

The Health News

Keeping you informed of the latest developments, advancements, and events at BIRHC

Issue No. 19

www.biruralhealth.org

Spring/Summer 2023

Message from the President of the Board

Health Center's First Priority is Our Patients, And Our Patients' Needs Are Changing

Providing islanders with quality medical and dental care now costs about \$1,000,000 annually. The Health Center's Board of Directors and staff have become very adept at working within budget and both groups are proud of a solid record of financial responsibility and accountability.

Dr. Daniel Mann, the center's Medical Director, along with BIRHC Managing Director Ann Partridge, have assembled a medical team that is a good fit for the Island. Plus HC clinicians possess skill sets that are prized by our patients.



Recent census data indicates the average age of Island residents is 64.5 years and patient data reveals an increased interest in care services valued by seniors, such as physical therapy and home health care. A recent center survey and the final report of the Beaver Island Master Plan, confirms islanders seek new medical services such as geriatric and pediatric care. The board is actively looking at ways to make these additional medical services available and affordable.

Throughout this issue are quick reads describing some of the projects recently completed, currently underway or soon to be initiated. All of these projects are made possible thanks to the generosity of center supporters. Donations matter. Please support the work of the Beaver island Rural Health Center.

Free Dental Care

In February 2023 Island parents got excited about getting their kids to the dentist! Both the Island's new Elks Club and the Johnson Family once again worked with the Health Center to offer free dental care to Island children during National Children's Dental Health month. This is the second consecutive year the Center was able to offer free dental care to Island school-age children.



Beaver Island Elks Lodge #2886 made the award to the Health Center in mid-December, 2022. Shortly after the announcement, the Johnson Family again stepped forward to match the Elks grant. The combined awards enabled 40 children to receive treatment, eight more than last year. "We are absolutely delighted and grateful," said Ann Partridge, Managing Director of the Health Center when asked about the awards. "Our dental project underscores how the Center strives to provide convenient and quality healthcare options for Islanders of all ages."

The Health Center's Good Samaritan Fund provided the opportunity for all enrolled Community School students to have a free dental exam, x-rays, cleaning, and important preventive treatments including fluoride varnishes and sealants.

The Johnson Family has a tradition of involvement in the Center's Good Samaritan Fund. Upon learning of the Elks award a member of the Johnson Family said, "Ensuring Island youth have access to proper dental care can be truly life changing. Good dental care and habits can improve the overall health and self-esteem of an individual. The Johnson Family believes this to be a meaningful project. We are happy for the Center and Island youth and are pleased to support such a worthwhile project for another year."

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NEWS (CONT. FROM PG 1)

Lori Taylor-Blitz, Vice President of the Health Center Board of Directors and The Exalted Ruler of Lodge #2886 noted the Elks' mission is to invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today's veterans, and improve the quality of life. The Elks are always looking for appropriate ways to give back to the community. I know our membership is delighted to demonstrate our value to the community by partnering with the Health Center to offer a 2nd cycle of funding for a very valuable and consequential project."

A Sign of the Times

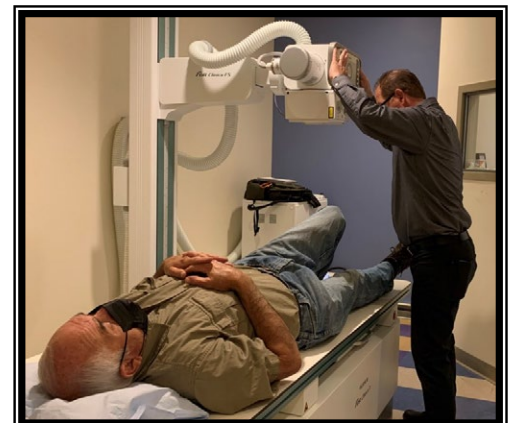
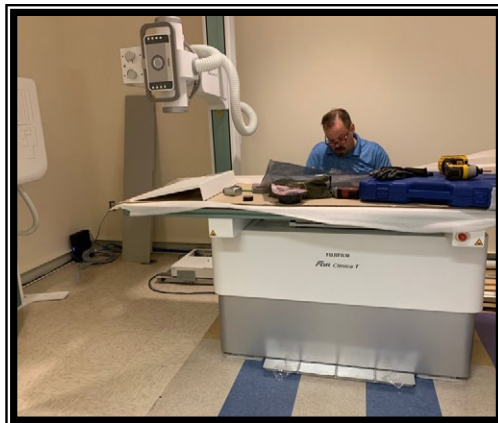


This spring workers installed a new electronic message center sign to the left of the Center's Kings Highway entrance. The new electronic sign replaces an older sign with limited functionality. Universal Sign Systems of Grand Rapids, a company that has done several sign installations on the island, performed the work.

