



Insight

At the dawn of its second century, a tower rises...

WAYNE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BUILDING FOR YOU

New patient tower on track
for mid-2019 opening



PROGRESS UPDATE

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS in an old mansion on Court Street, the hospital is now engaged in its biggest expansion in history: construction of an 85,000 square foot, 50-room private patient tower. Work began in September 2017, and despite weather and a few below-ground setbacks, the tower is “coming along,” as Facility Services Director John Conte puts it.

The new tower will be comprised of three floors: two patient floors and a shell space for future use. In addition to modern technology, such as advanced “white boards” for patient information and an advanced call bell system inside the private, single-occupancy rooms, the design incorporates multiple nursing areas and a meditation or relaxation room on each floor. Floor finishes will help reduce noise, and patient safety, infection control and security updates will be implemented to increase patient satisfaction.

A new main entrance will be an expansion of the former outpatient entrance. The main lobby will include private registration areas and a new Auxiliary gift shop. Elevators will be installed near the end of the construction to connect to the upper floors. Bridge structures also are being placed to join the current building with the new tower. The current main entrance will become a drop-off station for nursing home vans, county transportation buses and the like. Inpatient traffic will also exit from this door.

A glass-enclosed walkway will run alongside the front of the building and abut the Verizon building to bring people from the road to the hospital’s entrances and back again.

The \$44-million dollars to finance the new tower—and interior renovations—has been raised through prudent and innovative avenues, including bonds backed by Wayne County, state and federal grants and loans at low-interest rates.

“We are pleased to be able to build this for our patients and our community,” said CEO David Hoff, “it will greatly reduce the potential for infection and increase patient privacy and communications between the patient and his/her clinical team. It is a strategic imperative to our continued success.”

“When this new tower is completed, it will make quite a statement.”

—John Conte, Director Facility Services/Real Estate

INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

While the work outside transpires, renovation construction has been underway inside. Close to \$35,000 worth of demolition, expansion and reconstruction has taken place throughout many parts of the hospital. Chemotherapy was expanded and private infusion areas were incorporated into the new space. Wound Care relocated to a more spacious accommodation in 2 West. Other areas of renovation include:

- Expansion of Same Day Surgery Recovery area
- New dressing rooms in Radiology
- New IV prep room and “hot” waiting room (for nuclear med patients) in Radiology
- Expanded observation area in New Beginnings
- New X-ray equipment in the Emergency Department
- Cafeteria renovation, estimated date of completion August 2018
- Pre-op Holding area renovations
- Pneumatic tube from Emergency Department to Laboratory to expedite specimen analysis

As of June 2018, two-thirds of the above has been completed and reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Staff has reacted positively to the changes—“We really like our new space,” said Amy Krempasky, RN, clinical supervisor Wound Care, “and our patients do as well. They comment all the time.”

PARKING CHANGES

For safety reasons, patient and visitor parking has been relocated to across Park Street (Route 6) since the construction began, and that is not expected to change until the project is completed. To accommodate traffic safety, a WMH security officer escorts people across the sometimes-busy street throughout the day. Wheelchairs are available on both sides of the street.

“We appreciate the patience of everyone as we work to complete our new private patient tower,” said CEO David Hoff, who added, “I’m happy to say that many people tell us they know it’s worth it.”

The hospital also opened a new outpatient blood draw site on Route 191 and encouraged people to use its many satellite offices for services such as X-ray, ultrasound and blood work.

Going forward, the hospital will have to shut down the upper lot currently used by employees when the main lobby is under construction and the finishing touches are about to be started.

“We will do our best to accommodate all our patients, visitors and staff during that time,” said Conte, “and we will give you notice to prepare.”



