

Fall 2021



Drs. Alan Lawrence and Donald Lucek are available to perform general surgery at Mobridge seven days a week.

## TWO GENERAL SURGEONS, MULTIPLE SPECIALTY PROVIDERS Mobridge-Area Residents Receive Excellent Surgical Care Close to Home

### Common General Surgical Procedures at Mobridge

Many surgeries are done laparoscopically.

- Gallbladder removal
- Appendectomy
- Hernia repair
- C-sections
- Colonoscopy
- Endoscopy
- Bowel resection
- Removal of cysts and skin lesions
- Breast biopsies
- D&Cs and tubal ligations
- Vasectomies

*Specialty Surgeries listed on page 3*

As of July, there's a new surgeon in town. Mobridge's General Surgeon Dr. Donald Lucek has been joined by Dr. Alan Lawrence, also a general surgeon (and Mobridge native). For Mobridge-area residents, this means there is now at least one surgeon in the hospital every day, and on many days, two!

Surgery is a skill, and as with any skill, practice matters. Together Drs. Lawrence and Lucek bring 70 years of surgical experience to the people of Mobridge.

"Both surgeons have been well-trained, well-tested and well-evaluated for decades," said RN Mark Vandersnick, Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics' Chief Nursing Officer. "They provide the same quality of general surgical care that patients would receive in a larger city but with the speed, convenience and familiarity of care close to home."

Anesthesia is also essential to surgical care, of course. At Mobridge, anesthesia services are provided by highly qualified Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists—advance practice nurses with specialty training and experience. Before surgery, they evaluate each patient for the appropriate type (general, spinal or regional) and dose of anesthesia, then monitor patients closely throughout surgery.

*continued on page 3*

# CEO Update



John Ayoub, CEO

## Letter from John

The individuals who make up Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics are extraordinary. We are truly blessed to have such excellent people and professionals. While this is true of our entire organization, the surgery department provides a microcosm of this. During the past 18 months of tremendous stress, our surgical team has concentrated on maintaining and improving every aspect of the department. They emphasized developing existing staff while also recruiting additional exceptional clinicians to the team. They have maintained, added and

upgraded equipment and technology, all while focusing on providing an excellent patient experience and high-quality clinical outcomes. I hope you enjoy reading a little bit about the program, and you might be surprised at how much we can do for you here at MRH&C.

Our upcoming building project has fueled a lot of excitement, and we are grateful for the outpouring of community support. I know many of you are curious about when construction at the hospital will begin in earnest. Along with the rest of the world, our project has encountered challenges related to inflation, labor shortages and, most of all, supply-chain issues and backlogs. With the long lead times required for many of the needed construction supplies and materials, the original timeframe for the project has been adjusted. There is a great deal of cost involved with having the construction site prepared and populated. It does not make sense to have the earthwork done and concrete poured only to wait for steel to be delivered. Given that, we will wait for construction materials to arrive and move forward with the major construction in the spring.

Please know our entire organization strives every day, in every way, to provide high-quality healthcare services in a compassionate and professional manner for people throughout the region.

John J. Ayoub, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer  
Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics

## Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics

Mobridge Regional Hospital  
1401 10th Avenue West  
Mobridge, SD  
605-845-3692

Mobridge Medical Clinic  
1309 10th Avenue West  
Mobridge, SD  
605-845-3692

Prairie Sunset Village – Assisted  
Living and Senior Housing  
1320 West Grand Crossing  
Mobridge, SD  
605-845-8193

Selby Medical Clinic  
4401 Main St  
Selby, SD  
605-649-9999

West Dakota Health Center  
906 Main Street  
Timber Lake, SD  
605-865-3258 (MT)

West River Health Clinic  
103 1st Avenue East  
McLaughlin, SD  
605-823-4253 (MT)

## OUR NEW GENERAL SURGEON

### Welcome, Dr. Alan Lawrence!



Dr. Alan Lawrence

In July, Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics welcomed Dr. Alan Lawrence to our surgical services program—and back to the community where he grew up. The son of former Mobridge surgeon Dr. Ronald Lawrence (from 1971-1988), Alan Lawrence graduated from Mobridge High School and went on to medical school at Temple University. After completing his

residency in Pennsylvania in 1995, he went on to practice general surgery in Watertown, South Dakota, for more than 25 years.

Dr. Lawrence has joined Dr. Donald Lucek in performing general surgeries at Mobridge. “I’m doing all the surgeries here I’d been doing in Watertown,” he said. “Our capabilities at Mobridge Hospital are excellent.” Dr. Lawrence is particularly skilled in laparoscopic techniques because he spent the four-and-a-half years of his residency training in this minimally invasive approach in addition to open surgery.

