Swing back to 1951. Your phone was a rotary. Your computer was a slide rule or a typewriter. Your car could have been a Packard or Nash as easily as a Ford or Pontiac. Gas was 20 cents a gallon. Harry Truman was president. We had no CT machines or MRI units, just basic X-Rays. Penicillin was still the new miracle drug, having been introduced in the 40’s. Medicine then and medicine today are distant cousins of one another.

Life was much different, including how people worked, dressed, traveled and entertained themselves. Maybe better, maybe not. But the residents of Wood County Ohio needed good healthcare back then, just as

Wood County Hospital

was founded in 1951 with support from community members like Mr. and Mrs. Fred Uhlman Sr., shown here with the hospital’s first administrator, Anna Belle Kinney.

Adopting the slogan, “The Hospital Guild needs you and you need the Hospital Guild,” a membership tea held on March 27, 1954, attracted nearly 800 members and eight activity groups were formed. To date the Guild has contributed over 1.2 million dollars to projects within Wood County Hospital.

The original hospital cost $875,000 and featured 85 beds and 22 bassinets with a staff of 132 full- and part-time employees.

The trust and respect that has accrued over Wood County Hospital’s lifetime has been built on a tradition of “being there” for Wood and Henry County residents — in good times and bad — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Wood County Hospital has always featured expert and caring personnel, as well as state-of-the-art technology for its day, including this X-ray machine being operated in 1961.

Wood County Hospital continued to evolve, with the addition of occupational therapy and speech therapy services.

Drs. D.S. and D.W. Hass were the first surgeons in Northwest Ohio to perform laparoscopic cholecystectomy surgery, in 1989.


In 2016, our 190 physicians and staff of 850+ will treat more than 133,000 patients. While our size has increased and the variety of treatments we provide has expanded, one thing hasn’t changed: our community can depend on us for high-quality care for every patient at Wood County Hospital.

Recent additions and expansions, including the Maurer Family Cancer Center and the updated ICU, offer new opportunities to help people who would have otherwise had to travel longer distances to receive care.

We’re proud to be a part of this community, and we’re excited as we look forward to serving you and your family for the next 65 years.
In this issue of Healthy Outlook, you will learn more about our history, and about taking the next steps in carrying out our mission of service to the community. We’re excited about opening our new Intensive Care Unit, and about the recognition WCH has received for excellence in patient safety, patient satisfaction, and information technology. Most importantly it is great to celebrate 65 years of serving you, and to think about the next 65 to come. How sweet it is!

Sincerely,
Stanley R. Korducki
President

Although initially we drew down some federal funds through the Hill Burton program the vast majority of funding for WCH came from the roots of the community, our citizens.

The strong core of today’s Wood County Hospital comes from these beginnings and the determination of our community to provide excellent health care right here at home. As medicine has evolved, we’ve evolved, too. We are proud to offer patients access to a broad range of medical and surgical specialties, cancer care, pediatrics, and rehabilitation. The team of physicians, nurses, allied health professionals and staff here is passionate about their mission, and excellent in the care they provide.

In the 2000s, we do today. And they were determined to make it happen.

History tells of many efforts beginning in the 1920s to create a city hospital for residents of BG and the surrounding countryside. These continued through the Great Depression and then the 40s. The persistence paid off in 1951 when the community was able to open Wood County Hospital aided in large part by a major gift from local businessman Fred Uhlman, Sr. and many contributions from local citizens.

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Access to high-quality healthcare shouldn’t depend on where you live. With the dedicated staff, resources, services and facilities of Wood County Hospital (WCH), you can rest assured that you’ll receive superior care close to home.

When people think of a hospital they often think of emergency or surgery services. And while we provide both, they’re just small pieces of the larger story. In addition to our expanded emergency department, and recently renovated Surgery Center, WCH’s newly updated ICU will open this fall. Just as our physical facilities have expanded, so have our technological capabilities. Our investments in systems infrastructure allow us to provide cutting-edge treatment options with advanced techniques and state-of-the-art equipment. We use the same equipment as much larger urban hospitals. These healthcare advancements contribute to faster recovery times and improved patient outcomes without the need to leave your community.

We’re proud of our facilities and technology updates, but they are just buildings and equipment until they are utilized by the staff that provides your care. Our highly trained and qualified physicians and providers are skilled in the latest treatments and procedures. And we encourage their continual growth and development through training, certifications, seminars, and other educational opportunities. This helps ensure that our staff will be able to provide the best possible care now and in the future.

As part of our commitment to our community, we take a proactive approach to your health by offering a wide variety of resources, classes and community events. Education and prevention go a long way to improve your quality of life. At Wood County Hospital, you can depend on us to be your partner in health.
When you’re admitted to a hospital for an illness or injury, it’s important to know that the staff members are doing everything they can to ensure a positive experience.

In May, Wood County Hospital received both the Outstanding Patient Safety Excellence Award and the Outstanding Patient Experience Award from Healthgrades for the third year in a row.

The Patient Safety Excellence Award recognizes hospitals that prevent infections, errors and other complications during a patient’s stay. Patients at hospitals that received this award have a lower risk of complications.

