

Hospital History

“First There Was a Dream...”

The Beginning

First, there was a dream. In the mid-1940s three visionary local residents, a lawyer, a farmer and a clergyman, conceived of building a hospital in Riverhead. They knew good medical care was a basic requirement of a strong community. They wanted their families and neighbors to have access to quality doctors and modern medical technology. These three men recruited other local leaders and the idea of a hospital grew.



The founders encountered many obstacles along the way. They fought distant bureaucrats who claimed a hospital was not needed in the area. They struggled to raise funds at a time when land and building costs were skyrocketing. But they achieved their dream. In 1951, Central Suffolk Hospital opened its doors. In its first year of operation, the 58-bed hospital treated 1,890 patients and performed 770 operations. Throughout the next five decades, the hospital expanded and progressed, every step forward accomplished in partnership with a community that remains dedicated and supportive.



Achieving Excellence

The hospital is now known as Peconic Bay Medical Center, a highly regarded 182-bed community hospital—the largest in eastern Suffolk County. Peconic Bay Medical Center now serves as the region’s primary medical source for healthcare, taking care of more than 7,000 inpatients and 168,000 outpatients annually.

Serving as the Eastern Hub of New York’s largest healthcare system, Northwell Health, Peconic Bay Medical Center provides closest access for 250,000+ East End residents to 24/7 interventional cardiac catheterization services, a Level III Trauma center, and our award-winning New York State-designated stroke center.

The Peconic Bay Medical Center continuum of care includes an advanced surgery facility, highly regarded programs for joint replacement and bariatric surgery, and a growing network of family care and specialty physician practices throughout Eastern Suffolk County.

In addition to community-based services, the hospital operates Suffolk County’s largest certified home health agency, a 5-star-rated nursing and rehabilitation center, palliative care center, the first hospital-based Caregivers Center on Long Island, and an advanced ambulatory and urgent care campus in Manorville.

Our Continuing Commitment

Today, Peconic Bay Medical Center is still about people with dreams—the loyal patients who put their trust in us, the dedicated doctors, nurses and staff who work every day to care for their neighbors, and the selfless benefactors and volunteers who give generously so that quality and compassionate health care will be available to all.

We remain committed to continuous improvement in our quality and our capabilities for serving all the health and wellness needs of the members of our communities.

