

## Hospitality Veteran Uwe Werner Named Campus Director of Dining Services at Walpole's New Pond Village

WALTHAM, MA – Benchmark Senior Living has appointed hospitality veteran Uwe Werner as Campus Director of Dining Services at <u>New Pond Village</u> in Walpole, Mass. He has been with Benchmark for more than 10 years in a number of culinary positions of increasing responsibility. Werner is an award-winning, classically trained European chef who began his culinary career more than 20 years ago in his home country of Germany. At New Pond Village, he leads the 45person culinary team serving daily meals to more than 200 residents and guests. He also creates and prepares menus for a variety of social events hosted regularly at this senior living community.

"I am honored to serve the residents of New Pond Village," Werner says. "My goal is to keep our menu interesting for the residents and provide a wide variety of options. I meet with a group of residents regularly to determine their likes and dislikes and incorporate their feedback into my culinary creations. Whether it's much-loved comfort foods like macaroni and cheese, shepherd's pie or more exotic dishes like venison or duck breast topped with sour cherries, I strive to prepare interesting and unique selections for our diners."

Prior to arriving at New Pond Village, Werner served as senior dining services director at a sister Benchmark community, The Falls at Cordingly Dam in Newton, Mass., where he developed signature culinary programs based on the National Wellness Institute's Six Dimensions of Wellness.

"We are excited to have Chef Werner in our kitchen at New Pond Village," says Campus Executive Director Susan Cwieka. "He is dedicated to selecting the finest, freshest ingredients to create an amazing selection for our residents day in and day out. Our foodservice operation is first -rate with him leading the team, and not a day goes by that I don't hear about something delicious coming from our kitchen. We are extremely fortunate to have him with us."

Before Benchmark, Werner worked with Hilton International at five-star restaurants in Berlin, Munich, Brussels and London.

Werner has a bachelor's degree in international hotel and restaurant management from the Hotel Management School in Heidelberg, Germany. He received his certification in baking and pastry from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., and was recognized as a certified chef by Berlin's Hotel Catering School.

Active in food and beverage organizations, including Wine Club, Ale & Lager Society and Bakers Club, Werner lives in Mansfield, Mass, with his two children. A true foodie, one of his favorite hobbies is food photography when he is not spending time outdoors.

## **About Benchmark Senior Living**

Based in Waltham, Mass., Benchmark Senior Living is a leading provider of senior living services in the Northeast. Founded in 1997 by <u>Tom Grape</u> and celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017, Benchmark operates 56 senior living communities offering independent living, assisted living, Alzheimer's care and continuing care in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. The company will open its first community in the state of New York, Whisper Woods at Smithtown, in 2018. Benchmark has been recognized by *The Boston Globe, Boston Business Journal, Connecticut Post, Hartford Courant and Hartford Business Journal* as a top workplace, and by the *Boston Business Journal* and *Providence Business News* as one of the healthiest employers. Visit Benchmark at BenchmarkSeniorLiving.com.

## **About New Pond Village**

New Pond Village is a Benchmark Senior Signature Lifecare community. Located at 180 Main St. in Walpole, Mass., the community was recently voted by Hometown Weekly Newspapers' readers as Best Retirement Residence, taking first place as a hometown winner and second place as a regional winner. For more information, visit <u>www.newpondvillage.com</u> or call 508-660-1555.

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