

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 Campus 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.



There is some new information regarding the Delta variant of the coronavirus. I listened to a webinar presented by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services on Friday, August 6th. The information was interesting and a little alarming. There are currently about a 1,000 cases being reported each day now in the State of Wisconsin. That compares to 138 cases per day six weeks ago. The Delta variant is more transmissible than MERS, SARS, the 1918 Spanish Flu, the seasonal flu, Ebola, smallpox, the common cold and is as transmissible as chickenpox. The Delta variant can be spread to between 8-9 people by one person. The Delta variant has a higher viral load which increases the probability of transmitting the disease and makes people sicker who are getting it. The duration of shedding the virus is 18 days, which is longer than the original virus when people were asked to quarantine for 14 days. As a result of increases in Delta variant COVID-19 cases, the rate of hospitalizations has increased in addition to the need for placement in an intensive care unit. Those who have been vaccinated are less likely to be hospitalized. There are breakthrough cases of COVID-19 amongst the vaccinated. More breakthrough cases in congregate settings such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities are occurring nationwide. The recommendation from Wisconsin DHS at this point is that the vaccinated do not have to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19, but they recommend testing after 3-5 days. It is recommended that they wear a mask for 14 days. Healthcare workers should get tested immediately after exposure and then 5-7 days after that. There is some discussion of antibody testing for the immunocompromised who are most at risk. There is also discussion of booster shots for those at greater risk. St. Croix County has also issued a mask advisory until 10-5-21. Public Health recommends wearing a mask if an individual is not fully vaccinated or if the individual is in public indoor settings when the level of transmission is at a substantial or high level; at businesses that request mask use; in healthcare settings; in K-12 schools; in other congregate settings such as jails or homeless shelters. The positivity rate for St. Croix has increased over the last month. At the beginning of July, there were only two counties in the state that were at a positivity rate greater than 5%. For the period from 7-14 to 7-27, 15 counties in the state were at a positivity rate over 5%. Two of those counties are in pretty close proximity to us (Dunn and Eau Claire). I am very concerned at the trends that we are seeing. If there is a case of COVID-19 amongst a staff member or resident of the campus, we will need to stop visitation. I continue to encourage everyone to get the vaccine, if you haven't already. If you choose not to get the vaccine, you are encouraged to follow COVID-19 protocols and precautions.



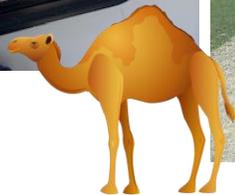
I would like to make family members aware of some changes to the visiting hours for Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living. The Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living will be expanding visiting hours from 6-8 p.m. beginning Monday, August 16th. Birch Haven would like to ask that family members call during the day from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm to let staff know that they will be visiting. That way, staff can anticipate your arrival and make certain that the resident is in their room at the time of the visit. At this time we will not be changing the visiting hours at Birchwood Apartments. Their visiting hours do currently extend until 6 p.m. allowing those who might work, an opportunity to visit in the evening. If you have questions, please let me know or you may contact Jessica Bark, Birch Haven Assisted Living Nurse Manager or Jenell Neidermyer, Birchwood apartment Manager.



BACKROADS SAFARI



Residents of the Baldwin Care Center took a trip to Backroads Safari near Boyceville. Backroads Safari has a wide variety of exotic animals in their natural habitat. Zebras and camels are roaming free. There are kangaroos, macaws and many other animals. The animals came right up to the bus so the residents had a great view. The staff of Backroads Safari brought a baby donkey and a turtle on the bus for a close up look. One of the animals left their nose print on the door of the bus. Everyone who went on the outing had a great time and really enjoyed it. It is wonderful to have the new bus to be able to take residents out.



This week I would like to thank "The Stash" store in Baldwin who donated some Afghans that were made at the store by customers. Thank you to Dixie Helder for the delicious lemon bars and cookies she made for the staff. Dixie makes the best baked goods. We really appreciate the treats. We would like to thank Baldwin Care Center family members, Walt and Linda Wierenga for the generous donation to the Vehicle Fund. We would also like to thank Paula Olivares for the basket of flowers for our tables. We are so grateful for all of you!

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

Summer Olympic Games

