

# LGH takes Wedel's name on the road

## Names street in outpatient center for former top exec

Paul Wedel's vision for an outpatient center in the suburban Lancaster area has garnered him more accolades than he deems are warranted.



Lori Van Ingen  
Senior citizens

On Thursday, the former Lancaster General Hospital president and chief executive officer had a street named after him. "Mr. Wedel was known as a trailblazer whose vision and leadership over more than 25 years transformed the 'General' into a major medical center," said Thomas E. Beeman, the current Lancaster General Health chief executive officer and president.

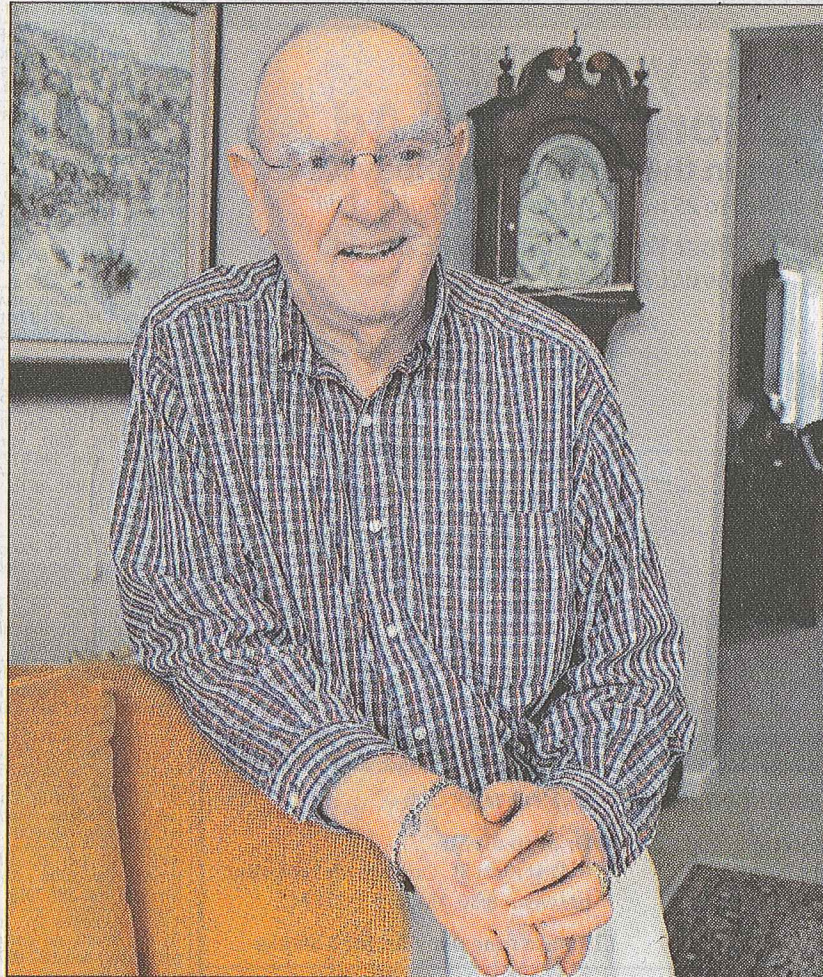
Beeman said an outpatient center several miles from a downtown hospital was "an idea unheard of at that time. The Suburban Outpatient Pavilion will always be part of his legacy, and we are proud to further recognize him by naming the pavilion access road Wedel Drive."

Wedel said he felt a little uncomfortable receiving the honor.

"People said it was well-deserved since it was you who got it going and made it go, but it's just not my style," Wedel said.

Wedel was born in Elizabeth, N.J., on New Year's Day in 1927 and moved to Alexandria, Va., in 1937. He attended prep school at Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J.

Wedel enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17 and served in the Naval



Richard Hertzler / Staff

**Paul Wedel, former president and CEO of Lancaster General Hospital, had a street at the hospital's suburban center named in his honor.**

Reserve from 1944 to 1946. He was called back to serve in the Korean War from 1950 to 1951. He worked as an operating room technician at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration at American University, Washington, D.C., in 1952 and his master's degree in hospital administration at Northwestern University, Chicago, in 1955.

Wedel was an administrative resident at Polyclinic Hospital in Harrisburg from 1953 to 1954, when he left for Williamsport Hospital. He was assistant administrator there from 1954 to 1959 and administrator from 1959 to 1964.

Wedel then was president and CEO of Lancaster General Hospital from 1964 until his retirement in 1992. He retired from the board in 1994.

Shortly after Wedel took the reins at LGH, Labor and Industry deemed the hospital building unsafe, Wedel said.

"We had to take the patients from the Lime Street building and move them to the third floor west wing," Wedel said.

It was then LGH decided to build a north wing and needed to raise \$6 million via a capital campaign, he said. Throughout the years, LGH kept adding on to the hospital building, as well as adding medical personnel, he said.

LGH went from a gross billing of \$4 million in 1964 to \$1 billion with the addition of The Heart Group this year, Wedel said.

"I presented to the board in April 1990 that we should build an outpatient facility with doctors' offices," Wedel said. "The board members thought that was a great idea, and it never stopped."

Wedel looked at five sites, but thought the Harrisburg Pike/Rohrerstown Road site was the best. It had 120-plus acres over five parcels, he said.

"I had lots of good people working with me," Wedel said.

In fact, he said, the most enjoyable part of his job as president and CEO was that he was working with "first-class people — employees and physicians. That made it pleasurable, really enjoyable."

Wedel said the most challenging part of his work at Lancaster General was finding enough money to make his vision of the hospital workable.

Now a resident of Brethren Village, Wedel has been serving on the board of Millersville University since he was appointed by the governor in 1991. He currently serves as vice chair.

He also is active at his church, St. Thomas Episcopal, and feeds fish for Trout Unlimited.

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