The new e-sign provides Kings Highway travelers with up-to-date information in real time about visiting providers, medical and dental services, special events, such as blood drives and vaccination clinics. The e-sign may be programmed to be turned on in the morning and off in the evening to support the Island's 'Dark Sky' goals.

Ann Partridge, the Center's Managing Director said the new electronic sign was installed as part of the ongoing effort to improve and update the 22-year-old Health Center complex. Other signs of changing times: the HC Board of Directors approved the repair, cleaning and re-staining of the exterior cedar shake shingles, selective window replacements, and fascia and roof gutter maintenance. A recent upgrade that was just completed was the conversion of all public entry/exit doors to open and close automatically, meeting ADA standards.

The electronic message center sign was made possible thanks to support provided by a number of donors, chief among which were Ray and Ann Stanhope.



The Health Center's long-anticipated Fuji Clinica Digital Xray system was installed following the renovation of the space to accommodate the layout and equipment. The Clinica features a wall-stand bucky allowing images to be taken from a standing and weight-bearing perspective, as well as a swiveling table that goes low enough for patients to sit on without having to utilize a stool.

C3F Geographic Enrichment Grant

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation awarded the Beaver Island Rural Health Center a Geographic Enrichment Grant for \$11,236. The Center was one of 4 island organizations to receive a C3F Geographic Enrichment grant.

The C3F grant, when combined with donor funds, enabled the Center to secure a safe and reliable vehicle for use by HC personnel in the performance of their daily work routines. These work related activities include enabling medical personnel to make house calls when needed; allowing support staff to pick up or deliver health care professionals to ferry or air terminals; providing newly hired personnel a way commute to and from their temporary residence to work; and enabling staff to collect medication, supplies, and mail.

The new vehicle, a Jeep Grand Cherokee, replaces a 17 year old used island car that had ended its useful life span and was costly to maintain. Further, the new vehicle has four wheel drive, reduced fuel consumption, increased reliability and state of the art safety features.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is a charitable organization that is dedicated to improving, enriching, and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of Charlevoix County, now and for generations to come.



Health Center Makes Strategic Investment

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center has made its first payment to the Beaver Island Broadband Consortium for reliable, high-speed and high-quality broadband access.

Health Center Board President Frank D'Andraia indicated that participating in the consortium was a strategic decision and an investment that will make a difference in the quality and scope of health care available to those who live on rural and remote Beaver Island." He added, "Broadband access will provide many dividends for all seven consortium members. The future is all about connectivity."

The Beaver Island Broadband Consortium is composed of the following Beaver Island organizations: The Community Center, Community School, Health Center, Historical Society, District Library, and Peaine and St. James Townships. The consortium was formed in 2021, although discussions on securing broadband access date back to 2019. The goal is to select and deploy broadband technology, and create a sustainable business model.

"We are enormously excited about our partnership with the Beaver Island Broadband Consortium and what it will mean to our patients," said Ann Partridge, the Health Center's Managing Director. "Our partnership with the consortium is enabling the Center to scale-up our efficiency, while also addressing the unique associated costs of healthcare for our island patients. The center is looking forward to transitioning to broadband service this summer," she added.

Grants Help Center Improve Patient Care

Thanks to grants from the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary (BIFDA) and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F), the health center is able to acquire a much needed Stryker M Series Stretcher for the Center's Trauma Room and upgrade x-ray software. The gurney and programming cost just under \$7000 and BIFDA provided 70% of the funds.

The Stryker M Series Stretcher has special features designed to help reduce patient pressure points, reduce caregiver back strain, and boost caregiver efficiencies. In addition, the gurney's integrated scale provides weights with the patient on the stretcher, eliminating the need for transfers to an independent scale.

