Fort Wayne ENGINEERS' Club

Engineers' News September 2026 Vol. 88 No. 9

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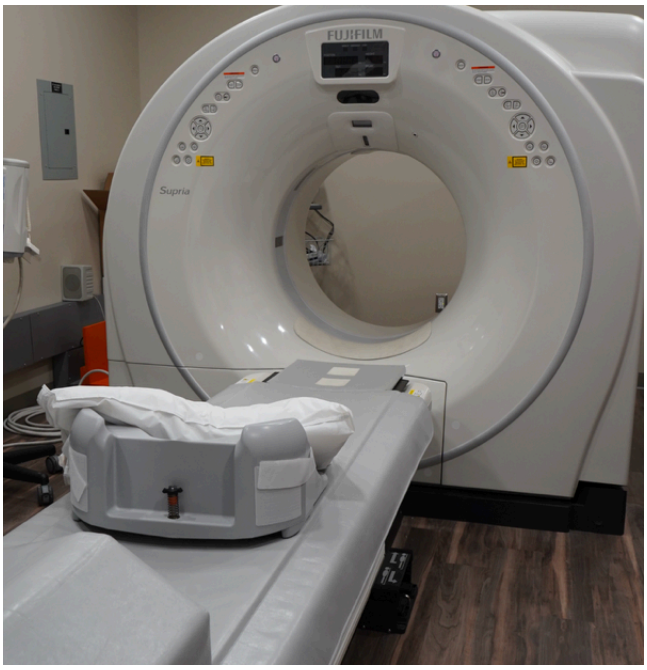
September Tour

When: Thursday September 17th @ 6:00 PM
Where: 3837 N Wells St, Fort Wayne, IN 46808
Website: https://fortwaynecurling.com/
Details: Located in Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Curling Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to growing the sport of curling while creating opportunities for recreation, competition, and community connection. The club features four dedicated curling sheets and offers leagues, Learn to Curl sessions, private events, and adaptive curling programs designed to welcome people of all ages and abilities. During this tour, visitors will learn more about the sport of curling, the specialized ice and equipment used to play, and how the Fort Wayne Curling Club is

introducing this unique sport to the Northeast Indiana community.

May Tour Summary





3837 N Wells St, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Choice Imaging (choiceimagingfw.com, 1850 E. Dupont Road) is effectively a consortium of individual professions with genuine passions for updating technology and being affordable. The two tend to work together.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is often a buzz word for stock market purposes now-a-days, but Choice Imaging rapidly upgrades such software to simultaneously speed up image acquisitions, reduce overall patient exposure, and radically improve image detail as needed. Our host for this tour is a Purdue-trained electrical engineer who is active with the Radiological Society of North America, which has its annual meeting in Chicago each year. The combination of highly interested EE and activity with the Society produces notable synergies in levels of imaging, safety, and interpretation.

Their technologies typically use sound, x-ray, or magnetic energy. The Choice Imaging website provides a refreshingly clear and complete summary of the technologies, so this report skips many details. All equipment has among the highest capacities for patient bodyweight, and most of it moves the patient instead of the patient needing to participate. Speed of imaging, reduced claustrophobia, and increased privacy provide less tension and fidgeting, which results in clearer images with less software tweaking. Routine software improvements due to AI were repeatedly

mentioned as profound but early stage. Overall, the energy ("radiation") can be as much as a twentieth of that needed by most equipment installed elsewhere within the last ten years. Various calcium scans or injections for bloodstream contrast were discussed.

The ultrasound system is recent software and equipment that provides much better clarity (less "noise") due to AI and better sound focus. Ultrasound is well known for pregnancy and breast imaging, but extremely useful for imperfections in organs and aspects of cardiology. Doppler effects can provide video of blood flow through the heart, color-coded as needed, and/or integrity of vessels. It still uses a classic handheld transmitter/receiver.

By the time you read this, Choice Imaging may have introduced mamograms with ultrasound instead of X-rays. Ultrasound will use a breast cup that a patient does largely alone in private with phenomenally improved images overall and with dense breast tissue. The equipment is currently four times more expensive than X-ray machines and useful just for breasts. But, it sounded like the clock is ticking on the radiation, cost, and personal discomfort of conventional mammograms.

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Volunteer Positions in the Club

Vice President

Club Vice President needed! It's time once again to ask club members to fill this vital spot in the club's leadership roster. The Vice President is generally in charge of arranging club tours, though this has traditionally been a team effort so it's not really all that much work. You would be expected to attend the monthly officers meeting (from the end of August until the end of May) and at the end of your one-year term, you would automatically become club president. The typical monthly time involved would be roughly 2 hours (including attending the officers meeting). If you enjoy the club and would like to see it continue to function, please consider volunteering for this spot.

Let us know if you're interested!

Volunteer

Interested in Hosting a Tour?

Contact us today!

Host a Tour

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Advertisements are only $20 per issue and limited to ½ page of content.

