



SMP Health
Ave Maria

Village Voice

Vol. 8 No. 1 Fall 2021



A Bittersweet Goodbye: Tim Burchill Retires September 30th



Bittersweet is the word that best describes how I feel as I write my final article for the Village Voice. After 39 years as a health care administrator, the last 14 at Ave Maria and the Heritage Centre, I will be retiring on September 30 of this year.

I'll never forget the day I walked in the door at Kenmare Community Hospital in northwest North Dakota, October 11, 1982. I had graduated from Concordia College with a degree in hospital administration in May, followed by a five-month internship at the hospital in Hettinger, ND. At age 21, I was to be administrator of this small rural hospital. I knew very little about the real "health care world" or what was in store for me. At the time, I was the youngest hospital administrator in North Dakota. As my wife and I were moving into a rented house in Kenmare, a salesman came to the door and asked if my mother was home!

Fast forward almost four decades, and sometimes I think I still don't know very much! Just when you think you've seen everything, something new rears its ugly head, like COVID-19. It's been a great run, and I'm so grateful for the privilege of having worked with so many wonderful healthcare professionals, not to mention thousands of residents and their loved ones through the years.

To say it has been rewarding would be an understatement. However, the stress that goes along with being responsible for the lives of many frail, vulnerable people, and for the many individuals who play a part in caring for them, has

taken its toll. It is time for the next generation to take over and blaze the trail for the future of long-term care.

Working for the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Health System as CEO of Ave Maria Village and also the Heritage Centre, has been the best job of my life. It has been a privilege to work for a faith-based, not-for-profit ministry, in which carrying out our mission takes precedence over the bottom line. I have always believed that when we do the right things with pure hearts and motives, God honors that and takes care of us, even the bottom line. The Sisters themselves have also become a big part of my life, and have become dear friends, supporters, and prayer warriors for not only me, but for all who have a part in our ministry here.

In health care, the only constant is change. We will be caring for a new generation of individuals in the future, with different needs, preferences, and expectations. I feel proud, about how far we've come at Ave Maria and the Heritage Centre over the past 14 years. But there is so much more that can and must be done to enhance the care and lives of those we serve. I have confidence the leadership abilities of Tonie Lagodinski and others on our team. Despite ongoing challenges, our facilities have a very bright future. Thanks to all of our friends, volunteers, donors, and members of the Jamestown community for the wonderful support you've given us, and to me personally. Jamestown will continue to be home, so I'll see many of you around in the future.

*Thank you for everything, Tim!
A retirement celebration in Tim's honor will be held at a later date.*

Working for the Sisters of Mary of the

Ave Maria Village to "Ave Maria"



SMP Health
Ave Maria

As many of you already know, Ave Maria Village is one of the five long term care ministries within the SMP Health System. Next year we will be celebrating 60 years of providing service in the Jamestown community! We opened our doors in 1962 under the name of "Central Dakota Nursing Home" and changed to "Ave Maria Village" in 2008.

After careful consideration, in an effort to be more recognizable as a Catholic health care system, SMP Health System and all of its North Dakota ministries will be changing their names on October 1, 2021. SMP Health System will change its name to "SMP Health."

The official trade name for Ave Maria Village, as registered with the ND Secretary of State, will be "SMP Health – Ave Maria." SMP Health is listed before Ave Maria to emphasize our being part of a health care system. In fact, all of the new names for the ND ministries of SMP Health will have this same format. As a practical matter, however, we will commonly refer to ourselves and be commonly known as "Ave Maria." Many people already refer to us as "Ave Maria," so this will not be a drastic change. Ave Maria is actually Latin that translates to "Hail Mary," which already expresses a very clear Catholic identity. It is a beautiful fit for our ministry and the loving care we provide.

Our name change represents a change in our marketing and public relations approach. It does not signal any kind of change in operations or ownership. The new name emphasizes our Catholic identity and raises awareness of our being part of a health care system.

At the top of this article you will see the new logo for Ave Maria, which retains much of the look and feel of our current logo but better reinforces our system identity.

We think that the new name and logo for Ave Maria are very positive changes that recognize and emphasize the benefits of our being more part of a Catholic health care system.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Tonie Lagodinski

Tonie Lagodinski, Administrator

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Annie Hancock
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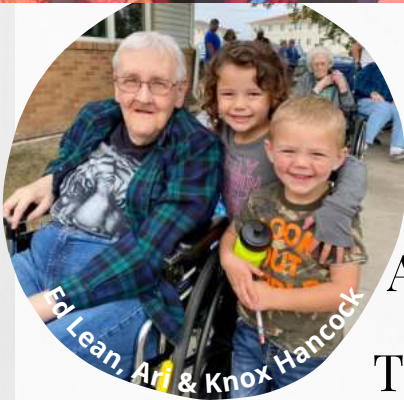
It's been a while, friends! I hope you all had a fantastic summer. As we transition into fall it brings to mind the quote, "Fall is proof that change is beautiful." As much as I'm going to miss summer and all the fun activities that go along with it, I am equally excited to be entering the season of Fall.

At Ave Maria, each new season brings new activities and opportunities for the residents. It also brings their families and our staff more precious time to share our love and appreciation with them in meaningful ways.

I want to thank you for your gifts, thoughts, prayers, Facebook comments and kind words that you share with us at Ave Maria. You are truly making a difference in the lives of the residents we care for, and I am so grateful!

We have some exciting opportunities to support Ave Maria in the coming weeks and months. On October 3rd, the Knights of Columbus is hosting a brunch on our behalf at Club 1883 in Jamestown. We will be selling the last of our Fall 2021 raffle tickets there and hold the drawing at noon that day. Starting October 6th, Ave Maria will be selling Butter Braids and Pastry Puffins again. Just give me a call or send me an email for more information!

Thank you again for all you do to make Ave Maria the special place that it is for so many! --Annie



Family & Friends Fun Walk 2021

We raised over \$900 and were able to include 20 Ave Maria residents in our Fun Walk this year! Thank you for your support!



Clyde Becker, Heather Oster, Amber Dockter, & Cheri Nelson

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ND Long Term Care Association 2021 Caregiver Awards

The Caregiver Award Program honors & recognizes individuals working in the long term care profession who substantially enhance the quality of life for residents & tenants in ND long term care facilities. Congratulations to the staff of Ave Maria who were nominated this year!

"Shelley Benson always smiles and makes time to chat with the residents."

"Sidona Kautz takes extraordinary care of the residents."

"Amber Dockter made the transition into the facility as smooth as possible. She makes the residents quality of life top priority."

"Mary Dahn treats all residents with love and respect. She always uses a gentle touch and warm voice and listens to the residents. She cares about what they want."

"Shanna Lutt helps with Facetiming and is very kind to the family."

Stephanie Ziese makes sure resident needs are met. She always makes sure they have their water by them."

"Chazelle Elhard is friendly, helpful, and caring. Eternally pleasant and willing to help, she goes beyond her normal duties."

"Michelle Guthmiller is a bright light. She knows each resident personally."

"Peggy Widmer is a people person-friendly and helpful to all. She gives her heart to all the residents."

Nichole Greenstein is cheerful and always has something friendly to say."

"Kristi Gerszewski is a caring and kind person."

"Bambie Johnson sends pictures and updates to the family. She is a champion and advocate for the residents."