A widower for seven years, Dr. Lawrence recently remarried. He and his wife, Tina, who had also lost her husband, have eight children between them, ranging in age from 24 to 35, and two grandchildren (so far!). The children live in various communities across South Dakota and the Midwest.

In his youth, Dr. Lawrence wrestled for Mobridge. He coached Watertown wrestling teams and hopes to get involved in helping out with the Mobridge wrestling program as well. He’s also a vintage car buff with a particular fondness for ‘60s muscle cars. If you see a classic Alfa Romeo, Corvette or T-Bird around town, it might be Dr. Lawrence behind the wheel.

“I’m very happy to be back in Mobridge,” Dr. Lawrence said. “We look forward to building a home here and settling in for a long time.”

continued from the cover

## Why Choose Mobridge for Surgery

There are at least **seven excellent reasons** to stay in Mobridge for surgical care, said Vandersnick:

1

Our surgeons, nurses and technologists are experienced and well-trained. “They have the same training as their peers in Bismarck, Aberdeen or Pierre,” he said.

2

We only perform surgeries within our limits. When a patient has special needs beyond our capabilities, we refer them to another surgeon and facility.

3

In emergency situations such as acute appendicitis, time is of the essence. In more complex emergencies, we can often stabilize patients before they’re transported.

4

Travel to and from another facility adds its own risks. Bad weather and vehicle trouble can be dangerous, especially for patients who’ve just had surgery.

5

Less time away from home can be a practical necessity. Local farm and ranch families who bring a loved one to Mobridge for a procedure, for example, can usually be home before dinner. Staying overnight out-of-town can also be a financial burden.

6

We’ve worked hard to grow, develop and improve our surgical program. We recruit and retain qualified, committed staff.

7

Just because another facility is bigger doesn’t mean it’s better. “Would you rather go somewhere you walk in as a stranger,” Vandersnick asked, “or would you rather have the comfort of knowing you’ll be taken care of by your friends and neighbors? There’s a comfort level that community members who come here for care really appreciate.”

## Specialty Surgeries at Mobridge

Specialist surgeons work in residence at Mobridge once or twice monthly.

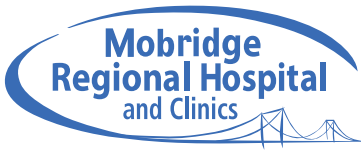
- Ear, nose and throat procedures
- OB/Gyn, such as hysterectomies
- Ophthalmology procedures, such as cataract and eye surgeries
- Orthopedics, such as arthroscopies, carpal tunnel and fracture repair
- Podiatry procedures
- Urology procedures

To schedule an appointment or inquire about any common or specialty procedures—or others that might not specifically be listed—please call us at 605-845-3692.



Chief Nursing Officer Mark Vandersnick and OR Supervisor Robyn Olson, CST, prepare the Olympus Endoscopy Tower, used for endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures.

For more information please call Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics at 605-845-3692.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS & CLASSES



### Blood Drive

Thursday, Nov. 9 • 12:00 - 6:15 p.m.  
 Family Worship Center • 1708 Grand Crossing

### Healthcare Provider CPR Class

Nov. 1 and Dec. 6 • 1 - 3 p.m.  
 MRH&C New Education Center

### Heartsavers CPR & AED Class

Nov. 8 and Dec. 13 • 1 - 5 p.m.  
 MRH&C New Education Center

### Senior Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays • 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

### Senior Strength & Balance for Life

Tuesdays and Fridays • 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Classes are held at Mobridge Senior Citizen Center. Class times and schedule are subject to change.

## Mission:

The mission of Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics is to provide high-quality healthcare services in a compassionate and professional manner for people throughout the region.

## Vision:

To become one of America's finest rural health providers.

*Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, military status, disability, genetic information, ability to pay, or on any other basis that would be in violation of any applicable federal, state, or local law. For a full non-discrimination statement, visit: [mobridgehospital.org/patients-and-visitors/pay-a-bill/non-discrimination-and-privacy-policy](http://mobridgehospital.org/patients-and-visitors/pay-a-bill/non-discrimination-and-privacy-policy).*

## COVID-19 Vaccine Updates at MRH&C:

To schedule an appointment at a vaccination clinic, go to [www.mobridgehospital.org/covid-vaccine-survey/](http://www.mobridgehospital.org/covid-vaccine-survey/)