Local Students Benefit from Nursing Scholarships

TWO FAMILIES WITH ties to Wayne Memorial Hospital and a shared desire to assist individuals pursuing a career in the field of nursing, have helped make the road to higher education a reality for four graduates of the 2018 Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) Nursing Program. Mandy Batalin, Kim Verderber, Jennifer Stitt and Kathryn Nielsen were selected as recipients of scholarship funds in memory of the Patton family and Cathy Collins, RN. All four graduated this May from the LCCC program at Wayne Memorial Hospital.

The Patton Memorial Nursing Scholarship, an endowment in honor of Dr. Howard R. and Marian C. Patton by their children, has benefited nursing students since 2010. The Cathy Collins Scholarship, now in its second year, was created in memory of long-time Wayne Memorial nurse and LCCC nursing instructor who passed away in 2015.

"I know my wife would have been proud," said Jamie Collins, Cathy's husband. "I've heard wonderful things about this group from the instructors."

Although this is the final class of the LCCC Nursing Program at Wayne Memorial Hospital, plans to award scholarships from both the Patton family and Collins family to aspiring nurses living in the Wayne Memorial Hospital service area will continue.

"Our parents had great respect for nurses and the countless ways they contribute to healthcare. My siblings and I are so very happy to support future nursing professionals," stated Joanne Patton who spoke to Wayne Memorial by phone. "Education is what transforms lives."

Photo: Front row, left to right, Mary Kate Ruddy, RN, nursing instructor, LCCC Nursing Program; Mandy Batalin; Kim Verderber; Jennifer Stitt; Kathryn Nielsen; Jamie Collins; Mary Theobald; Bill Theobald and Charles Curtin, Honesdale National Bank. Back row: Jack Dennis, executive director, Wayne Memorial Health Foundation and David Hoff, CEO, Wayne Memorial Hospital.

CONTRIBUTIONS

September 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018

Wayne Memorial Health Foundation accepts tax-deductible gifts throughout the year from individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations for the benefit of the Wayne Memorial Health System, Wayne Memorial Hospital and Wayne Memorial Long-Term Care.

Contributions from a generous and caring community are vital to sustaining well trained personnel and modern equipment and facilities. Memorials and gifts in honor of a family member or friend, and gifts recognizing an anniversary or other occasion, are ideal ways to express love, respect and honor for those your questions about special occasion gifts and other contributions to Jack Dennis, Executive Director, Wayne Memorial Health Foundation, at (570) 251-6533.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers Awarded for Quality



MEMBERS OF WAYNE Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC) Quality and Administrative Teams are shown with a Certificate of Achievement from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. The award indicates that WMCHC has “achieved the best overall clinical performance among all health centers and placed in the top 30 percent of the rankings for Clinical Quality Measures.”

A framed copy of the certificate will be posted in every WMCHC physician office as a testimonial to the exemplary service and commitment to quality demonstrated by all the organization’s providers and office staff on a daily basis. “Credit for achieving this level of quality is something we need to share,” stated Frederick Jackson, executive director, WMCHC. “Without dedication from all our employees, we wouldn’t be meeting these high standards.”

Left to right: Chelsea Lucchesi, quality specialist; Michelle Corrigan, RN, wellness & clinical care coordinator; Norma Nocilla, BSHA, LPN, CPHQ, quality director; Frederick Jackson, executive director and Erica Brown, administrative assistant.

Honesdale Behavioral Health Expands Facilities



ALTHOUGH STILL **LOCATED** within the Stourbridge Professional Complex at 600 Maple Avenue, the Honesdale Behavioral Health Center officially relocated to the second floor of the building April 30, 2018. Behavioral Health’s new space is nearly 4,500 square feet larger than its former physical location. The expansion was made possible by a \$1,000,000 Health

Infrastructure Investment Grant awarded to Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC) from the Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the summer of 2016.

The spacious and brightly-colored outpatient center includes 12 therapy offices, a multi-purpose room for group and family therapy, separate check-in and discharge areas for patient privacy and a waiting room to accommodate both its young and adult patients by featuring a dedicated play area to occupy children as they wait for their appointment.

An open house of the expanded facility is planned for later this summer.

