

GREAT JOB AFFINITY

EDITORIALS THE INDEPENDENT

Safety ratings put Affinity on par with Mercy and Aultman

It would seem Affinity Medical Center has turned the corner in the crowded and highly competitive Stark County health care market, and that's good news for those of us who believe there needs to be a hospital in this city.

The construction of an addition to the hospital's emergency department and the more recent announcement of plans for a second floor to house an expanded cardiac catheterization department would seem to be two sure signs that under the direction of CEO Ron Bierman, Affinity has found its niche in the market.

These two construction projects are significant for a hospital that seemed to be downsizing as part of a restructuring that included the closure of the Doctors Hospital campus and the layoffs of a significant number of employees just a few short years ago.

While the new bricks and mortar project an image of a hospital that is growing and thriving, a recent investigation by the Consumers Union — which publishes the reader supported Consumer Reports magazine — does even more for Affinity's reputation. The study found that Affinity had a slightly better score than Aultman Hospital and Mercy Medical Center for overall hospital safety. Among the categories surveyed were infections, readmissions, communication and scanning.

That same survey showed Affinity earned bonus points for "mortality better than average." While that may speak more about the type and severity of health issues for which patients are referred to Affinity for treatment (as compared to Aultman and Mercy) than anything else, the fact that Affinity's ratings are on par with its better known competition should provide anyone who is considering Affinity for treatment with the peace of mind and confidence that was missing not long ago.

So let's acknowledge a local institution that seems to be on the right track, for its perseverance in the face of overwhelming competition. Affinity Medical Center no longer should be looked at as the third choice for health care in Stark County, and that's something about which we can all have some civic pride.

We Did
This
Without
Paying
Union Dues

