



## Longest-Serving TBH Employee Retires After 46 Years

To say that Karen Branco has seen a few changes in healthcare over the past 46 years would be an understatement.

The longest-serving employee of The Bellevue Hospital (TBH) is retiring from full-time service to our hospital and community after 46 years, and will stay on as-needed through July of 2025 while she trains her replacement.

“I will never forget one thing my first boss Betty told me when I was hired at the age of 18 back in 1978: ‘Try to learn something new every day.’ And I certainly believed in that,” said Branco, who graduated from Bellevue High School in June of 1978 and started working in TBH’s Registration Department shortly thereafter.

Over the years, Karen has been a part of TBH teams in Registration, Data Entry/Computers, Finance, and Patient Financial Services. And from 2001 to the present, she has taught yoga fitness classes, both for the hospital and community.

Although she never planned on making TBH her lifetime job, “the grass is not always greener anywhere else,” noted Karen, who, along with her late husband Mark, raised three children just seven minutes from home to work. “I was making \$3 an hour when I was hired. It just made sense to stay after I started accumulating seniority.”

Karen shared some memories from her time at TBH concerning how healthcare has changed over the years:

- We used to supply patient discharges and births to the local radio and newspaper.
- You rarely saw a lifeflight helicopter and now they are a regular occurrence, which is a good thing in times of emergency.
- At the old hospital, we had no registration after 11:30 p.m. Now, it is 24/7.
- Back in the day, people were allowed to smoke inside the hospital and in the lunchroom. Ohio hospitals are now tobacco-free.

In retirement, Karen plans to focus on her children and grandchildren, and her hobbies of yoga, sewing and crafting, and will also handcraft draw-string bags for foster children to use when they move from place to place. One piece of advice Karen would offer new employees? “Put money in your retirement fund as soon as possible. It is the best thing you can do for yourself.”



**THE BELLEVUE HOSPITAL**

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Please enjoy our **HEALTHnews** to help keep you informed.

Join us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and visit our website [www.bellevuehospital.com](http://www.bellevuehospital.com). Upcoming events and programs are listed inside. Please contact the Marketing Department at 419.483.4040 Ext. 4899 with any questions.



# CALENDAR of Events

For more information, or to register for the events listed, call 419.483.4040 and reference the extension numbers listed below. Information on TBH screenings, programs and events also can be found on our website at [bellevuehospital.com](http://bellevuehospital.com) and on The Bellevue Hospital Facebook page.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

### WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 6 & DECEMBER 4 Morning Health Break

8:00 am – 11:00 am

*TBH Main Station Café*

Free blood pressure and fasting glucose checks, educational literature, a light breakfast, and a registered nurse to answer health questions. Pre-registration is required only for the following Direct Access Tests:

- A1C Screening (\$20)
- Complete Blood Count with Complete Metabolic Lipid Panel (\$60)
- Complete Blood Count with Basic Metabolic and Lipid Panel (\$50)
- Lipid Panel Screening (\$20)
- PSA (Prostate) Screening (\$30)
- Stool Occult Blood Screening (\$25)
- TSH (Thyroid) Screening (25)
- Vitamin D (\$35)

To pre-register for lab testing, call 419.483.4040, Ext. 0.

### THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 21 & DECEMBER 12 Mature Audience Luncheon

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Bellevue Society for the Arts  
205 Maple St., Bellevue*

The public age 55 and older are welcome. The lunch fee is \$4 and reservations are requested. **INFO: Ext 6610.**

**November 21** - Attendees will enjoy a presentation from Art@106 on the topic of Art Therapy.

**December 12** - Participants will enjoy a musical performance from Good Vibrations, the Bellevue High School Bell Choir.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 Red Cross Bloodmobile

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*TBH Burson Conference Rooms A & B*

This event is open to the public. To donate, you need to weigh between 110 – 350 pounds and be at least 17 years old. Walk-ins may be accepted. **Individuals are strongly encouraged to schedule**

an appointment at 1-800-Red-Cross, or visit: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), enter sponsor code BELLEVUEHOSP. Those who donate in September will receive a \$15 digital e-gift card.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 19 & DECEMBER 17 M.O.M.S.

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

*TBH Burson Conference Room*

All new mothers and their babies are welcome. This free class is facilitated by a certified lactation consultant and discussions include breastfeeding topics, life adjustment challenges and sleeping habits. **INFO: Ext. 4611.**

## TBH Provides Cancer Care Services



*Apoorva Chawla, M.D.*

Did you know that The Bellevue Hospital (TBH) provides Cancer Care Services conveniently located for Bellevue residents and those in surrounding areas? This service is located on the first floor of the hospital and consists of a physician-led hematology/oncology office, directed by Apoorva Chawla, M.D. The expert staff at TBH offers treatments such as chemotherapy and immunotherapy, which uses the patient's own immune system to combat cancer.

"In the past 18 months, the Cancer Care and Infusion Services Department has grown significantly," said Loretta Nichols, department director. "We have added an additional office day for Dr. Chawla and will soon be expanding our space and services."

Nichols also stated, "We offer timely appointments with no delays and also collaborate with higher acuity facilities such as Ohio State, Cleveland Clinic, and the University of Toledo Medical Center. Self-referrals are also accepted if there is an oncology or hematology diagnosis. We know that cancer/infusion patients prefer to stay close to home, so we are advocates of the 'your

hospital, your choice' mantra when it comes to patient care."

Dr. Chawla is board certified in internal medicine and medical oncology by the American Board of Medical Specialties, specializing in breast cancer, lung cancer, and gastrointestinal cancers. With nearly a decade of experience, he graduated with distinction from Cornell University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree, and later obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Chawla completed his internal medicine residency at Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and pursued a clinical fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at The University of Chicago Medical Center.

Infusion services are also offered, and include IV antibiotics and infusions for conditions such as multiple sclerosis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's, osteoporosis, and blood transfusions, among others. "We can administer those infusions right here in Bellevue, as long as we have an order for the patient from any licensed provider," noted Nichols. "No need to go out-of-town anymore!"

**Dr. Chawla is currently accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment in Bellevue, please call 419.484.5440. A physician's referral is not necessary. For further details on Cancer Care and Infusion Services, visit [bellevuehospital.com](http://bellevuehospital.com).**

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**Early Bird Drawings:**

- November 14 - \$1,000
- December 16 - \$750
- January 14 - \$500



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Make checks payable and mail to:

The Bellevue Hospital Foundation, 1400 W. Main St., Bellevue, Ohio 44811

Tickets sold at: Steinle Chevrolet-Buick, Clyde and The Bellevue Hospital Gift Shop



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