Photo: The waiting room in Honesdale Behavioral Health Center’s current office affords ample space for an interactive play area for children to help pass time and reduce anxiety prior to seeing their provider.

More Patients May Be Eligible for Stroke Treatment

WAYNE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, a certified Primary Stroke Center, announced that some stroke patients who were previously ineligible for certain treatments may now qualify. New guidelines, issued earlier this year by the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association, are expected to help more people who experience an ischemic stroke (stroke due to a blockage in an artery). The new guidelines extend the time the clot busting medication known as tPA (IV alteplase) can be administered. The former window, three hours, has been extended to four and one-half hours after a stroke. This means that more patients may be eligible for tPA and the restoration of blood flow to their brain.

Researchers also found that increasing the window for a treatment known as mechanical clot removal can also benefit some patients. The window had been six hours, but may be beneficial up to 24 hours after the onset of a stroke for patients who meet certain criteria. Mechanical clot removal involves the use of a special catheter threaded through an artery to remove the clot responsible for the stroke. James Pettinato, director of Patient Care Services, called this positive news for ischemic stroke patients.

"It means that at Wayne Memorial Hospital more patients will be eligible for advanced care," said Pettinato. He added that patients who qualify for tPA can be treated here at the hospital, but patients who require mechanical removal of their clot would need to be transferred to a comprehensive stroke center.

Photo: Dr. Patrick Pugliese, Medical Director of the Emergency Department, stands next to telemedicine equipment



Building a New Health Center in Forest City

THE FORMER AMERICAN Legion Post 524 building located at 100 Dundaff Street in Forest City will be razed, thus, making way for Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC) to build a new state-of-the-art Family Health Center.

The over 5,000 square feet of new construction will include seven exam rooms, provider offices, a separate treatment room and facilities for laboratory services. The structure comes at a price tag in excess of \$1 million, a worthy investment according to WMCHC Executive Director Frederick Jackson.

"The office space we are currently utilizing in Vandling does not have the physical capacity to meet patient demand and lacks adequate parking," stated Jackson. "Additionally, because it is outside of Forest City proper it makes access difficult for patients without transportation."

WMCHC will receive some financial support for construction costs! Just recently announced, the Moses Taylor Foundation has approved the health center's request for a grant in the amount of \$100,000 toward building of the facility.

Jackson indicated the new site is not expected to be ready for occupancy until 2019 at which time it will be renamed the Forest City Family Health Center.

Photo: Staff of McAndrew Family Health Center are shown with architectural renderings of Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers' newest construction project in Forest City. Seated, left to right, Stacey Cirba, MA; Pam Kresock, medical secretary and Tracy Johnson, LPN. Standing, JoAnne Sterchak, RN; Peggy Tomazic, RN; David Tomazic, DO; Krista Hollis, CRNP; Jo-Ann Sames, RN; and RickiLynn Derrick, medical secretary.





40-50 workers are on site every day. Will jump to 100 to complete finishing work.





New X-ray in Emergency Department



Wound Care



Chemotherapy



Global Budgeting

PA Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation Coming to SHIP



Lauren Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, FAAFP, Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation in the Department of Health will be the keynote speaker at the annual SHIP (State Health Improvement Plan) breakfast on August 3rd at Silver Birches in Tafton. Wayne Memorial is the lead fiscal agent for the local SHIP partnership.

In her role as Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation, Dr. Hughes creates and leads statewide strategies to improve health and healthcare delivery for all Pennsylvanians, with a focus on initiatives combating the opioid and heroin epidemic and transforming rural health care delivery. The title of her SHIP presentation is "A Path Forward for Strengthening Rural Hospitals and their Community Connections."

In the past few months, Dr. Hughes has been working with Wayne Memorial Hospital to consider adopting a unique payment structure called Global Budgeting. Under this system, a hospital is paid a fixed amount annually from Medicare, Medicaid and participating insurers based on historical data for patient care. It provides a stable stream of revenue, and hospitals can save money if they are able to reduce their expected expenses. One way to do that is to prevent hospital readmissions and focus on preventive care.

