

October Newsletter 2026

October is the month to enjoy sweater weather, pumpkin spice, and football season. We try to create an atmosphere in the building around fall through decorations inside and outside. Even having mums around the building helps to create a homelike environment.

Halloween 🎃 🧛 🍬

Halloween is just around the corner, and we're looking forward to celebrating with our residents, families, staff, and community! We are currently accepting **candy donations** for our Halloween activities. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the bin located by the front desk at Maryhill or give it directly to **Donna**. Thank you for helping make this a special event for our residents and visiting children.



Our Halloween festivities will include a **Halloween Party on October 30 at 2:00 p.m.**, featuring live musical entertainment and plenty of seasonal fun for residents. On **October 31**, Maryhill will once again welcome local trick-or-treaters. Our doors will be open from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, and we look forward to seeing children and families from the community stop by for treats and Halloween fun.

We appreciate everyone's support in helping create meaningful moments and memories for our residents during this festive season!

Operational Update:

This fall also brings an exciting change for Maryhill. Effective **October 1, 2026**, our licensed capacity will increase from **42 to 46 skilled nursing beds**. To accommodate this growth, a couple rooms in our west wing will be converted back to semi-private rooms. Families can be assured that we will continue to offer the larger private rooms in the west wing that many residents have come to enjoy. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Front Entrance Improvements: Security, Technology & Guest Experience

We are excited to share that Maryhill is making several improvements to our front entrance aimed at enhancing both security and the visitors' experience. Thanks in part to funding from a Federal Homeland Security grant, we are upgrading our door access and security systems with new technology designed to better protect our residents, staff, and visitors. This project comes at the perfect time, as portions of our previous system had reached the end of their service life and replacement parts were no longer available.

As part of these improvements, our goal is to officially launch the reception desk in early October, once the Door Access Control project is complete and all of the necessary equipment is in place to support the new process. The reception desk is expected to be staffed Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., providing a welcoming first point of contact for visitors and families. We believe this added presence will make it easier for guests to receive assistance, obtain directions, and connect with the appropriate staff while also supporting our enhanced security measures.

As we continue to invest in our facility, our focus remains on creating a safe, secure, and inviting environment for everyone who calls Maryhill home. We look forward to the benefits these improvements will bring to our residents, families, staff, and visitors.

Fall Vaccination Clinic – October 15th!!!

Maryhill will be offering Flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccinations on October 15th. Families and responsible parties will receive additional education and consent forms. Residents who have already received an RSV vaccine generally do not need another dose at this time. Thank you for helping us keep our residents healthy throughout the upcoming respiratory illness season.

Dining Policy:

At Maryhill, we embrace an open dining philosophy, which means residents have the freedom to choose when and where they would like to sit during meal service. Rather than assigned seating, meals are served on a first-come, first-served basis, allowing residents to enjoy dining in a way that best fits their preferences, routines, and social connections.

Mealtimes:

- **Breakfast:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- **Lunch:** 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Afternoon Snack:** 2:30 p.m.
- **Dinner:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **Bedtime Snack:** 7:30 p.m.

Residents are welcome to join us at any time during meal service. For those who choose to dine in their rooms, meal trays are delivered after dining room is finished being served. Our goal is to provide a dining experience that promotes choice, independence, and enjoyment while supporting resident-directed care. If you have any questions about dining services, please reach out to our Dietary Team.

In Our Loving Memory... We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of those who were part of our Maryhill family and have passed away this past month. We treasure the memories shared with them and pray for comfort and peace for their loved ones during this time of loss. They will always be remembered with love and care.

Dennis Dykema

Stay healthy and God bless,
Bailyn Hildestad, CEO/Administrator

