New & Improved!

Take a virtual tour of the new Emergency Department! (pages 3-5)
We at WMH are very proud of some of our recent accomplishments that will provide great benefit to our community. First, our Emergency Department project was completed in early August and we officially opened the new ED on the 12th. Our community now has a state-of-the-art Emergency Department to receive high-quality care from an excellent staff that is well trained and very excited to be in their new space.

Second, we received notice that WMH has completed all of the requirements to meet Stage 6 of our Electronic Health Record (EHR) capabilities. Only 15% of all of the hospitals in the United States have met the requirements for Stage 6 and we are the only hospital in the U.P. to have done so.

All of our employees and physicians have worked very hard to make this happen and we are excited to be at the cutting edge of this process. The EHR helps to reduce errors, improve quality and provide access for patients to their personal health information. All of these items contribute to providing safe, quality care to the patients that we serve.

Special thanks should be given to those employees in our Information Systems Department for leading this project and to all of the other employees and physicians from various other Departments who played a role in meeting this standard.

These two accomplishments are great news for WMH and our community. We look forward to continuing to provide safe, high-quality care to our community, with a focus on the patient experience, in the years to come.

The new Emergency Department is complete!

The reviews from patients and staff are off the charts!

The emergency care needs for the EUP are set for the next 30 years!

There’s only one thing left to think about . . .

We set a goal of raising $1 million for the Emergency Department project. Through gifts from employees, our Auxiliary, fund raising events, and individuals in the community, we have reached nearly $335,000. Fund raising efforts will continue and we hope this Healthbeat will show you a donation to this life saving project is a great investment in our community.

I/We believe in the skilled and compassionate care War Memorial Hospital’s caregivers provide to our neighbors, friends, and family.

☐ My/Our gift to support the Emergency Department project is enclosed.

It is my/our intent to support this vital project as follows:

☐ A gift of $_____________to be paid in the month of December 2014.

☐ I wish to support this project with a gift by credit card or through other assets. Please contact me as indicated below.

Name __________________________________________
Address and/or Phone No. __________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

Please return to: Pat Bray  c/o War Memorial Hospital
500 Osborn Blvd, Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783
New Emergency Department Unveiled!

Nearly four years in the making, the newly-expanded and renovated Emergency Department opened in total on Aug. 12, 2014. Hospital leaders spent one year getting state-mandated approvals, one year in the design process and started construction in March, 2013. Last January, ED services shifted to use the newly-created space while renovations began in the old space. Today 18 exam rooms are in use, doubling the department’s size.

Photos by Steve Maylone – www.maylone.com

SERIOUS TRAUMA CASES
One major change is the opening of two trauma rooms, also known as resuscitation rooms. Using an overhead boom, life-saving equipment is within reach of medical staff and both rooms have direct access to the CT scanner without using public hallways. Planning was key in this space, right down to the color-blocked floor, where each color signifies the placement of a trauma team member during a code. Staffed by physicians and nurses with advanced training in trauma care, all the pieces are in place for exceptional trauma care.
ROOMS WITH SPECIAL FUNCTIONS
Several exam rooms serve multiple special purposes. For instance, the room shown here is a negative pressure room, which would be used in case of quarantine. This same room is outfitted with dialysis equipment, in the event a patient in crisis needs to be dialyzed and the nearby unit is full. Finally, this room is also used for bariatric patients and was designed to accommodate patients that suffer from excess weight with dignity and respect. No room is used exclusively for any one population, but by having rooms outfitted for special needs caregivers have the equipment they need at their disposal.

UNIQUE NEEDS ARE MET
What does it mean to have rooms outfitted for special purposes? In a psychiatric emergency, two rooms have additional safety features to protect both the patient and the nurse. Doors can swing both inward and outward to prevent a barricade. Protective walls can separate the patient from equipment and a camera can be used when necessary to monitor the patient. One exam room is outfitted to be used for sexual assault examinations. That room will have the necessary supplies and special cabinetry that can be locked to maintain the chain of custody for evidence. When not in use for these kinds of emergencies, these rooms will be used for typical ED visits.

EXAM ROOMS AT A GLANCE
- 2 fast-track rooms
- 2 negative pressure rooms
- 1 bariatric room
- 2 dialysis-capable rooms
- 2 psychiatric rooms
- 2 trauma rooms
- 1 sexual assault exam room

BY THE NUMBERS:
Initial Budget: $6.3 Mil
Anticipated Total Cost: $6.1 Mil
Cost Breakdown:
Construction: $4.4 Mil
Architects, Engineers,
Construction Mgmt fees: $850,000
Equipment: $800,000
Contingency: $75,000

WMH HEALTHBEAT 4
DESIGNED FOR EFFICIENCY

Work flow was a consideration when designing the space. A special space (pictured below) is included to accommodate physicians when they consult with one another or document cases. One cohesive central nurse’s station is key to good communication among team members. The department is designed in four-room pods, with a nurse assigned to a pod and its patients. Most rooms utilize central monitoring, with new cardiac telemetry units installed. Glass walls allow doctors and nurses to visualize patients quickly and where there was once curtains, doors now provide for increased privacy.

THE CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Construction management was handled by DeVere Construction, lead by Project Manager Luke Gerhardt and Supervisor Steve Laford. At WMH, a team of people worked tirelessly to see the plan through, lead by ED Director Pat Hirt, Plant & Environmental Services Director Ken Greenfield, and Vice President of Nursing/Operations Marla Bunker. The job utilized the skills of 17 construction contractors, many of whom were local.