Frank D'Andraia, President of the Center's Board of Directors said, "Philanthropic support is critical as medical costs continue to rise and the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation grants allow us to address one of the center's most pressing needs."



BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

IN APPRECIATION OF SO MANY

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center would like to thank all who have responded to our Annual Appeals, supported our Endowment and Special Projects funds, and honored or memorialized loved ones by giving to the BIRHC. Without the community's support, the Health Center could not fulfill its mission to provide high quality health care—without regard for ability to pay— to all who live on or visit Beaver Island.

IN MEMORY OF:

John & Laurene **Adams**, Peggy & Norman **Banghart**; Margaret **Bass**, Morris **Boyle**, David & Ann **Broder**, Dick **Burris**, Dennis & Betty **Cady**, Fred C. **Douglas, Sr.**, Gloria M. **Dugan**, Robert & Glenda **Dunn**, Lil **Gregg**, Gordon Clifford **Grimm**, Eleanor **Hagerman**, Ruth **Hirschey**, Don & JoAnn **Holzhauser**; Kim Michele **Hughes**, Barbara **Huston**, William **Johnson**, Adam **Kendall** & Kate **Leese**, Harold **Lounsberry**; Skip **McDonough**, Bill **McNamara**, Phyllis **Moore**, Tim **Myers**, Rolland **Peterson**, Mike **Perdue**, Joseph Dues **Reed** & Marilyn Lee (Wallace) **Reed**, John **Rowley**, Ann **Schmidt**, Harold & Rosemary **Smith**, Sharon **Tolan**, Donald & Joan **Vyse**, Gail **Weede**, John & Trudy **Works**, and BJ (Barbara) **Wyckoff**.

IN HONOR OF:

Frank & Dana **D'Andraia**, Leonor **Jacobson**, John **Martin**, DO, Pam **Moxham**, Cecilia **Peasley**, Paul **Welke**, and Connie **Wojan**.

DONORS:

1953 SOCIETY:

(Named in honor of the 100 Island residents who met in 1953 to establish what was to become the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.)

FOUNDER: 2 to 9 years of consecutive giving **BUILDER:** 10-19 to years of consecutive giving

BENEFACTOR: 20 or more years of consecutive giving

LEGACY TREE SOCIETY:

LEAF: Lifetime contributions totaling \$10,000 - \$14,999 **ACORN:** Lifetime contributions totaling \$15,000 - \$24,999

