

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 of the Baldwin Care Center. The newsletter is sent electronically to the Apartment Manager in Birchwood Apartments and to the Nurse Manager in Birch Haven Assisted Living to distribute as they see fit. Weekly newsletters are available to everyone at the Baldwin Care Center Campus website at www.baldwincarecenter.com. If anyone has questions about the content of the newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103. If there is ever a topic you would like me to cover, please feel free to let me know. I hope that you are finding the information useful.

This week I have an update regarding COVID-19 testing for residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities. Last week I discussed the guidance received from the State of Wisconsin regarding regular testing for employees of nursing facilities. The State indicates that staff in nursing facilities should be tested every two weeks for COVID-19. However, when I contacted the lab that the State contracts with to order the tests, I was told that there was a shortage of tests and that we would not be receiving them. So our testing is on hold because of availability of COVID-19 tests. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) just released guidance indicating that in states where the positivity rate is above 5%, staff of nursing facilities should be tested weekly. The state of Wisconsin has been averaging a 6% positivity rate, meaning that we would be subject to the weekly testing. During this past week, CMS began distributing the point of care tests that I spoke about in last week's newsletter. The tests were distributed to skilled nursing facilities in California, Arizona, Texas, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina. These are considered COVID-19 hotspots. The indication from CMS is that facilities will receive the initial tests and testing supplies free of charge. After the initial distribution, it sounds as if the facility will be responsible for ordering and purchasing tests for weekly or bi-weekly testing of staff. So, at this point I am uncertain as to when we will be testing staff. The guidance regarding residents testing indicates that residents should be tested if they are having symptoms. Residents would also be tested if there was a positive staff member. The campus continues to send any employee who has symptoms to get a COVID-19 test. Recently we have not sent employees to get tested. We have not had residents or staff members with symptoms.

Beauty services returned to the Baldwin Care Center this past week. Services began two weeks ago in Birchwood Apartments and services were resumed last week in Birch Haven Assisted Living. As we anticipated, the process of "catching up" with perms, colors, cuts, etc. is going to take some time. The salon services guidance requires that only one resident and the beautician may be in the salon at a time. Previously, the beautician was able to have more than one person in the salon. She could be cutting someone's hair and have someone else under the dryer. Katie Thomas, the Beautician is trying to schedule some extra time in addition to the regular salon hours to try to catch up. If you would like your family member to be placed on the list to receive services, please let us know. We are attempting to resume the "regular" schedule that existed prior to COVID-19 for established residents who had a regular appointment for a haircut, set, etc. So if your family member had a regular schedule prior to COVID-19 you do not need to contact us. Please bear with us during this time as we try to settle in to a new schedule.

Outdoor visitation continues to go well in the Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living. Again, I want to remind everyone that the status of the outdoor visitation changes if we have a positive COVID-19 resident or staff test. As I mentioned, we have not had any suspected cases recently nor had any residents or staff who have been tested. The incidence of COVID-19 has increased in St. Croix County and the State of Wisconsin. This continues to be concerning. It has been my observation that some Birchwood Apartment tenants and their visitors are not following social distancing guidelines. The front area of the Birchwood Apartments has been marked so that chairs can be placed six feet apart. If tenants and family members do want to visit in a more private area, we have placed picnic tables in the courtyard area. We encourage tenants and family members to use this outdoor space that we have set up. Family members can park in

the back parking lot of Birch Haven Assisted Living and easily access this area by following the sidewalk to the gazebo/courtyard area. We request that you maintain social distancing or wear a mask or both when visiting. Birchwood Apartment tenants and their families should consider using this outdoor space as an option. Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center will continue to have staff monitored visits on the front porch areas of both facilities. My goal in the Baldwin Care Center for scheduling visits is a visit every two weeks for each resident. I will continue to contact family members to schedule these visits. If you have questions about scheduling visits in Birch Haven Assisted Living, please contact Kayla Ridley, Nurse Manager or Heidi Fink, Assistant Nurse Manager.

This week I would like to mention a couple of thank yous. The family of Lucile Crosby brought the staff of Baldwin Care Center some cinnamon rolls. Thank you so much. They were delicious! An anonymous donor sent a fruit plate. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the staff. Thank you for thinking of us.

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*



Welcome!
*Heidi Fink,
Assistant Nurse Manager
Birch Haven Assisted Living*



CONGRATULATIONS!
Martena Johnson won
“Guess when the Butterfly will Hatch”

Our Butterfly hatched on Sunday, July 26

Bubbles & Bags

