

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This weekly newsletter is being sent to family members and responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents. If you are the primary contact, please pass along this information to others who may find it helpful, or direct them to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com. All of the weekly newsletters are posted there. If you have questions about the weekly newsletter, please feel free to contact me by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103 or via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com.

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, the staff and residents of the Baldwin Care Center were retested for COVID-19 as their initial tests were mishandled by the lab processing the tests. Residents and staff were tested on the 24th. The tests were transported to Exact Labs in Madison for processing on Thursday the 25th. We received results from the tests on Sunday, June 26th. I am pleased to let you all know that all of the staff and residents tests were negative! The employees here have done a great job taking precautions in their personal and work life to protect themselves and the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. The facility continues to wait for specific guidance from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health regarding how often ongoing testing should be done. In the most recent webinar from the State of Wisconsin, it seems as if the guidance will be that staff of long term care facilities will be regularly tested every two weeks. Testing for residents might be dependent upon the prevalence of positive COVID-19 tests for residents and staff. I will let you know when the guidance becomes final so everyone has an idea of how often residents and staff will be tested.

This past week the State of Wisconsin released guidance for visitation for assisted living facilities. This guidance did not include nursing facilities. A campus wide policy for outdoor visitation is written and has been approved by Dr. Kathleen Findlay, Medical Director. Since the guidance was not received for skilled nursing facilities I did contact the Regional Field Operations Director at the Western Regional Department of Quality Assurance Office in Eau Claire. This is the office that the state surveyors work out of that survey the facilities on the campus. The Regional Field Operations Director felt that if I had a policy that mitigated the risk to residents, that she felt confident we could begin carrying it out. We will begin to schedule visits for Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center for next week. If you have a family member in the Birchwood Apartments and have questions about visitation, please contact Jenell Niedermyer for further details. I am enclosing a copy of the Outdoor Visitation policy so family members may familiarize themselves with the policy. At this point, the Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living are making random selections as to which residents will have visits first. **Please DO NOT call the Baldwin Care Center or Birch Haven Assisted Living to see when your family member is scheduled for a visit.** We are developing a visiting schedule one week at a time. A staff member from Baldwin Care Center or Birch Haven Assisted Living will be contacting you regarding a date and time for visitation. It may be a couple of weeks before we can schedule a visit with your family member. We ask for your patience during this time as we are working our way through this new policy. The facility needs to give consideration to our staffing and available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use as we are scheduling visitations. We would like to ask family members to bring their own mask to the visit. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you. Please read the attached policy carefully. Unfortunately we cannot allow any exceptions to this policy. It is crucial that the guidance outlined be followed. The facility retains the right to deny outdoor visitation if we believe that circumstances pose a risk of transmitting COVID-19 because the resident or visitor do not follow the guidance. I am hopeful that the upcoming visitations will give residents and family members something to look forward to. We know that family visits are so important for the emotional well being of the residents. This has been such a difficult time for everyone. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Another topic we have talked about in the past is Beautician Services. Again, we are waiting for further guidance regarding the return of beautician services to the campus. The indication during the weekly assisted living webinars thus far is that beautician services may be able to resume soon if the beautician has tested negative for COVID-19 AND the beautician does not work in any other location other than the long term care campus. So for this week at least we are not able to let you know exactly when the beautician will return to her regular schedule on the campus. I would like to thank the staff in Birch Haven Assisted Living and Baldwin Care Center who have been cutting, coloring and setting hair for the residents. There are several staff who have multiple talents including hair care. I appreciate you sharing your talents with the residents. I know how eager I was to have my hair cut after not being able to have it cut for over three months.

Some staff, including myself had a difficult time getting to work during the flash flooding this week. I live very close to the Rush River and the bridge located by my home was not visible because of the flooding. It was kind of scary. Some staff were unable to get to work that day. Other staff were dealing with flooded basements. I was finally able to get to work by mid morning after it stopped raining and the flood waters subsided somewhat. It sounds like we received somewhere between 8-9 inches of rain in 18 hours. Normal rainfall for the entire month of June in Baldwin is 4.2 inches. Hopefully we won't see that much rain again for quite a while. We need some time to dry out.



This week I would like to again thank Dan and Tricia Van Brunt from the New Centerville United Methodist Church for making adorable red, white and blue patriotic craft items for residents of the Baldwin Care Center, Birch Haven Assisted Living and the tenants from the Birchwood Apartments. Thank you for the many projects you have done to add some cheer to the residents of the campus.

Happy 4th Of July

Eileen LaFavor
Administrator

