



# HEALTHY OUTLOOK

*70th Anniversary*



1951 **70** 2021  
*years*

WE'RE CONTINUALLY EXPANDING

*Our 21st Century Care*

**Thanks to new joint ventures, physicians and technologies, we're offering our communities the very highest level of care. Because we and our partners practice independently of large health systems with high overhead costs, that care is also extremely cost-effective for our patients.**

We've partnered with The Toledo Clinic on a new venture called Independence Health. Its Life Path Employer Services offers NW Ohio schools and businesses cost-effective healthcare for their workers. Through preventive care, rehabilitation services and employee engagement and assistance programs, we help organizations reduce absenteeism and boost productivity.

Led by Medical Director Lawrence Monger Jr., MD, the partnership helps our clients hold down costs by outsourcing their employees' primary care, urgent care, nutrition, occupational health, physical therapy and behavioral health needs. Patients can be seen at Falcon Health Center as well as at our Perrysburg office.

*Article continued on page 5.*



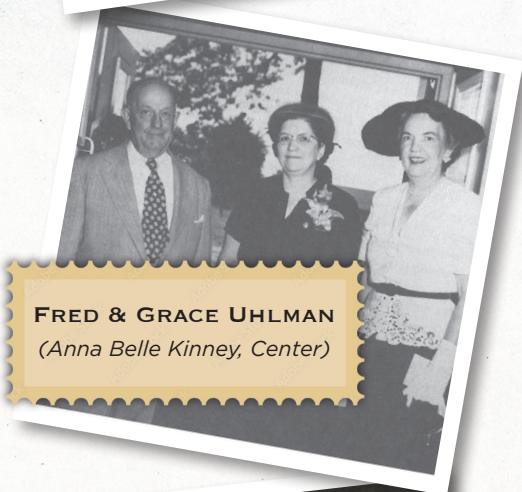


**COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
1939**

*(Photo by Sentinel Tribune)*



## WE'VE COME A LONG WAY IN 70 YEARS



**FRED & GRACE UHLMAN**

*(Anna Belle Kinney, Center)*

Hospitals and healthcare bear little resemblance today to their forerunners at the turn of the last century. In fact, the first structure in town that even resembled a hospital was the Bowling Green Sanitarium and Hospital on Prospect Street. Built sometime between 1910 and 1920, it accepted patients but was known more for its public baths.

In the 1930s, two enterprising local women opened competing hospitals to serve their growing community. Betty Riggs bought a house on W. Wooster Street and called it Community Hospital, while Mrs. Clara Charlton opened the eight-bed General Hospital on Main Street. Both offered simple surgeries such as tonsillectomies and delivered babies. Blood transfusions were done directly “man to man,” matching blood as best they could.

Bowling Green State University boasted its own 36-bed hospital at that time, too. Known as Johnson Hospital, it treated students and staff but opened its doors to outside patients when school wasn’t in session.

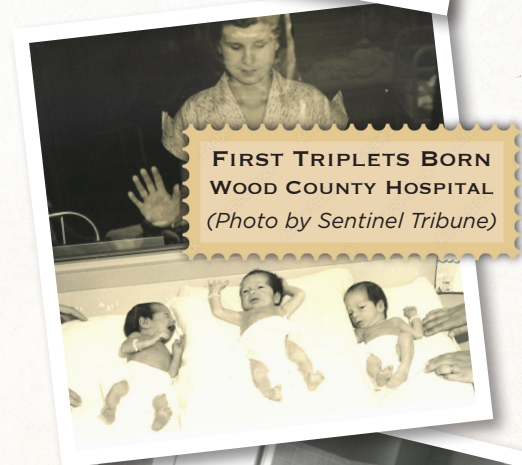
For at least two decades before Wood County Hospital was built in 1951, medical and community leaders pushed hard for a proper hospital. The voters, however, kept turning them down. They even commissioned an architect’s rendering in the late 30’s or early 40’s, but the planned building never saw the light of day.

Our original hospital was funded by blankets and bazaars by, Fred Uhlman Sr., a local businessman. In 1947, his daughter Virginia was on a buying trip in New York and stumbled on a boatload of quality Australian blankets. Fred had her buy the whole shipment, which he promptly sold for a tidy profit. Faced with a large tax bill, he offered to donate \$100,000 toward a new hospital in Bowling Green.

He eventually gave another \$300,000, enough to fund a third of the cost to build the hospital. Another third came from church bazaars, dances and auctions, and the final third came from the federal government. That funding turned the tide with voters, and the hospital opened in 1951.