FINANCING THE PROJECT

ED expansion/renovation was financed through USDA Guaranteed Loans. These loans are received from Central Savings Bank and a consortium of participating banks and, at the completion of the project, the USDA will guarantee the loan up to 90%.

Pat Hirt, ED Director
“Taking the time required to design this project allowed us to consider every patient that will come to the ED. It is about being ready and able to give the excellent patient care our community deserves.”

Kami Avery, Patient Family Member
“I was impressed with the exam rooms. There used to be patients in the hallway. Just having more space and better equipment for our community is great for our small town.”

Christine Simpson, RN
“As a nurse, it’s a nice work environment because the flow is much better. We can give service a lot quicker and that’s rewarding because now patients feel their needs are being met faster.”

Marla Bunker, VP of Operations
“We can have all 18 rooms filled and it is still very quiet. It’s a calm atmosphere, with the private/confidential space to accommodate sick and critically ill patients professionally. We now have the resources to do our jobs well in providing high quality care and service excellence.”

Dr. Neri, ED Physician
“We’ve always delivered a high standard of care but now we have a better facility and better equipment that are more up to date with modern ERs.”

David Jahn, CEO
“It was designed with the flow of patients and nurses in mind. The ED will be more efficient and the patient will receive treatment more quickly as a result of our commitment to a smart design.”

WMH HEALTHBEAT 5 SEPTEMBER 2014
Meet Dr. Celine Rivera  
Internal Medicine

A self-described Midwestern girl returned to her Michigan roots in August, when Celine Rivera, M.D. began practicing at War Memorial Hospital.

A native of the Oakland County village of Franklin, Rivera is an internal medicine specialist who will focus on a broad spectrum of issues with her patients, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, and more.

“I believe that sometimes medicine can be just a band-aid to certain diseases and we are better trying to improve the whole person and that includes their diet, lifestyle, exercise, and overall healthy living. It really does make a huge impact on their health,” she explained.

Rivera earned her Master of Science from Wayne State University’s School of Medicine and her Doctor of Medicine degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica before completing her residency in internal medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Prior to taking the Sault Ste. Marie position, she worked at Rivera Medical Center in Lincoln Park. It’s no coincidence that the center bears her family name.

“My mother is a physician and started a medical practice in southeast Michigan,” she explains. In fact, she is surrounded by doctors in the family. Rivera’s sister is a physician specializing in infectious disease and her husband is WMH’s newest oncologist – Dr. Belisario Arango.

“My mother told me when I started my practice, ‘if you treat patients as if they are your own family, you will have an impact on their well-being’ and that’s what I do,” she said.

Newly married in May, the couple enjoys walking their four-year-old Boston Terrier when they have time away from the hospital. Rivera said she is also looking forward to becoming active in the community.

“We wanted to find an area where we could grow as a couple and work together. Sault Ste. Marie feels like home.”

Largest Foundation Gift Will Also Help Save Lives

The R. W. Considine Foundation recently donated more than $273,000 to WMH with one simple goal – saving lives in emergencies.

This generous gift has purchased four JEMS telemedicine devices that allow physicians to see and interact with patients and other providers through a smart phone or tablet. It includes tools that allow the doctor to hear a patient’s heartbeat as well as view highly detailed magnified images.

The donation also includes 18 Life-Stat cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) devices – affectionately known as “Thumpers”. Powered by oxygen tanks, Thumpers provide perfect CPR compression and oxygen continuously for as long as is needed. This is critical in an area like ours where it can take up to 30 or more minutes to reach the Emergency Department. Eleven of the Thumpers have gone to local EMS units in the EUP.

WMH’s deepest thanks go out to Robert Considine and his foundation for giving this life-saving and life-changing gift to our community. This is the largest grant from a private foundation that the hospital has received in many years.

Personnel received special “thumper” training.
Meet Dr. Belisario Arango  
**Oncology/Hematology**

He began his college career studying civil engineering but only eight months later, when his grandfather became ill, Belisario Arango, M.D. realized he was meant for something different. In August, the Panama-born physician joined the WMH staff as the area’s newest oncologist/hematologist.

His grandfather spent several days in the hospital with young Belisario by his side. “I watched how the doctors interacted with him and I began to think about what I would be doing in 30 or 40 years. I wondered if building things would be as fulfilling for me and decided I would enjoy medicine more,” he recalls.

After attending medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico, Arango focused on medical oncology research at the University of Miami for two years. After, he moved to Detroit where he began his residency with Henry Ford Health System. His first elective rotation was in the field of medical oncology.

“The treatments were very complex but also very interesting. You deal with very serious life and death situations and I came to appreciate the physician to patient relationship. I had a couple of patients I really connected with and actually came back to check on them when my rotation changed to surgery,” Arango explained.

After completing his residency, the doctor began a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of Miami’s Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he spent three years focused exclusively on the detection and treatment of cancers and diseases of the blood. During his fellowship years, he was involved in a number of cancer research projects and has been published extensively. Asked if there was one study or research project that stood out in his mind, he answered quickly.

“There is a cancer known as an immature teratoma that, when metastasized we didn’t know could be cured but my mentor and myself put together a chemo treatment and were able to cure three out of three patients. It was highly successful. It is a rare tumor but this information will have a major impact,” Arango explained.

Newly-married, he and his wife, Dr. Celina Rivera, are pleased to make Sault Ste. Marie their new home.

“I believe a small town is more personal and people connect to others much more. We have found the people here to be very genuine,” he said, adding that he was impressed by the support for local hospice efforts. “I saw a place where people worked as volunteers and everything was funded by donation and I thought that Detroit could take a page out of the Sault Ste. Marie playbook.”

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