

# BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S BULLETIN

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# COVID-19 Readiness Measures

## Boswell Regional Center's

The Boswell Bulletin is published to inform the public, employees, family members and friends on Boswell Regional Center's activities, programs and progress. This publication also seeks to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by Boswell's employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

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### ON THE COVER:

A reminder that despite the turmoil in the world, nature continues its annual ritual of creating beauty and new growth, albeit a few weeks earlier than normal. Beautiful azalea bushes are growing all over Boswell's campus, adding a much-needed dash of color and cheer.



## Boswell taking necessary precautions to keep individuals and staff safe during COVID-19 outbreak

The dramatic spread of COVID-19 in recent weeks has disrupted communities and businesses worldwide. Despite the pandemic, Boswell's primary goal remains to protect the individuals in our care, as well as staff members. For this reason, and to prevent anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who is sick with any type of illness from entering Boswell's ground or facilities, various layers of safety measures were implemented early on after the health crisis was announced.

Boswell's main campus was closed to visitors and only the main entrance is accessible to staff. Boswell's security officers have been stationed at the front entrance, stopping staff to make sure only appropriate staff enter. Follow-up questions about contact with others and any health concerns are being asked any time a staff member enters the grounds.

Campus units and buildings have also been restricted to assigned staff for each particular location. Last, individuals are not leaving their units or buildings for meals, work or other recreation activities.

Below are a few scenes from the new normal that exists at Boswell to insure individuals and staff are safe:



*Security officer Julius Bowen, left, keeps a respectful distance as he checks on an employee reporting to work.*



*Speaking to staff from the passenger side of their vehicle is a way for officer John Brown to make sure everyone is healthy and ready to work before reporting to their assigned area.*



*Despite not being able to leave campus for outings or recreational events, individuals at Fairview on campus managed to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine while playing a game in front of their building.*



*A spirited game of basketball kept the guys at Ridgeview entertained and provided the chance to get some exercise.*

# Adopt-A-Friend

## Adopt-A-Friend program nears 100 participants

Just a few months after it was announced, Boswell's Adopt-A-Friend program has proven to be a success. Approximately 100 employees have signed up and been approved to "adopt" an individual in order to spend one-on-one time with them or provide special treats. Participants include staff members and individuals on Boswell's main campus, community services division and community ICF group homes through the service area.

After going through a four-point check system that includes approval from Human Resources, supervisors, social workers and family members, staff are able (on a case-by-case basis) to treat individuals to special meals and overnight visits, including during the holidays. In some instances, staff solely bring cards, treats and small gifts to individuals in their units or home without leaving the grounds.

One individual who is enjoying the special attention is Nathan, an individual that resides at Ridgeview unit on Boswell's campus. After being adopted by Mollye Hancock, recreation therapist, Nathan has been treated to fishing trips, meals and other leisure activities during Hancock's free time.

Recently, he was excited to get to visit Wendy's with her to enjoy his favorite hamburger and some time with one of his favorite people.

"I love Mollye! I'm happy she picked me!" said Nathan when asked his feelings on participating in Boswell's Adopt-A-Friend program.

**Note: photos were taken in January prior to the COVID-19 outbreak**



*Decisions...decisions...after ordering his favorite burger on Wendy's menu, Nathan takes a minute to peruse the list of sides and beverages to make his meal complete.*



*Nathan claimed it was the "best day ever" when Mollye told him she would take him to Wendy's for a special meal.*



*Nathan gives the whole experience a "thumbs up!" as he enjoys his burger meal and time with Mollye.*



# Spotlight On...

## February 2020 - Valentine's Day and 'Go Red for Women' celebrated at Boswell

February is a short month, but it contains two important celebrations: The American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women Day" to serve as a reminder of the risks of heart disease and stroke and of course, Valentine's Day.

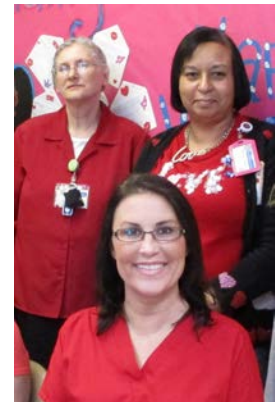
Employees wore red in recognition of "Go Red" and were informed of the importance of "knowing their numbers." Free blood pressure checks were also provided.

