



11-20-2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This newsletter is sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for residents of the Baldwin Care Center. The newsletter is also distributed to the residents of the Baldwin Care Center. Responsible parties can also direct other family members and friends to the Baldwin Care Center website at [www.baldwincarecenter.com](http://www.baldwincarecenter.com) where they can read current and previous newsletters that are posted there. Birch Haven Assisted Living is also sending the newsletter to responsible parties. The Birchwood Apartment Manager distributes copies to the tenants there. If there is anything else that 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.



On Monday, November 16th we were completing COVID-19 testing for staff. During this testing, two more staff tested positive for COVID-19. One staff member provides direct care and the other staff member works in the Dietary Department. We had just completed two weeks of testing both staff and residents after the last staff tested positive. The results of those two weeks of staff and resident testing were all negative. It is unfortunate that we could not continue the negative test result trend. As I have mentioned previously, with the positivity rate in the county being so high, the community spread is affecting the staff. Oftentimes, they are unaware that they have a symptom because the symptom is so mild or they don't have any symptoms. The only way to detect the virus is to continue to do regular testing. The positivity rate in the county has not changed so the facility continues to test staff twice weekly. Because of the recent positive staff tests, we will be testing residents once weekly for at least the next two weeks. As always, we will be contacting family members if there is a positive result for staff or residents. The Birchwood Apartments and Birch Haven Assisted Living have begun testing their staff with the rapid tests. Staff will be tested there every other week. We want to put more safeguards in place in both of those settings to make certain our residents and tenants remain safe.

With all of the discussion about COVID-19, you may notice that you are not hearing as much about influenza this year. We want you to know what the facility is doing regarding the flu season. Staff and residents have already received the influenza vaccination. The percentage of both staff and residents that received the vaccine was quite high. There were some staff who declined the flu shot. The staff who did not receive the flu shot will be required to wear an N95 mask. The N95 masks offer more protection against airborne particles than surgical masks. They are more tight fitting and can filter both large and small particles. The facility wants to take every precaution to make certain the residents of the campus are safeguarded from unvaccinated staff who may spread the flu.



The hospital bed shortage was discussed in last week's newsletter. The Baldwin Care Center has developed a separate unit in a specific area of the facility. The creation of this unit allows residents to be admitted even if the rest of the facility is in quarantine because of a positive staff member. The hospitals have been experiencing increased census because of COVID-19. Other people who are hospitalized with other conditions and need placement in a skilled nursing facility are being held up at the hospitals because nursing homes cannot admit if they have positive staff. This week I contacted the Regional Field Operations Director from the Division of Quality Assurance in Eau Claire to clarify some questions I had about the separate unit. She indicated to me that every nursing facility in St. Croix County had either positive residents or positive staff.

There has been some additional information released regarding the vaccination for COVID-19. The first vaccines will be available to nursing facility residents and staff. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services presented information to stakeholders regarding how it will be distributed. It sounds as if the vaccine will be distributed in lots of 975 vaccines.

The vaccine needs to be kept at a temperature somewhere around -70 to -80. The indication was that preparations are in progress to begin shipments. There was no definite date that the vaccines would be arriving. I have heard dates as early as the beginning of the year and also as late as March or April. When we receive additional information, we will be contacting you.



I have some very exciting news to share with everyone. The Baldwin-Woodville Chamber contacted the Baldwin Care Center about the possibility of the Chamber decorating and lighting the building and grounds to bring some holiday cheer to the residents. The residents would be able to look out their windows and see the decorations. The request that was put out to businesses requesting lighted yard decorations, outdoor lights, blow up holiday figures, etc. appeared in last week's newsletter. The staff and residents are very excited about this. The year 2020 has been a bit challenging here at the Baldwin Care Center and at other senior campuses and nursing facilities. This decorating project is certain to bring some holiday cheer to both residents and staff! Everyone here wants to sincerely thank the members of the Chamber who participated in this project.

We are planning our Love Light Ceremony at the Baldwin Care Center. Each year we have a special lighting ceremony to light the big Christmas tree. Family members and friends can make a donation for a light or string of lights in memory or in honor of a current or deceased loved one. As with many things this year, we will see some changes due to COVID-19. Obviously we cannot have family members present inside, but would like to invite family members to come participate outdoors from their cars or in person, socially distanced and masked. We will be putting the tree in the front of the building this year. More details will be arriving soon in the mail. We have a tentative date of Monday, December 7th.



This week I have a number of thank yous to pass along. The Baldwin Care Center would like to thank Doris Hansen and family for treating the staff to some amazing bagels from Buddy's Bakery. Dixie Helder treated the staff to cookies. Lucile Crosby and family brought delicious cookies for the staff. Thanks to all of you for keeping us well fed. We truly appreciate you thinking of us. Thank you to Dan and Tricia Van Brunt from the New Centerville United Methodist Church for making Thanksgiving cards for all of the residents of the campus. Just an FYI – There will be photos of some Baldwin Care Center residents in the Thanksgiving edition of the Baldwin Bulletin. Some of our residents will be sharing what they are thankful for. Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Eileen LaFavor,  
Administrator

