



Dear Residents, Family Members and Friends,

This newsletter is being sent to all responsible parties listed as the primary contact for the Baldwin Care Center. Birch Haven Assisted Living is sending this newsletter to responsible parties. The Apartment Manager distributes copies to the Birchwood Apartment tenants. Responsible parties can direct their family members to the Baldwin Care Center website at www.baldwincarecenter.com to read current and previous newsletters. If there is a topic you would like discussed in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me via email at elafavor@baldwincarecenter.com or by phone at 715-684-3231, Ext. 103.



Since the publication of the last newsletter both Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living residents and staff have been experiencing some gastrointestinal flulike symptoms. Symptoms primarily included nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If you have visited recently, you would have noticed the signage on the doors indicating that a virus was in the building. When any long-term care or assisted living setting has residents and staff that are experiencing symptoms, they must report this to St. Croix County Public Health. County public health determines if the number of ill people warrants that a case be opened with the State of Wisconsin. The total number of cases generally needs to be five or more. The State of Wisconsin must then approve that the facility be issued testing kits that will be sent to the State Lab of Hygiene for testing to determine what type of virus is present. The State normally only approves three testing kits to be used by the facility. Three samples from the Baldwin Care Center were sent to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for testing. We were anticipating that we may have been experiencing a norovirus outbreak. All the test results were negative for norovirus. The samples were then further tested for other gastrointestinal viruses. The results came back with two different types of viruses. Two of the resident samples tested positive for Rotavirus and the third was positive for Adenovirus F40/41. I don't believe that we have ever experienced those viruses in the building before. These particular viruses seemed to last longer than the virus we are accustomed to that causes vomiting and diarrhea. Samples were not sent for ill residents in Birch Haven, so we are uncertain as to what virus caused that illness. St. Croix County Public Health indicated that they have been seeing more positive test results recently for rotavirus. I did not realize there were so many different strains of gastrointestinal viruses. I guess it stands to reason considering that there are so many different variants of the coronavirus.

Unfortunately we have recently had an employee test positive for COVID-19. All of the residents on the Whispering Pines side of the building were rapid tested and were tested with a PCR test that was sent to the lab for processing. Two residents tested positive for COVID-19. Staff were also tested, and as of the date of this newsletter, there are no more staff cases. Even though the incidence of COVID-19 is low in this county and many others throughout the state, it is still something that is potentially concern in a setting like this.

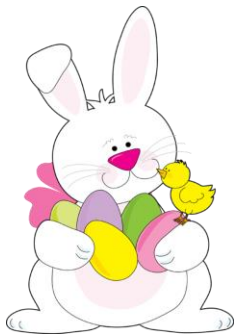


I just want to pass along a reminder about the number of visitors allowed. Long term care campuses are still being told that visitors should remain masked and social distance while in the facility. Based on the size of the resident rooms in the Baldwin Care Center and Birch Haven Assisted Living, two visitors fit comfortably in the resident room. Four visitors are allowed if a resident is being provided hospice or palliative care services. I know that since masking is no longer required in the community, it seems like the same might be true for this setting, but that is not the case. We still cannot hold gatherings that include family members. Several family members have recently asked about using one of the common spaces (lounge or dining room) for a birthday party or family gathering. We are still unable to accommodate a group

of people in a common space. I am hopeful that in the future, we will be able to grant these requests. With the weather getting nicer, families may want to gather outdoors.



I wanted to provide an update on staffing on the campus. I am pleased to report that the Birchwood Apartments are now fully staffed. One part-time person was hired. Staffing in Birch Haven Assisted Living is better than it has been. They are not completely fully staffed, but have far fewer open shifts. The Baldwin Care Center's staffing for professional nursing staff (LPN and RN) is looking pretty good. Baldwin Care Center is still in need of Certified Nursing Assistants on all shifts. We have had minimal success with use of some temporary agency staff. The State of Wisconsin developed contracts with staffing agencies that nursing facilities in the state could access staff from. The terms of the contracts vary from 8-12 weeks. So far, we have had one CNA start to work and then fail to show up. One CNA did not show up at all. We do currently have one CNA from the staffing agency who is doing a great job. We are expecting two more CNAs to begin working in April. The State of Wisconsin pays a portion of the wages for these CNA staff. Unfortunately, the State of Wisconsin has just announced that as soon as the current contract periods for staff end, the arrangements/agreements that the agencies have with the State of Wisconsin will end. Facilities may be able to negotiate an extension with some of the agency staff, but no contributions would be made by the State. The lack of staff across the campus had dramatically impacted our ability to accept residents. The staffing challenges continue here and just about every where else. I don't see an end to this in the near future. At least I am able to report some minor staffing improvements on the campus.



I wanted to share 10 fun Easter facts with you: 1. The Easter Bunny legend began in Germany. 2. The holiday was named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess, Eostre. 3. More than 1.5 million Cadbury crème eggs are produced every day. 4. Painting eggs originates from a Ukrainian tradition. 5. The world's largest Easter egg (statue) is in Alberta, Canada and weighs 5,000 lbs. 6. Pretzels used to be associated with Easter. The shape was similar to praying hands. 7. The first chocolate Easter egg was produced in the UK in 1873. 8. In Germany, it is illegal to dance on Good Friday. 9. Easter is on the Sunday after the full moon following March 21st. 10. In 2007, a Faberge egg sold for 9 million pounds (\$11.8 million in US dollars) in London.

Lunchtime Piano



A special thank you to Sandra Marie (new volunteer) that provided BCC residents with some wonderful piano music during lunch on Wednesday, March 30th.



*Eileen LaFavor
Administrator*

A Whopper of a Whopper!

Burger King published a full-page advertisement in USA Today announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new Whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.). However, the left-handed whopper had "all condiments rotated 180 degrees, thereby redistributing the weight of the sandwich so that the bulk of the condiments will skew to the left, thereby reducing the amount of lettuce and other toppings from spilling out the right side of the burger." (April Fools! This joke was perpetrated in 1998 by Jim Watkins, senior vice president for marketing at Burger King.)