

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 and friends to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com to read current and previous newsletters. If there is a topic that 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.



This past week, residents and staff of the Baldwin Care Center began experiencing flulike symptoms including nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. It seems to be a 24 hour bug. The facility got testing kits from St. Croix County Public Health and sent them to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene to test for norovirus. We do not have the results back yet. The facility is strongly discouraging visits. It is your choice if you want to visit a family member. This seems to be a pretty contagious virus. This is not the type of "flu" that you can be vaccinated against. The influenza that people were vaccinated for in the Fall is for the respiratory flu, not this type of flu. Staff who have been caring for ill residents have also come down with the virus. Our guidelines are very specific regarding the amount of time that staff must be off work. Staff who are ill should be off work for 48 hours after symptoms cease. Other staff who are not ill have been working additional shifts. Thank you to all the staff who are caring for residents during this challenging time. Because of the gastrointestinal flu, residents have been in their rooms for meals and we are not having group activities because of the possibility of spreading the virus. We hope to be back to normal soon.

On Thursday, May 6th we celebrated Nurse's Day. The nursing staff received muffins and orange juice for breakfast. The entire staff was treated to sub sandwiches, chips and cookies from Subway to recognize the nursing staff. The nursing staff received a gift of appreciation also. Thank you so much for everything you do, not only for the residents, but for the staff also. We are incredibly lucky to have so many caring, compassionate nurses working in Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living.



The week beginning with Mother's Day is the beginning of National Nursing Home Week. In past years we have started the week off with a Mother's Day Tea on Saturday. Unfortunately this year, we are unable to invite family members for this event. Hopefully we will be able to do this next year to kick off National Nursing Home week. **We will be selling succulent plants on Friday the 7th and Saturday the 8th for \$10 to raise funds for a new vehicle. We are looking at the possibility of expanding this sale through a later date.** We have special events planned for National Nursing Home Week. On Monday we will have a team spirit day. Staff will be dressing in their favorite team colors. There will be yard games in the courtyard and ice cream sundaes for the residents. Tuesday is Western Day. Staff will be dressed in western gear. We will have a BBQ grill out for lunch. In the afternoon, we will have the Fantasy Corral visit with a variety of animals. Wednesday is dress Tacky, Wacky and Crazy style. We will have tacos for lunch that day. Thursday is Beach Day. Staff will dress in beach attire (no bikinis though). There will be an outdoor beach party in the afternoon and music with Rudy Rudesill. Friday is Hippie Day. Everyone is encouraged to dress in their favorite tie dye style. There will be a special French toast breakfast. In the morning the residents will be tie dying in the courtyard. It sure sounds like a fun week! Thank you to Angela Telljohn, Therapeutic Recreation Director for planning the events for the week.

I would like to continue to thank those that have contributed to the Baldwin Care Center campus Vehicle Fund. Donations were recently received from Birch Haven tenant Lory Hawkins and his wife, Marlys. A big thank you to Walt and Linda Wierenga for their donation. Linda is the sister of Baldwin Care Center resident Nancy VanSomeren. Thank you also to Baldwin Care Center resident Sue Pierson's daughter and son-in-law, Kate and Tad Jennings for their donation to the Vehicle Fund.

Thank you to Dan and Tricia VanBrunt from the United Methodist Church of New Centerville for making Spring cards for all of the residents on the campus. It is such a day brightener for the residents. The members of the New Centerville United Methodist Church were discussing the possibility of coming outside to sing in the near future. The singing group from our church has really missed coming in to sing hymns with the residents. Hopefully we will be back soon, even if it is outdoors.

*Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator*