BOULDER: Lifetime contributions totaling, \$25,000 or more

John W. **Abbott Construction Company, Inc.**, Asheville, NC (New), Mary **Adams** 1953 Society (Founder), **Airway Automation, Inc.**, Grayling, MI 1953 Society (Builder) & Legacy Tree (Leaf), Chris & Linda **Allen** 1953 Society (Founder), **Amazon Smile**, Seattle, WA 1953 Society (Founder), Paul & Nancy **Armstrong & Family** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), Kal & Jenni **Attie** 1953 Society (Builder), **Banghart Family** Property, LLC 1953 Society (Founder), **Beaver Island Boat Company**, Charlevoix, MI 1953 Society (Founder), Debra **Bellor** (New), Susan **Benach** (New), **Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**, Lodge #2886, Beaver Island, MI 1953 Society (Founder), Narendra & Nishta **Bhatia** 1953 Society (Founder), Eric D. **Blalock** 1953 Society (Builder), Jon & Suze **Bonadeo** 1953 Society (Founder), Elizabeth **Borre** 1953 Society (Founder), Bernard **Boyle** 1953 Society (Founder), Daniel & Sally **Boyle** 1953 Society (Founder), Kevin **Boyle** (New), Amy **Boyles** (New), Jeff **Bressette** (New), Matthew **Broder** & Susan **Neitlich** 1953 Society (Founder), Michael & Robin **Broder** 1953 Society (Founder), Greg & Patricia **Brynaert** 1953 Society (Founder), Dean L. **Buntrock** 1953 Society (Founder), Jon & Catherine **Burhans** 1953 Society (Founder), Darrell & Nancy **Butler** (New), Geoffrey **Bushor** & Mary **Griswold** 1953 Society (Founder), Amy **Burris** (New), Dean & Jodie **Cady** 1953 Society (Founder), Jonathan **Cain** & Michele **Bartoli** 1953 Society (Founder), Gary & Beverly **Cantwell** (New), **Charlevoix County Community Foundation** 1953 Society (Benefactor) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), **Charlevoix County Road Commission**, **Beaver Island Crew** (New); **Charlevoix State Bank** 1953 Society (Founder), Shar Ann **Cheshire** (New), Diane Flaherty **Cisler** (New), Ed & Bobbie **Collins** 1953 Society (Founder), Joan **Colton** (New), John & Stacie **Conkle** (New), James & Judy **Connelly** 1953 Society (Founder), Levi **Connor** & Tricia **McMillan** (New), Denny & Mary **Cook** 1953 Society (Founder), Dalton & Ruth **Cothran** (New), Elizabeth **Croswhite** (New), Bruce **Cull** (New), Frank & Dana **D'Andraia** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Leaf), Annette **Dashiell** 1953 Society (Benefactor), Stephen & Megan **Davis** (New), Deborah **Dearborn** & Amy **Wendel** 1953 Society (Founder), Peter **DeGroot** (New), Bill **Debiasi** & Ann **Adams** 1953 Society (Founder), Dan & Linda **Derfiny** (New), Arthur & Kristine **DeVaux** 1953 Society (Builder), Fred & Nancy **Douglas** 1953 Society (Builder), David & Marilyn Clark **Duda** 1953 Society (Founder), Gloria **Dugan** 1953 Society (Founder), Michael & Lea Ann **Dunn** (New), Rocky & Suzanne **Eiseman** (New), Tony **Eliassen** & Martha **Ratliff** 1953 Society (Founder), F. Richard & Nancy **Ellis** 1953 Society (Founder), James & Nancy **Evans** 1953 Society (Founder), Edward & Elissa **Farmer** 1953 Society (Founder), Powell & Sandra **Felix** 1953 Society (Founder), Nancy **Ferguson** 1953 Society (Builder), Vicky **Fingerroot** (New), Pete **Friar** 1953 Society (Founder), Nathaniel & Erin **Fuller** (New), James **Gavelek** & Taffy **Raphael** (New), Lisa **Gillespie** 1953 Society (Founder), Paul & Anne **Glendon** 1953 Society (Benefactor) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), Peter **Goschi** 1953 Society (Founder), David & Sheryl **Grimm** 1953 Society (Founder), DeLlyod & Katherine **Guth** 1953 Society (Founder), Steve **Hagerman** 1953 Society (Founder), Chip & Laura **Hansen** (New), Jim & Jennifer **Harless** 1953 Society (Founder), Gerald T. & Susan **Harris** 1953 Society (Founder), Dan & Sue **Haveman** 1953 Society (Founder), James & Catherine **Haveman Family Foundation** 1953 Society (Founder), James and Barbara **Haveman** 1953 Society (Founder), Mary Elizabeth **Hawkinson** (New), Christine **Heikka** (New), William **Hirschey** 1953 Society (Founder), **Hogarth's Pest Control** Company, Williamsburg, MI, 1953 Society (Founder), John N. **Humitz** 1953 Society (Builder), Helen J. & Allen A. **Huntington Foundation** 1953 Society (Founder), Katherine **Ireland** 1953 Society (Founder), Cheri **Irmscher** (New), Bruce & Leonor **Jacobson** 1953 Society (Founder), Ron & Helen **Jakubas** 1953 Society (Founder),

BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

DONORS: (cont.)

