

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S B U L L E T I N

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Words of encouragement from Wendy Bailey



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:



Charles, a resident of Ridgeview, held the American Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance at the 9/11 commemoration ceremony held at campus units on the 20th anniversary of the attacks.

Dear Boswell Regional Center Employees,

Now more than ever before, our most high-risk populations that we care about daily – people with intellectual and developmental disabilities – could possibly be exposed to COVID-19.

That alone is reason enough for us all to effectively fight this pandemic by doing our part. Getting the vaccine is about saving lives of the people we are supporting today, so that they can have a better tomorrow. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 protects you and those who are in your care.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities also have health complications higher than those without IDD. Nationwide, individuals with disabilities who receive home and community-based services also have higher risks than others in their age groups without disabilities.

News headlines tell the story: we are seeing more people getting infected and dying from this disease simply because they are not vaccinated. COVID-19 is not directly impacting just older people with weak immune systems or chronic diseases anymore, it is taking a toll on children, youth, healthy adults. So, you can see why I cannot urge you enough to really think about how it impacts those living with an intellectual or developmental disability even more so.

We must all do our part to make sure our fellow Mississippians understand the importance of the vaccine and get vaccinated against COVID-19 today. Think about the effect you could have on so many others around you just by getting vaccinated and encouraging others to do the same.

We strongly encourage all Mississippians aged 16 and older to schedule vaccinations through the Mississippi State Department of Health or your local hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics.

And most importantly to us, we ask for your help in sharing the availability of the COVID-19 vaccines with the people we serve, their caretakers, and your own loved ones. Let them know the COVID-19 vaccine adds another layer of protection. You can find more information on how to get your vaccine online at www.healthymms.com/c19vaccination.

Thank you for all you continue daily to do to make a lasting difference in the lives of our fellow Mississippians.

Sincerely yours,
Wendy Bailey
Executive Director



We will never forget...

Community pays tribute to City of Magee's first responders on 9/11

The 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on New York City and the Pentagon was a somber day, especially for the City of Magee's first responders who lost several hundred brothers and sisters in the horrific terrorism event. To illustrate our support of the city, Boswell's Community staff and individuals attended the early morning commemoration ceremony at the Magee Fire Department on 9/11. Individuals made cards with the assistance of staff containing words of appreciation for everything the city's first responders do to keep them and their homes safe. Kathy Moorman read the heartfelt words out loud, touching the hearts of first responders and city leaders.

In the afternoon, individuals went to the City Park and in the spirit of the "Day of Service" observed on 9/11, helped beautify an area they enjoy for picnics and outings.

Special thanks to Community staff who transported individuals to the 7 a.m. ceremony, to the park and shot photos of both events: **Tonya George, Robin Moss, Rhonda McCallum, Jarrod Lee and Christy Glenn.**

Photos of campus ceremonies on pgs. 8-9.



Kathy Moorman, left, reads words of appreciation to city leaders that included, from far right: Fire Chief Lane Steele, Mayor Dale Berry, Magee Police Chaplain James Fortenberry and Fire Marshal Charlie Valadie. Also pictured is Deshun Williams.



Community individuals Kathy Moorman and Deshun Williams are pictured by the City of Magee's Fallen Firefighters' statue on 9/11 in downtown Magee in memory of the 344 fireman killed in the attacks.



Like most guys, Terry Scott, Erick Brown and Brock Kinsey enjoyed an afternoon of "yard therapy" at the City Park.



Donald Boyd was determined to pick up every single piece of trash in the flower beds at the City Park.



The entire group that included LaQuavier McGowan, Erick Brown, Deshun Williams, Donald Boyd, Bernard Johnson, Brock Kinsey and Terry Scott were happy to take a much-needed break after making sure the entire park was neat and clean.



Spotlight On...

'Friday Night Lights football games and cheerleading competitions enjoyed by campus individuals

It's been over a year since Boswell individuals have been able to get outside and enjoy competing against each other in the annual football game. This year's event was a lot of fun courtesy of cooler temperatures in the early evening. Spread out over a few nights, the event included a cheerleading competition among the ladies, followed by football games played between the men. Each cheerleader and football player was provided a handmade shirt decorated by Recreation in their favorite team's colors.

Here are a few photos from Friday Night Light's '21!





Spotlight On...

'Friday Night Lights' football games and cheerleading competitions enjoyed by campus individuals



MEMORIES MATTER #ENDALZ

‘Memories Matter’ Alzheimer’s Walk raised money and awareness of this debilitating disease

Putting on their walking shoes and getting outside for a little exercise is something both individuals and staff enjoy. When it's for a good cause, it's even better. To raise funds for the Mississippi chapter of the Alzheimer's Foundation and awareness of the disease that affects so many, Boswell held a "Memories Matter" walk in September.

Individuals from each unit walked separately along with staff to specific points around campus. Staff sponsored individuals and made donations in honor or memory of family members with the disease.



The ladies and men of Pinelake were excited to get out and walk in honor of Alzheimer's Month. Several staff members sponsored this team for walking. Individuals with mobility problems were not left out of the fun; staff escorted them and made sure they could join in the walk with their friends.



MEMORIES MATTER

#ENDALZ



Ridgeview's guys were ready to roll when it came time for them to walk.



Fairway's guys are always ready to take a brisk walk; knowing this one was for a good cause made it even more special.



The Oakbrook ladies were ready and waiting for their portion of the walk to begin. They enjoyed wearing their cheerleader shirts from the previous week's competition.





**We will never
forget...**



Campus individuals paid their respects to victims of 9/11

It's been 20 years since the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 Americans were killed in the attacks in New York City, the Pentagon and related plane crash in Shanksville, PA. Four Mississippians lost their lives in the attacks; two at the World Trade Center site and two at the Pentagon.

This year, a scaled-down version allowed campus individuals to pay their respects at short prayer services and moments of silence, followed by the release of biodegradable balloons. Each campus unit was decorated on 9/11 with poignant signs made by Erica Hubbard of Recreation.



Individuals came out on 9/11 for a short prayer service and remembrance ceremony, followed by a biodegradable balloon release in memory of the victims of 9/11.



We will never forget...



More poignant signs reminded everyone that Sept. 11, 2001, is a day no one should ever forget.



Pausing for a prayer and moment of silence and releasing balloons was something campus individuals felt honored to do on a somber day of mourning for our country.



Spotlight On...

Supervisory training classes help staff prepare for management duties

Getting a promotion is exciting, yet knowing how to manage others can be a daunting task for many. Boswell's supervisory training courses, held throughout the year as needs arise, teaches participants how to become front line supervisors.

Taught by Staff Development staff and led by director Cassie Bynum, topics include leadership models, teambuilding, extreme ownership, cultivating initiative and many other topics that prepare staff to grow into effective mentors and leaders. On the last day of the class, participants leave full of excitement, eager to inspire others and provide a positive impact as managers.



Bobby Prince, far left, has been teaching supervisory training for many years. Here he leads a group of soon-to-be supervisors in a team-building exercise.

3rd Employees of the Quarter



Employees of the 3rd Quarter received cash, food gift certificates and a certificate from Friends and Family. This quarter's winners, pictured with Clint Ashley, left, and Ricky Grimes, far right, include, from left: Sarah McNair, campus, and Belinda Davis, support. Not pictured is Markita Gholar, community.

Roxie Weathersby retires after 22 years



After serving as a DSP for many years, most recently at Ridgeview, Roxie Weathersby retired in September and was treated to a reception hosted by Friends and Family Association.



Center, Mercedes Collins, Community ICF, is pictured with Clint Ashley and Ricky Grimes.