At that time, we had 55 beds, 15 doctors, 40 nurses, one x-ray machine and around 100 employees. Surgeons performed everything from urology to C-sections to setting a hip. Family practitioners handled obstetrics. The average fee per day was \$20 and covered room, board, x-rays and lab work. A nurse remembers being paid \$1.09/hour.

The following decades were filled with firsts. We delivered our first triplets in 1953, we added our east wing the next year, followed by the first and second floors of our north wing in 1960.



**FIRST TRIPLETS BORN  
WOOD COUNTY HOSPITAL**

*(Photo by Sentinel Tribune)*



**SURGICAL TEAM  
C. 1970**

*Article continued on page 9.*

Sourced info from: Sentinel Tribune and “It started with doctors on horseback: A history of medicine, marking the 50th anniversary of Wood County Hospital”, Roger Chapman



# WE'RE CONTINUALLY EXPANDING *Our 21st Century Care*

Continued from cover.

## ELEVATING CARE FOR CANCER

The Maurer Family Cancer Care Center at Wood County Hospital continues to offer patients the most advanced technology to treat cancer. The most recent technology offered to our patients is radiosurgery. Radiosurgery allows for precise radiation treatment of small lesions in the brain without surgically opening the brain.

The physician initially works to target the lesion by mapping the brain and arranging for a very high dose of radiation to hit only the tumor while preserving the healthy cells around it. Special infrared cameras in the treatment room monitor the patient's head position during treatment, along with a customized form, assures the patient's head remains in the same position. Radiation beams automatically shut off if even a slight shift of the head is detected. Additionally, a



specialized table with six degrees of movement allows the patient to be moved for precise radiation. Each treatment requires two therapists, a medical physicist and a physician present in the control room to monitor the treatment.

This technology is delivered in a single visit. This eliminates a very invasive brain surgery and many weeks of conventional radiation therapy treatments. The patient experiences fewer side effects than surgery and conventional radiation therapy and has no pain during the treatment.

The advanced technology was made possible by a grant from the Wood County Hospital Foundation. If you would like to learn more about contributing to the Foundation, visit our website [www.woodcountyhospital.org/our-foundation/](http://www.woodcountyhospital.org/our-foundation/)

*“I have been doing treatments for 40 years. Thinking about then vs. now is just amazing as we have come so far in cancer treatment.”*

—Julie Rehard, RTT,  
The Maurer Family Cancer Care Center

## TREATING BACK PAIN WITH A UNIQUE TEAM APPROACH

Those who suffer from chronic spine pain often bounce between specialists as they seek lasting relief. The Center for Pain and Spine Management brings those disciplines together, from pain management and spine surgery to chiropractic care, rehabilitation and behavioral health... even the latest neuropathy interventional procedures.

The group is led by Joseph Atallah,



MD, a board certified anesthesiologist and pain management specialist. He is joined by Orthopedic and Spine Surgeon Thomas Andreshak, MD, Chiropractic Physician Mickey Frame, DC, and an expert, multidisciplinary team of nurse practitioners, physical therapists, radiologists, psychologists and dietitians, all working together to restore maximum function and pain relief.

## EXPANDING THE HOSPITAL'S SURGICAL EXPERTISE

Today, there is even less reason to leave our community for advanced surgical care. Along with our current surgeons, Peter Lalor, M.D., FACS, FASMBS, Douglas Hess, MD and Michael Bielefeld, MD, F.A.C.S. we've added additional surgeons with different areas of expertise: Sanjiv Bais, MD; Sarath Palakodeti, DO; Robert Palmer, MD; and Dana-Rachael Smith, MD - all Toledo Clinic General Surgeons.

Dr. Palakodeti brings new cosmetic surgery capabilities (such as tummy tucks, arm lifts, and breast lifts and reductions). The other three surgeons augment the expertise of our excellent neurology, oral, maxillofacial, bariatric, breast, orthopedic, vascular, thoracic and podiatric surgeons, assuring our patients shorter wait times for surgeries from head to toe.

*Continued on page 8.*

*70th Anniversary*

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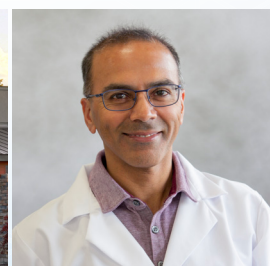
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## NEW ENT ADVANCEMENTS OFFER COMPLEX CARE CLOSE TO HOME

Wood County Hospital ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) now offers equipment and expertise usually found only at large, regional teaching hospitals. From dizziness to allergies to sinus disorders, they offer leading-edge technology right in Bowling Green.

