



# The WEATHERLY REPORT

Fall/Winter 2009

## Weatherly Inn Celebrates Two Decades of Serving the Community

Twenty years ago, when Dr. Larry and Nancy Bunn embarked on a new business venture, some were skeptical. Their new endeavor – The Weatherly Inn – was something they believed in, saw a need for, and poured their hearts into. However, at the time, assisted living was a relatively new concept and many felt it was a risky undertaking.

Now, two decades later, The Weatherly Inn has served thousands in the surrounding community, and has built a reputation of caring for seniors through high quality services in a trusted, home-like environment. Over the years, all of the Bunn children have been involved in the business in various capacities and have



Dr. Larry, Nancy and Alex Bunn

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### *Thanks to all our long-term employees who have been with us from the beginning*

“Our success is, in large part, due to the type of employees we have,” says Dr. Larry Bunn. “They play a key role in representing us, as owners, and provide exceptional care and support to our residents and their families.”

#### **Weatherly Inn for Assisted Living in Tacoma (20 years)**

Mary Collins, *bookkeeper*  
Nellie Downing, *environmental svcs.*  
Betty Vlahavich, *beautician*  
Paulette Walls, *cook*

#### **Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian (10 years)**

Bev Baccus, *community relations / admin.*  
Gail Bolster, *nursing*  
Laura Cammon, *environmental svcs.*  
Patty Davis, *dietary*  
Liz Kopp, *activities*  
Pauline Kurt, *cook*  
Rosa Valesquez, *CNA*

*The assistance you need, the independence you want & the dignity you deserve.*

## The Weatherly Difference

While most assisted living and dementia care residences generally offer similar services and facilities, it's what you can't measure tangibly that makes the difference. Ownership has a direct effect on how a residence is operated, and the experience and environment a loved one enjoys, or does not, while living there.

Because The Weatherly Inn is family owned, there is a personal stake in ensuring the highest quality standards and services.

"It's our livelihood," explains Dr. Larry Bunn, owner. "Also, when ownership is on-site, there is a personal interest in what's going on and we can make changes quickly in a personal way. We don't have to go through a large chain of decision-makers."

Perhaps the small company feel and family ownership is also why The Weatherly has so many long term employees – and residents.

"We're very hands on and responsive to any issues," says Alex Bunn. "Employees feel an ownership because they have a say in what's going on, because they know we're open to ideas."

Liz Kopp, activities director, has been with The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian since they opened 10 years ago.

"I've worked for corporations where the dollar was the bottom line," she says. "But, you can see the Bunn's truly care about the residents and their families, as well as the employees. They want the best for them."

Through the years, residents at The Weatherly Inn have come from

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helped create an environment that the family itself would be proud to have care for one of their own.

Today, just as the day they opened, The Weatherly Inn is owned and managed by the Bunn family – something rather distinctive in the field of assisted living, where most similar facilities are owned by regional or national corporations. Their personal involvement brings management very close to the residents.

"This is much more than a business to us," says Alex Bunn, regional administrator. "It's a commitment to excellence, the desire to be a part of something special."

Twenty years ago, assisted living catered to more independent seniors, but over the years has changed and now serves individuals with more acute needs. The Weatherly Inn has evolved with the times.

"As people aged in place, we found we needed to accommodate more needs," says Larry Bunn.

Just a few years after opening, the Bunn's had the foresight to convert a wing into a secured dementia care residence called Bristol Court. By offering this greater continuum of care, residents were now able to stay in a familiar setting and avoid the upheaval and potential upset of being moved to a foreign environment. About five years later, a second area for advanced dementia care, Magnolia Place, was created. Larger units were also added in the independent and assisted living areas, adding close to 50 additional apartments.

"We're continually reinvesting in the building," explains Alex. "We're always looking down the road. We're not looking at shareholder interests; we're looking at the needs of our residents and the long-term success of the community."

