

Hospital hit construction milestone in 2020

Final piece of structural steel installed

By Ryan Berry
DarkeCountyMedia.com

GREENVILLE – Wayne HealthCare hit a milestone in its expansion on Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, when the final piece of structural steel for the \$60 million expansion was put into place as part of the topping-off ceremony.

To celebrate the event, the hospital invited its employees to watch as Shook Construction hoisted the piece and installed it into the skeletal structure.

For several weeks prior to the topping-off event, employees, community leaders and the public were invited to sign the piece of steel. “It will be a part of this structure for many decades to come; until somebody long past us decides to change it,” said Jeff Subler, vice-president of Support Services.

Terri Flood, vice-president of Business Development, shared the expansion is a “true testament to our senior leadership, staff, our board members, our employees, as well as our community and partners.”

The expansion is expected to open in 2021 and will conclude the hospital’s 15-year effort “to basically rebuild the hospital on-site,” said Wayne Deschambeau, president/CEO of Wayne HealthCare. He was excited to point out many of the features in the new addition weren’t even on the plan over a decade ago. The biggest effort will include the space dedicated to wellness.

The hospital will dedicate 10,000



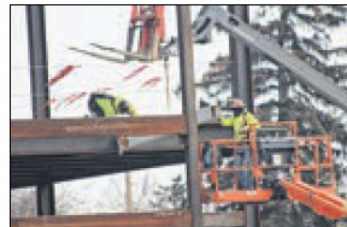
Photos courtesy of Ryan Berry | DarkeCountyMedia.com
Employees and community members signed the steel beam before it was put into place.



Wayne Deschambeau, president/CEO, is excited about the expansion project and how it will be used.



Wayne HealthCare employees and members of Shook Construction attended the topping-off ceremony to celebrate the final piece of structural steel being put into place.



Shook Construction installed the final piece of structural steel on Jan. 16.

square feet of space to focus on the preventative approach to healthcare. The area will feature 19-foot ceilings as well as floor to ceiling windows. “It’s going to be a real functional, as well as delightful, place to be able to do that,” said Deschambeau.

Another area the expansion will focus on is private rooms. “We have promised to provide private facilities for every patient in the building to get us into the 21st century,” he said. There will be 32 rooms and the building is designed as a multi-use facility. They will be able to keep patients in their room instead of moving them between floors to go from medical surgical to ICU. “When you’re really sick, you don’t want to be moved

someplace else,” said Deschambeau. “This will accomplish that – get people well in place where they are.”

Obstetrics, which is currently housed in the facility built in 1938, will be moved to the new addition. While they won’t have more beds, the department will see a 50 percent increase in size.

Flood believes the expansion is directly in line with the hospital’s vision. “Our vision is to provide world-class, patient-centered healthcare and wellness to our friends, families and neighbors using the best technology provided by highly skilled and engaged employees and providers,” she said.

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though, could return pupils once more to home learning.

9. Departures, Arrivals

The year saw a change in local leadership — some planned, some not. Greenville Safety/Service Director Curt Garrison was fired in March following allegations of explicit video recordings. Versailles Village Administrator Rodd Hale resigned in August and took a new position in Florida. In November, Larry Holmes was elected to the Darke County Board of Commissioners, and will take the seat of Commissioner Mike Rhoades, who did not seek reelection. Peggy Emerson was named the new president of the Darke County Chamber of Commerce in November, taking over for outgoing president Sharon Deschambeau. Greenville Police Chief Steve Strick resigned in December, and will be replaced by Lt. Eric Roberts.

10. Faith, Family, Friends

It is no understatement to say 2020 was tumultuous. However, in the face of all that was “bad,” many people in our community and abroad found healing and happiness in our faith, our family and our friends. We learned to appreciate a slew of things which once were taken for granted, and this by itself is good news we can all cling to going forward into 2021.

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