

ACH looking to expand collaborations

Partnerships with Stark County Port Authority, Stark State College, NEOMED, University of Mount Union emphasized

By SHANNON HARSH
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While Alliance Community Hospital continued providing health care locally for the 112th year, it spent much time in 2013 laying the groundwork for some exciting changes and opportunities for collaborations in 2014.

Plans are in the works to dramatically change the landscape behind the hospital, which will include razing the old building that has been empty since the new medical facility opened in 2006.

In 2013, the hospital partnered with the Stark County Port Authority and Stark State College to begin a redevelopment project that will include a new Stark State satellite facility. It was reported in early November that The Clean Ohio Council recently approved a Clean Ohio Revitalization grant to help with the project.

Hospital CFO Dale Wells said the \$1.275 million grant, along with matching dollars from ACH, will assist with the abatement and tear-down of the old facility sometime this year, though exact dates have not been determined.

"Once the site is cleaned up, ACH will work with Stark State to provide a 10,000-square-foot building that will consolidate and house educational programs for Stark State College," Wells said.

Stark State holds Alliance classes in several borrowed locations, as well as a designated building on State Street, all of which will be consolidated into one location in the new building. The new facility will also allow increased enrollment and provide more opportunities for nursing students to collaborate with the hospital.

Susan Lucas, director of Public Relations/Foundation, said other plans in the works are the result of a recently completed Community

Health Needs Assessment that helped the hospital identify the key issues that community members believe ACH should address. Lucas said No. 1 on that list was the need for more effective chronic disease management.

"ACH began to address this with the palliative care program in 2013 and has made continual strides to improve and strengthen the program for our community," Lucas said. "The addition of Reverend Jon Dodson as the ACH chaplain has been a great stride in that direction."

Another issue that surfaced involved the high rate of childhood injury in Stark County. Lucas said ACH is working with three other hospitals on this issue with the hope of reducing the infant mortality rate and creating community-wide awareness of the issue.

With its focus on how to serve and improve the health of the community, CEO Stan Jonas said the hospital is working hard to build an infrastructure for a new population health environment that is evolving.

"It will involve developing new methods for coordination of care through partnerships with Mount Union, NEOMED and eventually Stark State," Jonas explained. "Health coaches will be educated and trained through these partnerships and will lead us into the next phase of population health management."

These are just some of the plans for 2014 as ACH continues to expand its efforts and relationships in the community.

"Alliance Community Hospital is excited to build on the partnerships we began to form in 2013 and work toward a 2014 that will bring continued positive changes to our community," Lucas added.

@SHarsh_AR on Twitter



Review File Photo/Kevin Graff

Plans are in the works for the old Alliance Community Hospital building on College Street to be torn down in 2014 with the help of a Clean Ohio grant. In its place, a new satellite facility will be built for Stark State College so that all the Alliance locations can be consolidated.



Review File Photo/Kevin Graff

Alliance Community Hospital has laid the groundwork for several projects and partnerships to better serve the community in 2014.

Gas



Review File Photo/Kevin Graff

Gas burnoff flares skyward at a drilling site on state Route 619 near Marlboro Township farms in this 2012 photo. Industry officials and politicians are addressing environmental concerns that accompany fracking. President Barack Obama demanded in 2013 that all wells must implement green completion, or completion without gas burnoff, by 2015.

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results indicated high levels of alpha particles, arsenic, barium and toluene, among other contaminants, and are cause for the brine to be classified as "hazardous," according to Ben Stout, professor of biology at Wheeling Jesuit University, who interpreted the results.

Additional good news arrived on the environmental front in the past year when President Barack Obama demanded all wells must have green completion by 2015. A green completion is a way to complete a well without flaring or burning off the gas and putting those pollutants into the air.

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Upcoming Campus Events

<p>January 16 MLK Candlelight Vigil 7 p.m., Campus Grounds, Hoover-Price Campus Center</p> <p>January 18 Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Wilmington 1 p.m., Hammond Natatorium, MAAC</p> <p>Men's Basketball vs. Wilmington 3 p.m., MAAC</p> <p>Wrestling Raider Tri-Match 5 p.m., Peterson Field House, MAAC</p> <p>January 19 Wrestling Purple Raider Open 10 a.m., Peterson Field House, MAAC</p> <p>Nature Center Birding Basics: Feeder Birds 1 p.m., Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center</p> <p>January 21 MLK Presentation by Diversity Council 11:10 a.m., Hoover-Price Campus Center</p>	<p>January 22 MLK Speaker: Dr. Said Sewell "Dr. King and the Selfie Generation" 7 p.m., Myers Sanctuary, Dewald Chapel</p> <p>Women's Basketball vs. Muskingum 7:30 p.m., MAAC</p> <p>January 23 Joel Collins Sabbatical Art Exhibit Reception 4 p.m., Beeghly Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coming Up!</i></p> <p>January 25 Men's Basketball vs. Heidelberg 3 p.m., MAAC</p> <p>January 28 LINC Luncheon: Mark Himmelein, "More than Nouns and Verbs: Teaching Culture through Language" Noon, Hoover-Price Campus Center</p> <p>Wrestling vs. Baldwin Wallace 7:30 p.m., Peterson Field House, MAAC</p>
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