

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,



This weekly newsletter is being sent to 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. Every edition of the weekly newsletter is posted on the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldinwcarecenter.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 telephone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103. If there is a topic that you would like me to discuss, please feel free to contact me and let me know.

The past couple of weeks I have discussed COVID-19 testing for staff and residents of skilled nursing facilities. The situation has not seemed to change since last week. The State of Wisconsin guidance is still indicating that skilled nursing facilities should be testing staff every two weeks. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is recommending that nursing facility staff should be tested weekly in Wisconsin because of the increased positivity rate. The status of the availability of tests has not changed. The order that I placed several weeks ago has still not been filled. I have no idea when the COVID-19 tests will be arriving from the Exact Sciences lab in Madison. CMS announced this week that they had distributed one million of the point of care tests to nursing facilities located in COVID hot spot areas of the United States. The point of care tests are the rapid tests that only take 15 minutes to get a result. I am not aware of when facilities in the State of Wisconsin will be receiving the point of care tests from CMS. Facilities will receive the first shipment free of charge. Any other orders placed by the facility will be the responsibility of the facility to pay for. The difficulty in receiving testing supplies and equipment is incredibly frustrating. We absolutely want to be completing testing to make certain our residents and staff continue to remain safe. I will continue to update you regarding the testing process. The campus has had no positive cases of COVID-19 for either residents or staff. We continue to test anyone who may have any symptoms of COVID-19.

It was wonderful to be able to resume Resident Council Meetings this past week in the Baldwin Care Center and Tenant Meetings in the Birchwood Apartments. I updated Baldwin Care Center residents and Birchwood Apartment tenants on everything COVID related. We had not had a meeting in either location for several months because of the COVID-19 restrictions. It was nice to be able to sit down with both groups and discuss how they are feeling about things. This lengthy isolation period is difficult for everyone. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, we have set up picnic tables in the courtyard area located behind Birch Haven Assisted Living and Birchwood Apartments. We have the tables spaced out so that everyone can maintain appropriate social distancing. We want to remind visitors to the campus that the Governor has issued a mask mandate for public spaces. We hope that people are following that guidance when going out in the community. St. Croix County is experiencing a high incidence of COVID19 cases currently. Hopefully the mask mandate will help decrease the spread of COVID-19. I am concerned that we may have to return to more restrictive guidance if the number of cases continue to increase in the county and state.



The outdoor visitation is being enjoyed by both residents and family members. The Baldwin Care Center is now able to schedule a visit for residents with a family member or friend every other week. I generally look at the long range forecast at the beginning to middle of the week and see what day of the week the next week is going to be best regarding the weather. We have been able to have staff available 1-2 days per week to monitor visits. I will continue to contact the family member listed as the responsible party to schedule visits. That family member should be in contact with siblings or other family members regarding scheduling visits. In some resident's cases, there are multiple children or family members that may want to visit. It will continue to be the family member listed as the primary contact that will need to assist in arranging visits for siblings or other family members. It is a challenging task to

try to coordinate visits for 40+ residents. I am doing the very best I can to accommodate everyone with a time and date that works best for them and when staff are available to monitor these visits.

Beauty services on the campus have resumed as I reported last week. Katie Thomas, the beautician continues to try to play catch up in all three settings on the campus. Because there can only be one resident in the salon at a time, the process is slowed down pretty dramatically. Katie is trying to catch up on permanents and colors and get back into a regular weekly routine of wash and sets. We appreciate your patience as we attempt to get back to some semblance of normal.



This week I would like to thank Butch and Joyce Wentlandt for donating a large bag of birdseed for the residents. They do enjoy watching the birds. Thank you so much for thinking of us.

*Eileen LaFavor
Administrator*

"I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles"



The Colby Connection