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Autumn Ridge residents see family, friends during drive-by parade

By Mandy Underwood

On Wednesday, April 22, the residents of Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Center were greeted by their friends and family during a greeting parade in front of the building.

Director of Marketing and Admissions at Autumn Ridge, Joyce Johnson told The Paper of Wabash County that she originally got the idea from seeing similar things being done in videos online.



“I thought this could work for our residents to see families and vice versa. I ran it past Nathan Jackson, our Executive Director. Monday a plan was put in place and I started calling families,” she said.

Residents and families who would visit were very excited to be able to see their loved ones again if only from a distance.

“We shared with our residents that their families will be driving by like a parade and you could almost see the wind in their sails again.”

Due to the COVID-19 social restrictions, families have not been able to come and visit their loved ones who reside at

Autumn Ridge.

In planning the parade, staff had to continue to make sure that social distancing was still being practiced.

“By placing a resident in a parking spot and utilizing staff to help maintain 6 feet, we successfully accomplished the guidelines. We asked families to stay in vehicles and informed them that they could not pass out anything from their cars. If they had items for family we took those before or after the parade to ensure that we properly sanitized their items before going to residents,” said Johnson.

Families were encouraged to make and bring signs showing their love to the residents, and the residents did the same.

“I personally cannot thank our families enough for being part of this. It brought tears to my eyes to see the pure joy that was brought to our residents and their families,” said Johnson.

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