented contains every component of the Wisconsin guidance that was just issued. I want to remind everyone that the status of the outdoor visitations changes if we have either a positive COVID 19 employee or residents. We remain hopeful that this will not occur on the Baldwin Care Center campus, but the numbers of positive cases in the county, state and nation continue to rise. I continue to develop the visiting schedule for the Baldwin Care Center. My goal is to be able to have family members visit their loved ones every other week. In order to do that, I need to increase the staff that are screening visitors, monitoring the visits, transporting the residents to and from the visits and disinfecting between each visit. I had a plan in place that involved using both porches in the front of the Baldwin Care Center. In anticipation of being able to do this, we had placed a tent on both the East and West ends of the Baldwin Care Center. Unfortunately, the strong winds that came through here destroyed one of the tents. I am hopeful to have a replacement tent so that visits on each end of the building can occur during the week beginning July 26th. I will continue to contact family members with available appointment times. I appreciate your patience during this time. I determine available

visiting dates and times based on the extended weather forecast and the availability of staff to monitor the visits. I may not always be able to accommodate a date and time that is most convenient for everyone, but I do give it my best effort. I know how important this is for both residents and family members.



This week Dr. Kathleen Findlay conducted an in-service for staff in the assisted living facilities and at Baldwin Care Center. We continue to be grateful to have Dr. Kathleen Findlay from Western Wisconsin Health as our Medical Director, providing services to our staff and residents. The in-service topics included Infection Control practices with a focus on the use of facemasks and also information on Stress Management. This is a difficult time for caregivers here and in every health care facility. All staff here are working incredibly hard to provide a safe environment for our residents. Care giving was a hard job before COVID 19, but it is particularly challenging in this setting with all the additional restrictions in place. Please take a moment to thank a caregiver that you might know. The caring, compassionate staff here are the biggest asset we have! A BIG THANK You to every member of the staff on the campus.

Last week we wished Kayla Kinney the best in her new position with St. Croix County. This week I would like to welcome Heidi Fink, LPN to the Baldwin Care Center campus. Heidi's first day as the Assistant Nurse Manager in Birch Haven was Tuesday, July 21st. Heidi has been a nurse since 1997. Her former work experiences included providing home care for seniors, assisting developmentally disabled clients. She has also worked in schools in North St. Paul, Hastings and most recently in the Stillwater school district where she was providing services to special education students. We welcome her!

*Eileen LaFavor  
Administrator*



A special thank you this week to Mary Ellen Brue for sharing a chrysalis with each facility on the Baldwin Care Center campus. Residents in each facility are able to view the beauty of a monarch butterfly emerging from its chrysalis and guess the date to win a prize!



## Music in the parking lot