"This method of payment incentivizes us to invest in population health," said WMH CEO David Hoff, "almost as much as we devote to healing. It's a whole new way of operating, and we're excited about the next steps. It goes hand in hand with what the hospital and our community health centers have been doing under the Keystone Accountable Care model for our Medicare patients, where we are similarly incentivized to implement measures to help keep people healthy."

Hoff said Global Budgeting could be "truly transformational for Wayne Memorial Hospital. He looks forward to Dr. Hughes' presentation. "She is truly passionate about the sustainability of rural healthcare systems like ours."

Before joining the DOH, Dr. Hughes was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Michigan.

2019 Community Health Needs Assessment



SINCE 2010, WAYNE Memorial Hospital (WMH) has conducted Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) every three years. These comprehensive studies are tools used to identify the most critical unmet healthcare needs throughout Wayne Memorial's service area of Wayne and Pike Counties, as well as the greater Carbondale area. Data and feedback collected are used not only to help guide the direction of healthcare programming and services, but also to secure grant funding and other financial support for the health system's initiatives.

Past studies have helped bring to fruition the building of a state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization laboratory, expanded behavioral health facility, establishment of family health centers in underserved areas, and advances in imaging equipment and telemedicine services at the hospital and family health centers.

As the hospital prepares to embark upon the 2019 CHNA, officials are seeking community members with an interest in serving as part of an ad hoc Advisory Committee. Historically, the Advisory Committee has been comprised of representatives from the hospital and health centers, school districts, Chambers of Commerce, local governments and elected officials, businesses, and human service and community healthcare providers.

"The service area of the hospital and health centers has grown since the last study and now includes the Forest City area," Jack Dennis (photo), director of Wayne Memorial Health Foundation, said. "The 2019 study will include analysis of that area and we'll be seeking individuals to represent the southern Susquehanna region and join us on the Advisory Committee. Members of the committee would be expected to attend 3-4 meetings between January and June 2019, not a major obligation, I think, but they would provide an invaluable and personally gratifying service to the community."

Completion date for the upcoming CHNA is June 30, 2019 with the first Advisory Committee Meeting tentatively scheduled for mid-January, 2019. Those interested in becoming a member of the Advisory Committee are encouraged to contact Jack Dennis at 570-251-6533 or via email dennis@wmh.org.



Plaque Dedication for Local Veteran Organizations at VA Clinic

AROUND OF applause filled the waiting room of the Honesdale VA Outpatient Clinic as Wayne Memorial Hospital Chief Executive Officer David Hoff and U.S. veteran Philip Sheehan, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 531, Honesdale, unveiled a plaque which is now a permanent fixture at the community-based outpatient clinic.

The plaque hangs in gratitude to four local veteran organizations for “vision and tireless efforts” leading to the formation of the Honesdale VA Outpatient Clinic which officially opened in 2014. Honored were the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“We are always treated with respect here,” said Sheehan referring to the care and treatment given by the staff at Honesdale VA.

Hoff praised the veteran groups as well as hospital, county, state and federal government officials who joined forces to “convince the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center officials to bring a clinic to the area” to be managed by Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC), a federally qualified health center (FQHC) and clinical affiliate of Wayne Memorial Health System, Inc. WMCHC is the only FQHC in the U.S. to have a VA clinic among its physician offices.

Photo: Seated, left to right Bill Malloy, Jim Bruck, Jim Byrnes, Chet Gorski. Standing, Attorney Warren Schloesser; Jack Dennis, executive director, Wayne Memorial Health Foundation; Jonathan Fritz, PA state representative; Wynter Newman, practice manager, Honesdale VA Outpatient Clinic; David Hoff, CEO, Wayne Memorial Hospital; Phil Sheehan, VFW; Wendell Kay, Wayne County commissioner; James Carbone, commander, Honesdale American Legion; Jeffrey Ryan, MD, primary care physician, Honesdale VA Outpatient Clinic and James Joseph Carbone.

