



Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This newsletter is being sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is sending this newsletter to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood Apartment tenants. Responsible parties can direct their 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 you would like discussed in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at [elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com](mailto:elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com) or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



I would like to share some fun facts about Valentine's Day that may surprise you. There were at least two men named Valentine that could have inspired the holiday. One Valentine was a priest in third century Rome who defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage, (he thought it distracted young soldiers), illegally marrying couples in the spirit of love until he was caught and sentenced to death. Another Valentine story suggests that another Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape prison in Rome. This Valentine sent the first "Valentine" message himself while in prison, writing a letter signed "From your Valentine." Some historians believe that Valentine's Day commemorates the death of St. Valentine on February 14<sup>th</sup>, others believe that Valentine's Day had its origins in a pagan fertility festival called "Lupercalia" which was celebrated in mid-February in ancient Rome. The festival was dedicated to the Roman God of agriculture and the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. The day was celebrated by sacrificing animals and smacking women with animal hides, a practice that was believed to encourage fertility. At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the Roman Pope officially declared the date of February 14<sup>th</sup> as St. Valentine's Day. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that the holiday became associated with love and romance, a tradition that first started from the common belief in France and England that birds started their mating season on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The oldest record of a Valentine being sent was in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was a poem by a French duke named Charles to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. People started exchanging cards and handwritten letters to both lovers and friends during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was not until the 1840s that Valentine cards were mass-produced.

So it seems that there is a combination of many reasons and traditions as to why we celebrate Valentine's Day. Everyone at the Baldwin Care Center campus has a very special reason to celebrate February 14<sup>th</sup>. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, it is the anniversary of the opening of the original Baldwin Care Center. The first resident was admitted on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1972. I incorrectly indicated in the last newsletter that it is the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary, when in fact it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We celebrated with music from Rudy Rudesill. The King and Queen were crowned. Congratulations to Harvey Moe and Paula Standaert, the new royalty for 2022! The King and Queen will also accompany me in the Windmill Days parade in June.



Since the publication of the last newsletter, we only have one staff case to report throughout the entire campus. There were no cases in either Birchwood Apartments or Birch Haven Assisted Living. We had a Baldwin Care Center dietary staff member test positive. There was no exposure to residents, so the residents did not have to be tested. We did have a contracted staff member test positive that had contact with three residents. All of those residents were rapid tested and PCR tested. All the results were negative. I am now sending out emails to family members to notify them of a positive case at the Baldwin Care Center. This has streamlined the calling process we were using previously. There are only a handful of family members that do not have an email address. They are being contacted by phone or in person when they visit. If you ever have any questions about this reporting, please feel free to contact me.

  
*Thank  
you!*

There are several thank yous to pass along. Thank you to Doris Hansen's family who donated ice cream and cookies for the residents and staff. They were delicious. Dan and Tricia VanBrunst from the New Centerville Methodist Church sent Valentine cards for everyone on the campus. We also received adorable Valentine cards from students at Greenfield Elementary School as well as kids at Peace Lutheran Church for all of the residents.

*Eileen LaFavor,  
Administrator*



*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*