Jon & Carol **Jansson** 1953 Society (Builder) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), Nadra **Johnson** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree Member (Leaf), Quinn **Jones** (New), Steve and Linda **Juday** 1953 Society (Builder), Mike & Katie **Kamrin** (New), Kate **Leese** & Adam **Kendall** (New), Stephen & Marilyn **Kesler** (New), Dale & Theresa **Keyes** 1953 Society (Founder), Donna **Kieselbach** (New), John & Gayle **Konik** (New), Mark & Jacque **LaFreniere** 1953 Society (Founder), Glen **LaFreniere** 1953 Society (Founder), Joan **LaFreniere** (New), Donovan & Amy **Langford** 1953 Society (Founder), Mary **LaPalme** (New), Lars & Doris **Larson** 1953 Society (Founder), Richard W. **Larson** 1953 Society (Founder), James R. & Caroline D. **Latta** 1953 Society (Builder), John A. & Marilyn **Leffler** 1953 Society (Founder), Carol **Linteau** (New), Peter & Sandy **LoDico** 1953 Society (Founder), David & Monica **Longlet** (New), David & Barbara **Lucas** (New), Joe **McDonough** (New), Susan **Katz McFall** & Mark **McFall** 1953 Society (Founder), Rodney & Marilyn **McFarland** (New), Theodora F. **McKiernan** 1953 Society (Founder), Jackie **Madigan** Legacy Tree (Acorn), Kathrine **Maehr** & Sam **Pickering** 1953 Society (Founder), Ellen **Magee** 1953 Society (Founder), Bob **Marsh** (New), James Katz **Masonry** (New), Lynda **Wolf** & Gene **Masta** (New), Patrick J. & Mary E. **Mauro** 1953 Society (Founder), Anita **Mauro** (New), Grace **Meister** 1953 Society (Builder) & Legacy Tree (Leaf), Dan & Diane **Merkle** (New), Robert & Jean **Milone** (New), Jeffrey & Glenna **Myers** (New), Louis & Sharon **Nemser Fund** 1953 Society (Founder), Mark & Ellen **Newman** 1953 Society (Founder), Marlin **Nyman** (New), Richard, **O'Brien** (New), Luann & Tim **O'Connor Jr.** 1953 Society (Founder), Phyllis **Olson** (New), Michael & Lauren **Omeara** (New), Ann **Partridge** (New), Craig **Peirano** (New), Edwin (Pete) **Peterson** 1953 Society (Founder), Erik L. **Peterson** 1953 Society (Builder), **Real Estate One**, Beaver Island, MI 1953 Society (Founder), Bill & Suzanne **Reed** 1953 Society (Founder), Joe & Marilyn **Reed** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), Myles & Sally **Rehkopf** 1953 Society (Founder), John **Martin** & Molly **Resnik Fund** 1953 Society (Founder), Barbara **Rahn** (New), John **Robert** 1953 Society (Founder), Carol & Andy **Roberts** (Founder), **Robert's John Service** 1953 Society (Founder), Carol & Paul **Rose** 1953 Society (Founder), Patricia **Rowley** 1953 Society (Founder), Larry and Julie **Roy** (New), Emily **Ruddell** 1953 Society (Founder), William **Ryan** (New), Lee & Cheryl **Sachnoff Philanthropic Fund** 1953 Society (Founder), Susan **Scherer** 1953 Society (Founder), Charlotte **Schultz** 1953 Society (Founder), Larry & Bev **Seiford** 1953 Society (Founder), Michael & Pat **Seitz** (New), Philip **Sells** (New), Richard & June **Shibley** 1953 Society (Founder), **Simple Life Tree Care**, LLC, Beaver Island, MI 1953 Society (Founder), Daryl & Ella **Smith** 1953 Society (Founder), Thomas **Smith** (New), Don & Carol **Snider** 1953 Society (Founder), Donald & Barbara **Spencer** 1953 Society (Builder), Calvin **Sprick** (New), Ray & Ann **Stanhope** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), Sally & Andy **Stebbins** 1953 Society (Founder), Jeff **Steffey** (New), Steve & Dianne **Steinglass** 1953 Society (Founder), Sarah **Rohner** & Jeff **Stone** 1953 Society (Builder), Gertraud **Stupec** 1953 Society (Founder), Lori **Taylor-Blitz** 1953 Society (Founder), John & Linda **Teutsch** 1953 Society (Founder), Jeffrey M. & Nancy **Traudt** 1953 Society (Founder), Ed & Linda **Troutman**, 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Acorn), Miles & Suzanne **Trumble** 1953 Society (Founder), Robert & Maura **Turner** 1953 Society (Founder), **Universal Sign Systems**, Grand Rapids, MI (New), Ronald & Joyce **VanHolder** 1953 Society (Founder), James & Margaret **VanStee**, Richard & Ellen **Verduyn** (New), Alan B. & Beverly **Vicstein** 1953 Society (Founder), Heidi **Vigil** (New), James & Leslie **Visser** (New), Lori & Jeffrey **Wagoner** (New), Stephen **Waligus** (New), Frederick & Martha **Walstrom** 1953 Society (Builder), **Linda Wearn** 1953 Society (Benefactor), Michael & Molly **Weede** 1953 Society (Founder), Sue **Welke** 1953 Society (Builder), **Wellness Gardeners** 1953 Society (Benefactors), Edward and Willy **Welter** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), Ron & Beth **Wierenga** 1953 Society (Founder), Kimberlee Mitchell & Ralph **Williamson** (New), Ed & Connie **Wojan** 1953 Society (Benefactor) & Legacy Tree (Acorn), **Ed Wojan Realty**, Beaver Island, MI 1953 Society (Founder), **Jim Wojan Excavating**, Beaver Island, MI 1953 Society (Builder), Ron **Wojan** (New), Edward O. & Willa **Wolcott** 1953 Society (Founder), John & Carolyn **Works** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Boulder), BJ (Barbara) **Wyckoff** Legacy Tree (Leaf), Phillip **Wyckoff** 1953 Society (Founder) & Legacy Tree (Leaf), and William M. **Zahn** 1953 Society (Founder).