Healthgrades estimates that the number of patient safety events could have been reduced by more than 270,000 last year if all reviewed hospitals performed as well as Wood County Hospital and others that received the award.

According to Healthgrades, recipients of this award usually have superior patient outcomes in specialty areas, including spinal surgery, orthopedics, pulmonary care, and cardiac surgery.

The Outstanding Patient Experience Award is given to hospitals that rank highly in 10 categories, including staff communication, cleanliness, and quality of instructions for post-discharge care. It measures what matters most to patients for a positive hospital stay.

Healthgrades found that top-performing hospitals routinely monitor what patients find important and then adjust their priorities accordingly.

Wood County Hospital Director of Quality and Accreditation Dawn Mason said the hospital surveys patients in two ways: first, with a paper survey, and then with a post-visit call to ask how they are doing and how they would rate their stay.

Mason said phone interviews allow patients to discuss items not included on a written survey, which helps the team adjust in order to better meet patient needs.

The awards are based on patient responses to the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey collected over seven years by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Healthgrades program.

For more information, go to Healthgrades.com.
Surgical Specialties: Providing Superior Service

When you or a loved one needs surgery, you want it performed at a facility you trust; a facility with surgeons, nurses and staff who truly care about you; a facility with state-of-the-art technology to support the most advanced procedures.

You want Wood County Hospital (WCH).

The Surgery Center at WCH was relocated and renovated in 2010 to provide a superior level of care for patients. The new addition included six surgical suites and four procedure rooms with the latest technology and equipment.

“The technology we offer our surgeons and the community is as good as, and many times better than, you will find in any urban medical center,” said Mike Bozzo, BSN, RN, Director of Perioperative Services. “It includes high-definition video imaging and state-of-the-art laparoscopic and endoscopic instruments that enhance the surgeon’s capability.”

“The O.R. staff I am privileged to work with has incredible skills and makes working at WCH special,” said Dr. Salvador Peron. “They allow a doctor to work at their full potential to improve the quality of a patient’s life.”

Mr. Bozzo added, “Our department offers a wide range of surgical services. What truly makes us better than our competition is that our warm, caring staff is fully invested in the community they serve. That enhances the patient experience and can also positively impact patient outcomes.”

The skilled staff at WCH is experienced in a wide variety of surgical specialties, including orthopedic, vascular, ENT (ear, nose, and throat), urology, and many others.

Urologist Dr. Salvador Peron treats diseases related to the urinary tract and male reproductive organs. Urology requires a broad knowledge base to diagnose and treat a range of issues both surgically and non-surgically, such as incontinence, kidney stones, and a variety of cancers.

“I chose Urology because it allows me to use the best knowledge I have of medicine and surgery to make the patient better. Urology is the one branch of medicine that allows me to be a surgeon and internal medicine doctor at the same time. We are also able to be good medical doctors and sometimes prevent surgeries, which I feel is an excellent quality of this specialty.”

WCH is proud to care for patients in Bowling Green and throughout Wood County. You’ll receive expert-level care with compassion.

“The WCH difference starts from the time a patient comes through the doors and is greeted by the person who registers them,” added Dr. Peron, “and it continues with the nurses on the floor who provide great care and kindness.”
Emphasizing CARE in Our New Intensive Care Unit

Hopefully, you’ll never have to see the inside of Wood County Hospital’s new Intensive Care Unit. But if you do, you can trust that, more than ever, your care and comfort will be our first priority.

The improved ICU will soon have ten larger rooms, and the technology and infrastructure enhancements will allow for advanced treatment options, now and into the future.

Sue Brezina, MSN RN, is the Director of the ICU. She’s spent her entire 35-year nursing career at Wood County Hospital. “The physical improvements of the new ICU will provide a patient care area that’s more conducive to safe, efficient, family-centered care.”

She’s also excited about technology updates because “Nurses will now be able to integrate data from our beds to the Clinical Information System (CIS) and to the nurse call system. Our bedside monitors and ventilators will also communicate with CIS, reducing documentation time and increasing the time available for patient care.”

We recognize the importance of family support. And we realize that, more than ever, family has many different meanings. Maybe for you it’s a brother, a friend, a fiancé, a life partner or a caregiver. In the new ICU, loved ones will be welcome, no matter which definition of family you use. It’s all part of our renewed emphasis on providing greater care in our Intensive Care Unit.

Sue Brezina also noted that “The visitation policy will allow family and support people to be involved in the patient’s care. The improvement will promote education, understanding of disease processes, and preparation for discharge.”

We’re also placing more emphasis on the health and comfort of our patients’ visitors. So we’re adding sleeping sofas to each patient room and offering amenities that will help make this difficult time a little more bearable. Having a loved one in the ICU is emotionally difficult; it shouldn’t be physically taxing, too.

One thing that won’t change in our ICU is the unparalleled, specialized care that our patients and visitors receive. “We have an extraordinary family atmosphere here,” said Sue, “and we deliver a very high level of care. Our motto is ‘depend on us,’ and I truly believe our patients can do just that.”

“This physical improvements of the new ICU will provide a patient care area that’s more conducive to safe, efficient, family-centered care.”

Sue Brezina, MSN RN ICU Director
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