



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. This newsletter is also distributed to 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 where they can read the 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. If there is anything else that you would like to have discussed in the newsletter, please contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103. This week’s newsletter is being written a bit sooner in the week because I am taking a couple of days off this week to spend with my immediate family.

This week I have to share a story about an employee COVID case in Birch Haven Assisted Living. There was an employee who had a positive rapid test. The employee had COVID symptoms. We have to assume based on the positive rapid test result and because the employee had symptoms, that the employee was COVID positive. This meant we would have to quarantine residents. Family members were contacted about the case and residents were placed in quarantine to monitor for symptoms and to reduce the risk of spread if someone was positive. The results of the employee molecular test from the hospital came back negative. The employee continued to have symptoms. St. Croix County Public Health was consulted for direction. They indicated that the employee should have another molecular test done. As of the writing of this newsletter, we do not have another test result to report. Residents continue in quarantine until we have more answers.



I do have some positive news to share this week! As I had mentioned in the last newsletter, the Baldwin/Woodville Chamber members came to the Baldwin Care Center to decorate. The weather was perfect and the turnout was incredible. Many Chamber members came and brought lights and decorations. They worked hard all afternoon. Our residents really enjoyed watching the lights and decoration go up. The residents and staff would like to thank all of the Chamber members who either donated decorations and lights or put up the decorations. Their selfless act of kindness is so appreciated! It has been a difficult year for our residents that has involved quarantine and the inability to visit with loved ones. This brought so much joy to the residents and staff. We can’t thank you enough! Please take a drive by the Baldwin Care Center after dark. It looks amazing.



Since we are on the topic of lights, I would like to make everyone aware of the Circle of Love annual lighting ceremony. Letters were sent out with last week’s newsletter regarding this event. We plan on holding the lighting ceremony on Monday, December 7th beginning at 6:00 pm. Due to COVID restrictions we will have to make some changes. Obviously we cannot have entertainment or visitors inside the Baldwin Care Center as we have in the past. We will be placing the Christmas tree in front of the Baldwin Care Center this year. Family members may come to watch the lighting ceremony. Cars may be parked in the front lot or on Birch Street in front of the Baldwin Care Center. Outdoor visitors should be masked and socially distanced. We do plan on bringing residents outdoors briefly, if they wish or we will seat them close to the entrance to be able to watch. We are working on some outdoor entertainment provided by Peace Lutheran Church.

The COVID positivity rate in the state and county continues to be concerning. As a result of the critically high positivity rate in St. Croix County, visitor restrictions are in place. We have had to cease indoor visits in all settings on the campus. As a result of the high state and county positivity rate, hospital bed availability is incredibly limited. Currently the seven hospitals in the immediate area (Amery, Hudson, New Richmond, River Falls, Osceola, St Croix Falls and Baldwin) have 92

beds staffed as of 11-23. Eighty four beds are full, leaving only 8 beds in our area available. About half of those hospitalized are COVID positive. Twin Cities and Eau Claire hospitals are approaching "critical" capacity levels, with few ICU beds available. It is so important to follow the masking and hand hygiene guidelines to protect yourselves and others. The campus continues to have sporadic positive cases amongst staff. The entire campus has been able to keep COVID-19 from the residents. We will do everything we can to continue to keep the residents safe and healthy.



We continue to hear that we will be the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It will be available first for staff and residents of senior campuses. Dr. Kathleen Findlay, Medical Director for Baldwin Care Center campus will begin speaking to residents about receiving the vaccine. Information will be made available to responsible parties who make decisions for some residents on the campus. Dr. Findlay is also presenting an in-service to the entire campus staff on Wednesday, November 25th. Topics also include regular COVID-19 testing for assisted living staff. Information regarding flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines will be discussed with staff in all settings. The current policy for staff on the campus indicates that if staff refuse to get a flu vaccine, they will be given an N95 mask to wear while working. The policy regarding COVID-19 vaccines will be the same. We will be encouraging all staff to get a vaccine for COVID-19 to continue to protect themselves and the residents on the campus.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Eileen LaFavor,
Administrator