Grateful thanks to Health Center donors who requested to remain anonymous.

The Health Center is funded [in part] by local township millage assessments, as well as awards and grants received from The State of Michigan, US Government agencies, and philanthropic organizations.

- Peaine Township, Beaver Island, Michigan -
- St. James Township, Beaver Island, Michigan -
- State of Michigan, Department of Health and Human Services -
- US Government – Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Center Programs -

On Being Anonymous...

The Center is happy to work with individuals to ensure they may privately donate funds to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, without receiving any unwanted attention. To initiate an anonymous donation please call the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) at +1 231-536-2440 and indicate you wish to make an anonymous donation to the BIRHC. C3F will respect your privacy and process your gift to the Center without fanfare or attribution.

Some 'Wish List' Items:

1. Welch-Allyn Connex Vitals Monitor NIBP/Sure Temp/SpO2 w/Stand, \$3,500 2. Physio Control-Lifepak-15 Cardiac Replacement Paddles, \$1,000 3. Touchscreen Laptops or Notepads for Clinical staff x3, @ \$1,600

The Health Center Team

Braciszewski: Terry Braciszewski, PhD, MSCP is a licensed psychologist specializing in neuropsychology, psychopharmacology and rehabilitation psychology, helping patients with anxiety, depression, ADHD, autism, and more. ‘Dr. Terry’ has been assisting patients on Beaver Island since 2016.

King: Timothy King, MD, who resides on Beaver Island, has agreed to assist patients in conjunction with our other practitioners. Dr. King is a practicing anesthesiologist and pain management specialist with expertise in the treatment of chronic pain and addiction. He has owned and operated pain clinics and frequently serves as a consultant and expert witness in legal cases. Dr. King is also working with Dr. Mann and Dr. Martin in our provider education and quality assurance programs.

Mann: Daniel Mann, MD became Beaver Island Rural Health Center's Medical Director with the 2021 retirement of Dr. Edward Newcomb. Dr. Mann specializes in both Family and Emergency medicine and is affiliated with Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital. He has been practicing family medicine for over 26 years, and 23 of those have included the Beaver Island Rural Health Center. Dr Mann works closely with our providers to ensure patient care is comprehensive, appropriate and effective.

Marsh: Bob Marsh has been the BIRHC ‘go to guy’ for facility maintenance for over 12 years, keeping our HC safe and accessible for all, especially in the winter.

Martin: John Martin, DO continues his dedicated commitment to the BIRHC through multiple services including orthopedics, dermatology, family medicine, provider relief and education, and quality assurance. For almost a decade Dr. Martin has been providing his expertise in-person, on the phone and now via telehealth. Dr. Martin serves on the Michigan Hospital Association Board and collaborates to provide our practitioners the latest study findings and techniques and a continuing knowledge base.