According to Otolaryngologist Afser Shariff, MD, Wood County Hospital will now be able to handle nine out of ten ENT surgeries. "These include advanced ear surgeries using the latest high-end equipment and middle-ear prosthetics," said Shariff. "Later this year, we're purchasing equipment for advanced nasal and sinus surgeries." The practice also introduced a new 3-D navigational system that creates a computer model of a patient's head, allowing innovative surgeries on the head, eye, ear and sinus.

As increased wet weather patterns breed more mold and weeds, more people are suffering from nasal issues associated with allergies. "We also have new tests to help



Afser Shariff, MD

people identify which pets will be appropriate for allergy sufferers in their household," he said.

"We're developing relationships with speech and language professionals for our elderly population," said Shariff. "We can help resolve swallowing dysfunction and spasmodic dysphonia, which creates a shaky voice."

Thanks to the hospital's collaboration with Nationwide Children's, we'll also have the capabilities to treat more complicated pediatric issues right here in BG.



## PARTNERING WITH NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S FOR TOP NEONATAL & PEDIATRIC CARE

*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.<sup>SM</sup>*

This is an exciting year for our community's kids. We now offer families the expertise and resources of Nationwide Children's, ranked in the top 10 of "Best Children's Hospitals" by U.S. News & World Report and one of the Top 10 National Institutes of pediatric research. Our new partnership builds on the excellent care provided by WCH pediatricians and obstetricians, giving them access to advanced education and training, the latest clinical trails and research and direct consultations with Nationwide specialists.



Our two hospitals will also work together to recruit pediatricians for our Wood County Medical Associates pediatric office. This allows us to attract the same level of physician talent once reserved for the nation's top-rated hospitals.

As part of this alliance, WCH will transform rooms in our Emergency Department to pediatric-only ER rooms. Our emergency team will be supported 24/7 by a Physician Direct Connect Line, a "hotline" in the ER that allows our physicians to speak directly with a Nationwide physician within minutes. All WCH pediatricians and obstetrics nursing staff are also Neonatal Resuscitation Program certified, and our pediatric nursing staff are certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

This partnership means that local families don't have to travel to receive highly specialized, cost-effective care. Children can receive all treatment locally without having to be transferred to Columbus.

*...Nationwide Children's, ranked in the top 10 of "Best Children's Hospitals" by U.S. News & World Report and one of the Top 10 National Institutes of pediatric research.*





# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Stan Korducki, FACS, has served as president and chief executive officer of Wood County Hospital for the past 20 years.*

Our 70th birthday is at hand. It is a significant milestone for any community hospital but especially impressive given the challenges small community hospitals have in staying viable, relevant and independent.

I am blessed to have served Wood County Hospital now for 25 years. Before that, my career placed me in other hospitals in other states of different sizes and missions. While they all offered positive contributions to their communities, I marvel at the contrast with our hospital.

It all started many years ago with a simple idea - give us who work and live in Wood County a hospital of our own. Provide care right here for all of us and our families. This sounds easy, but history tells us that our community worked for several decades in the effort to work through what this hospital should be, and more significantly, how to find the money to pay for it.

Community leaders, volunteers and hospital advocates worked for years to make this happen. But despite countless hours of planning and thinking, several failed levy votes, and countless other efforts, the dream of a local hospital seemed out of reach. Then a key leader stepped up.

Fred Uhlman, a local businessman, came forward in 1947 with a gift of \$100,000 initially and he later gave another \$300,000. I still think of that as a nice sum of money, but it was almost a fortune in the 1940's. Other gifts, both large and small, followed, and in 1951, our doors opened to the community. But that is only the start.

Over the decades, Wood County Hospital has continued to evolve as a community hospital offering a wide range of preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative services. Hand in hand with this growth is the growth of our medical staff which now numbers almost 250 providers.

Since those early days, our growth has required ongoing

additions to our physical plant and bringing to the community new drugs, instruments and technologies to advance patient care. We have been blessed in this effort by tremendous philanthropic support from the community. Generous donors, such as the Keil sisters, helped establish our Wood County Hospital Foundation. And over the past seven decades, the Wood County Hospital Guild has been a constant source of support for advancing the hospital.

The Guild's history is an illustration of volunteerism in action. Guild members have worked to raise funds to meet critical hospital and patient care needs. At times, these were smaller items such as infant warmers and heart monitors. But Guild funds have supported many significant additions to the hospital, such as our Women's Center, which offers mammography, ultrasound, bone densitometry and our meditation center which provides families and patients a quiet private place for reflection and prayer.