This commitment to quality is evident, as even a new visitor would be hard pressed to guess the true age of The Weatherly Inn. And, the improvements continue. Recent additions include The Cove, a bistro-type restaurant where residents and their guests can order food and espresso. New upgrades are also being completed to the library, adding additional computers with internet access.

As Larry Bunn looks back over the years, he attributes much of The Weatherly Inn's success to their employees. Alex Bunn agrees.

"We have many long-term employees who have given their heart and soul to this endeavor and I really appreciate it," says Alex. "The staff is so supportive and makes our customers feel like their own family. Our caregivers are here because they love it and it is a blessing to them."

Larry says he also feels grateful they have been able to help so many people in their later years.

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# Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian Celebrates Milestone

In September 1999, a state-of-the-art Alzheimer's and dementia care residence opened in Kent. Over the past 10 years, The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian has built a reputation in the community for providing outstanding specialized care in a secure, yet intimate and home-like, setting.

The thoughtful design of the building takes into account the specific needs of the dementia resident. In addition, caregivers are specially trained in Alzheimer's care and provide individualized programs that enrich residents' lives and enable them to function at the highest possible level.

"The building is built totally for the needs of those residents with dementia," explains Bev Baccus, director of community relations. "I love seeing them empowered by their environment."

On any given day, you may see residents baking bread or canning vegetables harvested from the community garden. Perhaps one or two may be enjoying the companionship of Allie, the resident dog, or one of the community's cats. At The Weatherly, different stages of dementia can be accommodated with the appropriate levels of care.

Just as the day they opened, the focus is always on the needs of the residents.

"It's all about the care that we give," says Kristi Knox, general manager. "Our staff cares for the residents as if they were their own family. It's truly one of our biggest assets."

## **The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian at a Glance**

- Licensed nurses available on-site 24 hours a day
- Licensed medication management
- Assistance with activities of daily living
- Individualized care management programs
- Social-based activity program
- Regular on-site dental visits
- X-ray, lab and pharmacy services, as needed
- Monthly podiatry services
- Weekly beautician services

*The Weatherly Report is published by The Weatherly Inn for our residents, their families, and our friends in the industry.*

## **The Weatherly Inn Business Office**

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1-888-943-3241

Dr. Larry and Nancy Bunn,  
*Owners*

Alex Bunn,  
*Regional Administrator*

Mary Collins,  
*Bookkeeper*

## **The Weatherly Inn for Assisted Living**

*(with Bristol Court & Magnolia Place)*

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Alex Bunn,  
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Pat Ness, MN, RN,  
*Nurse Consultant*

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## **The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian**

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253-630-7496

Kristi Knox,  
*General Manager*

Bev Baccus,  
*Director of Community Relations*

[www.weatherlyinn.com](http://www.weatherlyinn.com)

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diverse backgrounds which have made for stimulating conversations, unique friendships and distinctive opportunities. A former governor of Alaska, one of the first female New York Times reporters, a first hand witness to Pearl Harbor, a Tuskegee airman, a former Miss Alaska, authors, artists, professors and ministers have all called The Weatherly Inn home.

And, like many assisted living residences, people have found The Weatherly Inn to be an active, lively setting that promotes healthy lifestyles and goodwill. Residents fill their social calendars as much or as little as they desire. It's a place where you find a former publisher and writer offering a book club to fellow residents, or where a musician offers impromptu concerts for his fellow neighbors.

The lifestyle is one that fits Ruth Kuehler well. Our longest term resident, she moved to The Weatherly Inn over 14 years ago.

"I really love it here," says Ruth. "I couldn't have made a better choice. It's perfect service all the way around from administration to maintenance."

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"To provide a comfortable place, where families feel their loved ones are in good hands and being taken care of the way they would want, is very rewarding."

Family ownership does indeed set The Weatherly Inn apart. You can't put your finger on it; it's just something you feel when you walk through the doors. A place where the administrator is also the owner and can genuinely say, "This is the best job in the world."



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