May Tour Summary Continued

"DEXA" is a completely new approach to bone scores using radically lower levels of x-rays to physically map the internal structural quality of bones. It is reminiscent of our tour at C&A tool in Auburn where images showed voids, alignments, and even machining grooves inside fully assembled parts. Conventional bone scores depict just bone mass (mineral opaqueness to x-rays).

Somewhat conventional lower-dose x-ray equipment varies. It can include a table which moves itself, or a highly adaptable wall-mounted unit which can include being seated. Side sampling slices are used to reduce exposure and provide clearer images through multiple images taken at different angles.

A step up in x-ray technology and exposure is CT scans. Both equipment and software have undergone steady change every few years. Introduction of AI recently provided substantially reduced exposure with faster and better images. The potentially claustrophobic tunnel that some patients fear has been shrunk to more like a donut in depth. Total time in the donut continues to significantly decrease, largely due to software and AI. Other features have been tweaked such as improved music and overall privacy/attention. Only sections or specific parts of a body are usually imaged.

MRI uses pulses from a powerful magnet to jiggle atomic nuclei in a person's body. The nuclei then emit radio waves for a computer to analyze. No ionizing radiation is involved but various safety factors need to be observed, such as certain alloys of implants are not allowed in the zone

being imaged.

Choice Imaging has the first or second open-MRI of its kind in the United States. The physical unit required a building addition and 13 tons was installed by crane in 2024. A very heavy magnet allows a step down in total power and concomitant leap in ability to control and interpret the magnetic resonance from a patient's nuclei. It is often safe for a parent to hold a child's hand. Software in this particular MRI unit was updated in early 2026 becasue of Choice Imaging's association with the Radiological Society. The software improved image and "tools" for radiologists, including substantial AI. Since MRI measures movement of nuclei, a calmer patient contributes less intrinsic jiggle in the target tissues. Designers have worked for decades to provide less claustrophobia and other features. Choice Imaging added outdoor light from a window.

The overall building has two main doors to accommodate the consortium of people involved. A separate neurological reception area coordinates an "MRA" nurse practitioner for MRIs of head or neck areas with acute details of blood vessels and nerves. It is intended to nail down causes of headache, dizziness, blurred vision, and pain ailments. It is reportedly extremely useful for revealing fraud.

The full body MRI with updated 2026 software is referred to as Reveal MRI. Purposes include detecting hidden aneurisms, blood clots, and incipient cancers. Often, a second scan would be run for better resolution. Our host discouraged casual use by individuals, but help with interpretation seemed inherently part of the process if needed. They much prefer working through a preexisting healthcare system. On the other hand, cash prices seemed reasonable and insurance optional. We heard cash prices ranging $450-$2,250 with most images of carefully defined locations, such as a joint or prostrate. Whole body scans typically involve less detail as a matter of computing power, scanning time, patient fidgeting, and more.

Questioning left the impression that most processing is done within the Choice Imaging facility. It seemed to echo our tour at C&A Tool, where a complex see-through image of a part took 3 minutes using storage inside C&A's building. But, we gave up after 23 minutes trying to do it from "the cloud" (security and firewalls probably causing the delays in data transfer, and there was little discussion of probable Cloud fees).

The Choice Imaging building is served by just a conventional 5 G connection to transfer images to medical facilities, using considerable data compression. Most facilities prefer to access images by QR code (such as on a smartphone photo or piece of paper). Transfer speeds are not a problem. (Compression was initially mastered for music in the sleek palm-sized Apple iPod of two decades ago, which rivaled or exceeded the range and fine detail of vinyl record master copies. The iPod technology compressed 100% of an original's signals into 97-98% less storage space, to a great extent by eliminating repetition.) Law requires medical images be stored for 7 years.

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Most of us have been bugged by medical facilities endlessly confirming or reminding appointments. Roughly a quarter of Choice Imaging reservations end up being last-minute cancellations or no shows, which is roughly normal for medical industries in general. For that reason, Choice Imaging can usually accommodate same-day requests if a person is willing to wait. Our tour involved considerable discussion of differences in equipment and practices versus hospital campuses, and in this case there seemed no patient-oriented reasons for weeks or months of scheduling delays that frustrated us.

They are in-house for most insurance providers, but cash seemed an affordable option. We were astonished that the prearranged cost with insurance can be more than just paying cash, but law requires paying the higher out of pocket cost if Choice Imaging knows a patient has insurance. Choice Imaging much prefers working through a patient's physician but is set up with on-site nurse practitioner(s), a remote radiologist, and other resources to work with people needing rapid or independent introspection. A nurse practitioner routinely does surgical pre-approvals that can cut weeks off backlogs in local hospital systems. We discussed from personal experiences that pricing seemed reasonably inclusive, for instance seemingly NOT a system where basic interpretation of scans would be unmentioned additional cost.

The tour initially developed through positive experiences by a FWEC member who successfully navigated mainstream and alternative professionals during a years-long health crisis. This facility bridges both viewpoints. All seemed focused on substantially improved costs, timelines, and quality. Even the access was a straight-forward building and parking immediately off Dupont Road.

This was a remarkable experience. Our sincere thanks to Choice Imaging.

Contact FWEC

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