Matejovsky: Joan Matejovsky, FNP-C, rejoined the BIRHC healthcare team in August of 2022 to many ‘re-welcomes’ and has undertaken the clinical supervision, documentation and reporting responsibilities for numerous areas. Joan has over 20 years of experience in the ER and most recently served with an elder-care organization.

Partridge: Ann Partridge joined the HC in 2017 as Services Coordinator and was appointed Managing Director in 2022. She previously served with the Community Center and Commission on Aging for nine years, coming from the Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. Ann’s management experience covers projects, campaigns, events, staff and volunteers. She has resided on the island full time since 2006.

Rahilly: Lawrence ‘Denny’ Rahilly joined the Health Center as custodian in 2021 and has helped to keep the facility disinfected and clean as well as the Health Center’s condo unit ready for visiting providers.

Shepardson: Nicole Shepardson joined the Health Center team as Services Coordinator in July of 2022 and has recently been promoted to Medical Assistant/Administrative Assistant. She comes to the HC with over 14 years of experience with Hope Network Neuro Rehabilitation Services in Grand Rapids.

Wysocki: Kim Wysocki, PA-C joined the HC Medical Team in December of 2022. Kim is a Board-Certified Physician Assistant with eleven years of practice serving patients in a variety of emergency departments, surgical orthopedics, sports medicine offices, and urgent care facilities, spending the last two years in the UP.

Board Officers Elected

The BIRHC Board of Directors have re-elected Frank D’Andraia as board president and elected Lori Taylor Blitz as vice president, Leslie Visser as treasurer and Connie Wojan as secretary. The election of officers was conducted in January 2023. D’Andraia is beginning his second term as president. He was first elected to the Board in 2019.

In addition Bradford K. Grassmick, MD was elected to a new three-year term on the nine member BIRHC Board of Directors. Dr. Grassmick is a retired physician residing full time on Beaver Island. Grassmick had previously served as an elected director in 2000.

“I’m excited for the opportunity to re-join the board at a time when emphasis has been placed on improving the center’s involvement in senior care and in the application of technology to improve services to rural and remote locations like Beaver Island,” said Grassmick. “I look forward to deploying my experience to help expand Center services for seniors, while improving the lives of patients in all our Island communities.”

A Bright Idea

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation awarded the Health Center a C3F Environmental Grant for \$9,036. The funds are to be used to help defray the costs of converting to LED (light emitting diode) lighting.

Ann Partridge, the Health Center's Managing Director said, "The Center's Board did the math and found switching from incandescent to LED light bulbs has multiple benefits such as lowering the Center's utility costs." The LED conversion is expected to shave approximately \$3,000 off the Center's annual electric bill. Additionally Great Lakes Energy, which provides power to Beaver Island, is offering the Center a rebate for undertaking the conversion.

The retrofit project is expected to take 3 to 4 weeks to complete. All interior and exterior lighting is to be changed. Daylight sensors that automatically turn the lights on or off, are being installed in several interior spaces. The cost of the LED conversion project is \$22,000.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is a charitable organization that is dedicated to improving, enriching, and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of Charlevoix County, now and for generations to come.

Two High-Priority Purchases Improve Patient Care

Thanks to a Charlevoix County Community Foundation's Community (C3F Priorities Grant and a special award from the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary (BIFDA), the Health Center is able to acquire two important and high priority pieces of medical equipment that makes a difference in patient comfort and care. The total cost of the equipment was just under \$7000.

New specialized software for the Center's recently acquired Fujii x-ray machine was one of the two high priority purchases made possible by the C3F and BIFDA grants. The software allows center clinicians to perform speedier and more accurate x-rays, keeping patient callbacks to a minimum. Plus the added accuracy reduces patient exposure to radiation and helps keep patient x-ray costs from escalating.

The second high priority need is a Trauma Room Stretcher/Gurney. The literature indicates the typical equipment lifetime for a healthcare stretcher/gurney is, in general, seven to twelve years. The stretcher/gurney the center is replacing has been in service for well over 25 years. The center's current gurney has a major flaw. It is unable to be lowered to less than 30" off-the-floor, due to a dated design and structural features.