A look at today's Wood County Hospital finds a community hospital with advanced and state-of-the-art equipment. The hospital offers the latest technology for radiation therapy, robotic surgery, anesthesia and telemetry. Professional staff provide a wide range of outpatient services, including rehabilitation, wound care, cardiac rehab, pain management and sleep studies. The surgery center offers patients many surgical specialties, including general surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, urology, gynecology, vascular medicine and bariatrics.

Today's hospital looks very different from our original version of 1951. The delivery of medicine has changed dramatically and requires more facilities, additional tools and therapies. However, one constant is the individuals providing care and support. The original team that opened Wood County Hospital in 1951 brought skill, compassion and commitment to their work with patients and families. Today's WCH team brings the same high level of talent, passion and commitment to serving our community - a very clear link between our beginning and the present. These professionals are here to begin the next 70 years of service to Wood County, making good on our promise that people can "Depend on Us."

## WOOD COUNTY HOSPITAL CHIEFS OF STAFF

- |                                       |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1951-1964</b> Frank V. Boyle       | <b>1983-1985</b> Woong S. Kim         | <b>2005-2007</b> Michael J. Lemon      |
| <b>1964-1966</b> Raymond N. Whitehead | <b>1985-1987</b> Benjamin C. Tancinco | <b>2007-2009</b> Michael J. Lemon      |
| <b>1966-1967</b> Herman E. Mannhardt  | <b>1987-1989</b> Marjorie E. Conrad   | <b>2009-2011</b> Elizabeth A. Horrigan |
| <b>1967-1969</b> James R. Janney      | <b>1989-1991</b> Said A. Shehata      | <b>2011-2013</b> Ian T. Leggat         |
| <b>1969-1971</b> Roger A. Peatee      | <b>1991-1993</b> Robert G. Neville    | <b>2013-2015</b> Peter F. Lalor        |
| <b>1971-1973</b> Donald L. Gamble     | <b>1993-1995</b> Josefina P. Garcia   | <b>2015-2017</b> Shawn S. Stansbery    |
| <b>1973-1975</b> William H. Roberts   | <b>1995-1997</b> Richard D. Barker    | <b>2017-2019</b> John C. Davis         |
| <b>1975-1977</b> Paul R. Overhulse    | <b>1997-1999</b> Jose N Guerra        | <b>2019-2021</b> John C. Davis         |
| <b>1977-1979</b> David G. Miller      | <b>1999-2001</b> Jeffrey M. LaPorte   | <b>2021- 2023</b> Michael J. Bielefeld |
| <b>1979-1981</b> Robert J. Blough     | <b>2001-2003</b> Brent C. DeVries     |  |
| <b>1981-1983</b> Douglas S. Hess      | <b>2003-2005</b> Michael J. Bielefeld |  |





# Moving Forward

## OVER THE PAST 70 YEARS

**From the beginning, Wood County Hospital made the commitment to provide a tradition of personalized care, expertise and technology.**

The first efforts to build a municipal hospital began back in 1928 with the first petition. It was defeated multiple times but that did not stop community leaders from starting to raise funds for a new hospital. From the start, these leaders paved the way for the mission of the hospital to provide the highest quality care through safety, expertise, innovation and solid business practices creating a network of providers and locations for the community to receive leading-edge care.

In the past 70 years, the hospital has evolved and grown. Our hospital has always been a place where people find meaning and purpose. Through the decades, the values of the hospital - collaboration, integrity, respect, compassion, loyalty and excellence, have shown bright through tornados, blizzards, recessions, a pandemic and so much more.



**August 14, 1951.** Wood County Hospital opened its doors with a total of 54 beds and between 90-125 employees and 15 physicians on staff.

1950's







12,600 square feet added to the third floor, maternity renovation, new oncology center. Highest inpatient count of 180 at one time due to the flu epidemic.



Renovation of admissions, emergency room, lab and physical therapy.



Added 42 beds, 4 bed coronary unit, 4 bed ICU, new surgery suite with 8 bed recovery room, expansion of lobby, offices and pharmacy storage. First bariatric surgery completed.



## 1960's

## 1970's

## 1980's

## 1990's



WCH added 43 beds, physical therapy, expanded lab and new ER.



**80's DYK** - Two Saudi Arabian patients flew to the United States and traveled to WCH to receive a balloon angioplasty from Dr. Said Shehata, a general and vascular surgeon. One of the patients was a prince.