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Welcome to Our New Mid-level Providers



APRIL ALEXANDER, Family Nurse Practitioner, Highland Physicians Family Health Center Alexander worked as a Registered Nurse for five years before completing the education and clinical experience required to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. She earned her bachelor's and associate degrees in Nursing from Penn State University and ultimately a master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner graduating with a GPA of 3.97. Prior to joining WMCHC, Alexander was employed as a Registered Nurse at Wayne Memorial Hospital's acute rehabilitation and medical/surgical units.



CHRISTINA MACDOWELL, Certified Nurse Midwife, Women's Health Center MacDowell has been part of the Wayne Memorial family for more than seven years. She was a member of Luzerne County Community College's first Nursing Class at the Wayne Memorial Hospital Campus. She then transitioned into the role of Registered Nurse specializing in maternity at Wayne Memorial's New Beginnings, a position she served in for nearly five years while continuing her education. MacDowell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Penn State University and a Master of Science degree in Nursing/Nurse Midwifery from Frontier Nursing University, Hyden, KY.



CANDACE PLOCINIAK, Family Nurse Practitioner, Pinnacle Family Health Center Plociniak earned both her master's and bachelor's degrees in nursing from Misericordia University, Dallas, PA. She also received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. During her five-year career as a Registered Nurse, Plociniak's experience included inpatient hospice care as well as the role of RN Case Manager for Asera Care Hospice. She was most recently employed as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner at SilverCrest in Waymart, PA.



MEGAN JONES, Certified Nurse Midwife, Women's Health Center Jones received a master's degree in nursing from Frontier School of Nursing and Midwifery, Hyden, KY and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. She spent more than four years as a Certified Nurse Midwife at Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, PA and two years at Birth N' Beyond in Elmira, NY. Prior to becoming a CNM she was employed as a Registered Nurse in the Labor and Delivery department of Wentworth Douglass Hospital in Dover, NH.



LISA MILLER, Family Nurse Practitioner, Honesdale Family Health Center Miller earned her Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner Program from Misericordia University, Dallas, PA. She earned a Master of Science in Nursing & Nursing Education and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, both from the University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ. Miller has more than three decades of experience in the medical profession. Prior to becoming a CRNP, she served in varied nursing positions ranging from staff RN to Nursing Supervisor. She has worked in disciplines including home health, skilled nursing, hospice/palliative care and emergency medicine across New Jersey and PA.

Physicians Join Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers

Charles Kovalchick, DO
Board Certified Family Practitioner
Hamlin Family Health Center



DR. KOVALCHICK RECEIVED a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, PA, where he also did his internship. He completed a Family Practice Medicine residency at Community Hospital of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA. Kovalchick is an alumnus of King's College in Wilkes-Barre where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

Prior to joining WMCHC, Dr. Kovalchick served as a primary care physician at the Hanover Medical Group, Littlestown, PA for over 14 years. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and spent part of his early career as a primary care physician at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. In addition to his full-time employment, Dr. Kovalchick is also passionate about volunteerism and missionary work.

Daniel Murphy, MD
Board Certified General Surgeon
Honesdale Surgical Associates



DR. MURPHY IS certified by the American Board of Surgery. He completed his general surgical residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS. He earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Vanderbilt School of Medicine, Nashville, TN. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering, Computer Engineering and Mathematics from Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for two annual fundraisers hosted by the Wayne Memorial Health Foundation



The 2018 Annual Harry Kiesendahl Memorial Golf Tournament

will be held on Monday, August 13th at Woodloch Springs Golf and Country Club in Hawley PA.



11th Annual Harry D. Propst, MD Sporting Clays Invitational

will be held on Saturday, September 22nd at Catskill Pheasantry in Long Eddy NY.

For more information, call 570-251-6533 or email events@wmh.org.



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