And all month long, units and buildings were decorated in festive colors for Valentine's Day. After walking the red carpet and receiving candy and making a toast with sparkling grape juice, a special Valentine's meal and dance was the perfect end to Valentine's Day for campus individuals.



*Pinelake staff that participated in "Go Red for Women" by wearing red include, front row, left to right: Sandra McCollum and Sharon McNay; back row: Jennifer Cole, Kimberly Middleton, Samantha Blanks, Pat Byrd, Cynthia Totson, Shondra Bass, Marilyn Williamson, Amanda Gates, Susan Shoemaker and Paige Boone.*

*Other Pinelake staff that dressed in red to show support of "Go Red" included: Angela Murphy, front row and back from left: Rena Wood and Marilyn Williams.*



*Several of the guys at Fairview wore red in support of their female co-workers. Staff included, from left: Lillian McGill, Donna Expose, Ticochie Graves, Michael Williams, Karman Collins, DeMarcus Hooker and Sean Kelly.*



*Several offices dressed in red on the special day, including the Business Office. Team members pictured include, clockwise from bottom left: Amber Lowery, Juanita Allen, Jennifer Kittrell, Stephanie Jackson and Maria Allen.*



# Spotlight On...

## A snapshot of some of our favorite winter activities



Most of the guys (and a few ladies, too) gathered in the Rainy Day Room to watch Super Bowl LIV. Judging from the table décor, this group was rooting for the Kansas City Chiefs.



It wouldn't be a Super Bowl without a cake decorated with the two teams' colors and symbols. Despite their allegiances, both sides of the cake disappeared before the game was over.



Creative bulletin boards, red hearts and streamers brightened up campus units and buildings during February in honor of Valentine's.



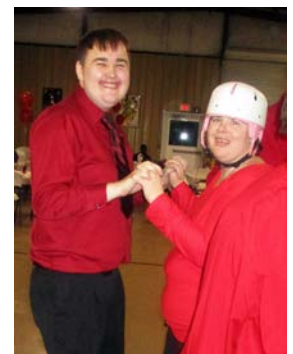
The guys from Ridgeview dressed up in their finest to impress the ladies at the Valentine's dance.



More Ridgeview guys showed off their Valentine's finest, above left, while Cindy Sanders, above right, escorts a gentleman down the red carpet.



Toasting each other with sparkling grape juice was a treat for individuals.



After dinner, a lively dance was the grand finale of Valentine's Day.

# Let the Good Times Roll!

## Mardi Gras celebrated on Fat Tuesday with a parade, meals and dance

Boswell is a long way from New Orleans, but that didn't mean individuals and staff couldn't enjoy Fat Tuesday with our own version of a Mardi Gras parade, followed by a meal of Cajun food and King Cake.

Here are just a few photos of the campus Mardi Gras parade organized by Recreation:



*The guys at Ridgeview enjoyed helping decorate and then ride on their float with their friends.*



*Pinelake used the "Throw me something, mister!" theme on their float and followed it up by throwing lots of beads and coins.*



*Fairway borrowed the star cart and decorated it in Mardi Gras colors.*



*The "Queens of Oakbrook" had a blast decorating and riding on their float, complete with NOLA street signs.*

# Let the Good Times Roll!



*Golf carts, including this one driven by Bill Blair, tractors and everything in between were welcome to participate in the parade as long as they were decorated.*



*Antique car owners from a car club in Star drove down to ride in the parade.*



*The Ridgeview guys were lined up early and waiting for the parade to begin. Grabbing beads, Moon pies and other treats made the parade even more fun.*



*"Is it over?" was the sad cry when the last golf cart driven by Mike Davis signaled the end of an enjoyable event.*

# *"This, too, shall pass..."*

## **'Hospital hill' is still blooming, decades after last TB patient dismissed**



Working on the grounds of the former MS TB Sanatorium during a national health crisis, it's hard not to think back to the previous century, when the spread of tuberculosis created widespread panic throughout the U.S. The opening of the Sanatorium, specifically the TB Hospital, provided life-saving treatment and hope to thousands of TB patients from 1918 – 1976.

Today, we have several advantages over those enduring the TB pandemic. There is 24-hour news and updated communication, modern medicine and the knowledge that there *will* be an end to the current crisis. So, acknowledging the experiences of those at the Sanatorium years ago seems appropriate. Almost on cue, the flowering trees on the hill leading up to the hospital site bloomed this week, illustrating that life will go on.