## 2000's

## 2010's

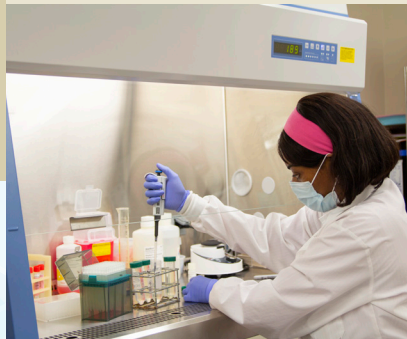
## 2020's



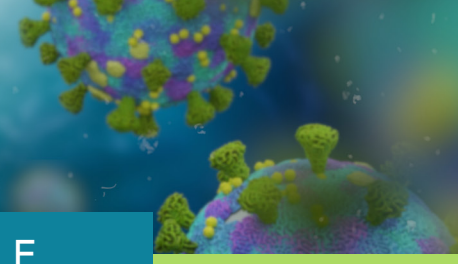
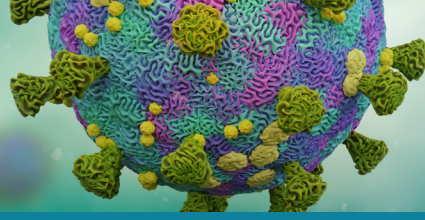
OB upgrade, new rehab building, diagnostics area, powerhouse, sleep disorders center and new front entrance.

10 new surgical and procedure rooms and 56 private rooms completed. Robotic surgery was introduced. The Falcon Health Center was built in partnership with BGSU. The Maurer Family Cancer Care Center, Women's Center & Wound Healing Centers opened. The ICU was renovated to offer 10 beds.

Independence Health was created with The Toledo Clinic. In response to the pandemic, WCH invested in PCR testing, the best technology in COVID-19 testing.







## OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

# WAS SWIFT & CUTTING-EDGE

As it became clear that COVID-19 testing and vaccines could save countless lives, Wood County Hospital stepped to the forefront of the fight. During spring 2020, it was taking up to 12 days to get test results and the process was very expensive. That's when Lab Administrative Director Karen Coppens began exploring real-time PCR testing, a very sophisticated four-hour test that's usually available only at large metropolitan health systems. In fact, the closest hospital with the same technology was at OSU.

By August, the Board approved the purchase of PCR instruments from Thermo Fisher Scientific. "We hired someone with biochemical expertise to get us up and running quickly and trained three of our providers to help. We started performing the tests in October, doing about 600 to 700 tests a week," said Coppens.

"No hospital I've ever worked at has offered real-time PCR," said Coppens. "We've done over 21,000 tests for BGSU students, faculty, local employers and community members."

Our vaccine response has been just as robust. WCH registered for the vaccines in November 2020 and had shots in arms by Christmas. We scheduled clinics every day, starting with our employees, then extended it to the public based on risk factors and age.



It took a tremendous amount of planning to ramp up so quickly. The Wood County Hospital team converted three of the hospital's meeting rooms into a vaccine clinic. They also offered offsite clinics at BG Middle School for all teachers in February, giving out over 860 doses in one day.

"To date, we've given over 14,000 vaccinations," said Todd Leopold, Pharmacy director. "About 52% of Wood County has received at least one dose, and WCH is responsible for 20% of those."

We now offer vaccines at the Falcon Health Center. If you haven't received your vaccine yet, we invite you to join us in fighting this pandemic and saving lives.

## WE'VE COME A LONG WAY IN 70 YEARS

*Continued from page 3.*

In 1970, the third floor to that wing and physical therapy was built. In the 1980s, we also expanded obstetrics with then-innovative features like birthing rooms, sibling visitation and larger patient rooms.

By 1983, our 450-member staff consisted of 40 physicians including four internists, three pediatricians, one urologist, one ophthalmologist, two orthopedic surgeons and three obstetricians. The cost of a day's stay rose to \$280.

Today, with a staff of over 800 and 250 physicians we celebrate our 70th anniversary. We are grateful for the visionary community leaders who believed in the value of quality healthcare close to home and never gave up pushing for our hospital.



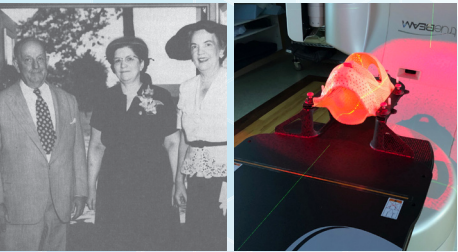
PHYSICAL THERAPY  
1990

*70th Anniversary*





# HEALTHY OUTLOOK



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