

To our loyal patients, families and friends:

The last time I wrote our dental family was over the pandemic in 2020. There were many changes, challenges, and unexpected experiences. I wanted to reassure everyone that I would be available for your dental care needs and follow through on my dedication in serving you. This was a time of unknowns, yet I just kept on my path in faith which led me through the ups and downs and losses that occurred. Believe, just believe, I kept telling myself as we all felt during those uncertain times.

Unfortunately, we had more challenges ahead yet to come in 2023 during the celebration of our fifteenth year in practice. We learned we needed to relocate due to the recent loss the Kusina's family experienced. They have been very supportive and gracious in helping us make this transition knowing what a major challenge it is to move a dental practice. We are very grateful for the support of Peggy and Dennis throughout the past decade and half.

So, what happens next?! As some of you might know, commercial properties are not readily available in Charlevoix. We attempted to acquire a property suitable for our practice, but we had obstacles: being outbid, failing inspections, and roadblocks in due diligence ending the only options available at that time. We assumed we might need to close our doors or else relocate to another city, which would have been a major disruption to our patients' care and in losing to our Charlevoix community.

Alas!!! Due to prayers and support of our family and friends, we found a way, 411 Bridge Street!!! It was not easy, but we ensured we would not fail at this opportunity. We placed a bid above asking price to Charlevoix Healthcare Munson Hospital. They accepted!!! Because our new office location is in the city's "retail overlay," we were required to have a retail location right off of Bridge Street. We needed to convince our diligent and hardworking Charlevoix City Council that a dental office could work downtown as long as we made a retail store for our patients, locals and tourists to shop. They accepted the proposal and supported our request!!! Our dental office will be located directly behind the retail shop and will be accessible through the retail location. It will give

you an opportunity to either wait in an area dedicated to the “very important patients” (VIP-of course you are!) or else to simply look around our store.

We will have a new logo and a new name: Lakeview Dentistry of Charlevoix L’Alchimie. L’Alchime is the French word for transformation in health. Our retail shop will carry a variety of wellness focused goods that we have chosen simply because many of these products are in our kitchen or medicine cabinet. They are ones we know and love because of the benefits they have brought to our lives. The majority of our products are high quality, locally sourced or else products from the country of origin, organically grown, considered free-trade, and as much as possible procured from female owned businesses. As a woman business owner, you have trusted me and in that I want to give back to other women who work hard to bring quality products many derived by our mothers, grandmothers, and our mothers before. We trusted them as our healers and helpers, and I hope to share their crafts with you.

For the details, I want to assure you and know downtown can be problematic for us locals, but it will be like any other service we seek from our downtown community like our favorite restaurants. We also have friends, families, and neighbors who work or have businesses downtown. Further, we enjoy our downtown festivities as always! Parking will be available directly in front of the building, street side on Antrim Street, in the parking lot behind the theater off of Antrim Street, and multiple other downtown locations that would require a short walk to our new office. Living in cities, many people are familiar with walking downtown to get to a place of business like a restaurant, retail store, or local coffee shop. We hope this will allow an opportunity for you to have a reason to go downtown and pretend to be a tourist appreciating our beautiful Charlevoix, park, restaurants, and shops. Many of the owners, I consider good friends and hope to meet more of them personally knowing them better, and I hope you will do the same.

As always, we will be striving to provide you with the high quality, comprehensive dental care you have come to expect and deserve. We hope to improve on this practice to allow you to feel more comfortable and experience a calmer place to acquire your care. We will continue to focus on improving overall health through

improved dental technology and educating all of you on cutting edge research that will improve your overall health.

We have been diligently working on what we found as our new home at 411 Bridge Street! Our contractor is confident we will be ready to move in by the end of this May! We are hoping and praying on it!

Thank you for your continued trust and loyalty throughout all these years and for the next fifteen years. I am blessed to have you as my dental family and value each and every one of you. I celebrate this moment as a success for not only my family but also to my very amazing and supportive staff and their families. Karen, Cloe, Tammy and Ondreya have been my rock through this along with my family. I'm so glad we are a team entering this new phase together!!

Abielle Bien- Bee well ;)

Dr. Melissa Makowski, DDS, FAGD