The center's new transport stretcher/gurney includes an electronic height adjustment system, integrated storage compartments for medical supplies, attachment points for IV poles and other medical equipment, as well as the ability to automatically calibrate a patient's weight. This feature is immensely helpful, especially when patients --young or old --are not able to stand and move without difficulty or pain. The ability to determine a patient's weight is a key factor in determining the proper medication dosage to be dispensed. In an emergency situation the acquisition of a contemporary gurney minimizes unnecessary steps patients and caregivers need to take, helps with pain management, and allows the caregiver to focus on patient care. Another plus, an automated stretcher/gurney is easier for center caregivers to operate and maneuver.

The C3F contributed \$2,094 toward the purchases and the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary awarded the center the balance of \$4,887. Ann Partridge, the Health Center's Managing Director, expressed her thanks to both organizations, and noted that the equipment should be in place by late July.

The Big Reveal

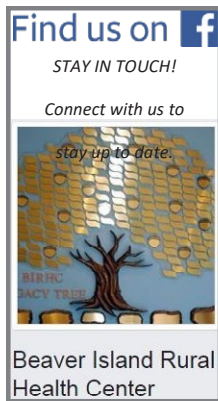
A TREE-mendous thank you to all the unsolicited volunteers who helped clear brush and pick up barbed wire and trash from the Health Center's wooded areas fronting the King's Highway and Carlisle Road. The yard work has made one of the Island's more attractive public facilities more visible. To date over 25 trailer loads of brush and 24 bags of trash have been sent to the Transfer Station.

EVERGREEN with appreciation for the following individuals who worked on the "Big Reveal" last fall and this spring's north end:

- ◆ Deb Roberts and her BICS 5th & 6th grade Mathematics Class,
- ◆ BICS Teachers Faletta Duffing & Gavin McNeil, ◆ Jeff Bressette,
- ◆ Charlevoix County Road Commission (Beaver Island Road Crew),
- ◆ Bruce Cull, ◆ Christine Heikka, ◆ Quinn Jones, ◆ John Konik,
- ◆ Bob Marsh, ◆ Joe McDonough, ◆ Craig Peirano, ◆ Simple Life Tree Care (Levi Connor & Tricia McMillan), ◆ Michelle Thornton,
- ◆ Heidi Vigil, ◆ Bill Welke, ◆ Bobbi Welke, ◆ Connie Wojan, and
- ◆ Wojan Excavating (Jim Wojan).



Beaver Island Rural Health Center
37304 Kings Highway
PO Box 146
Beaver Island, MI 49782



BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

BIRHC Board of Directors

Officers:

President – Frank D'Andraia

Vice President –

Lori Taylor Blitz

Treasurer – Leslie Visser

Secretary – Connie Wojan

Directors:

Larry Birch

Brad Grasmick

Donna Kubic

Vicki Matela Smith

Peaine Township Rep

Bobbi Welke

St James Township Rep

HEALTH CENTER TEAM

Timothy King, MD

Daniel Mann, MD

Robert Marsh, Maintenance

John Martin, DO

Joan Matejovsky, FNP-C

Ann Partridge, Managing Director

Denny Rahilly, Housekeeping

Nicole Shepardson, Medical Asst

David VanDeventer, Svcs Coord

Kimberly Wysocki, PA-C

VISITING PROVIDERS*

Dental Clinics North, Dental Svcs

Terry Braciszewski, Ph D, MSCP

Patrick Richmond, DPM

Dan Schoeber, PT, MPT

Aaron Wilkin, DC

** Call BIRHC at 231-448-2275 for information on scheduling an appointment with a visiting care provider.*

CONTACT US

Beaver Island Rural Health Center

37304 Kings Highway, PO Box 146,

Beaver Island, MI 49782

Web: <http://www.BIRuralHealth.org>

Phone: 231-448-2275

REGULAR APPOINTMENT HOURS

Monday through Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Urgent patients can be seen on short notice during regular hours. Please call first..

24-HOUR URGENT CARE AVAILABLE

Call the Health Center at 231-448-2275.

Select option 1 to reach the on-call BIRHC care provider.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Dial 911, and **STAY ON THE LINE**....

There will be up to a 30-second delay.

Emergency Medical Services personnel will respond.