

Fall 2018

Discover

Exceptional Healthcare Close to Home

Grand Opening!



George Regional
Hospital

**Community Medical
Center Saves Lives**
Expertise and Experience of
George Regional proves invaluable

ENTRANCE

inside this issue...

Triplets Born!

20 Year Milestone!

***More Than A
Nursing Home!***



George Regional
Health System

www.georgeregional.com



Letter from Greg Havard CEO

George Regional Health System

Welcome to the fall edition of our **Discover** Community Magazine. Big things are happening within our health system and for our community; our new 10,000 square foot Emergency Room recently opened; we've expanded the hours at Community Medical Center and welcomed a new Board Certified Pediatrician, Dr. Jennifer Atkins; we've also welcomed Board Certified Surgeon, Dr. Vincent Grant to Community Surgical Center.

In our ongoing effort to bring accessible services to our community, we have added a new Pharmacy Drive Thru located on the West side of Community Medical Center. We can fill any prescription you receive, even if we didn't write the prescription. The Pharmacy offers convenient hours seven days a week, competitive pricing on the medications you need, and fast, friendly service. So at your next appointment, ask your provider to send your prescription to George County Pharmacy. You'll be glad you did.

As always, if you have a comment or suggestion, we would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Greg Havard, CEO
George Regional Health System



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Next Time You're Online...

"Like" the George Regional Health System Facebook page to keep up with news and events.



The Pharmacy is Open
Inside Community
Medical Center

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.
(Drive Thru open until 8 p.m.)
and
Saturday and Sunday
8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

**Our pharmacy can fill
prescriptions from ANY physician!**



George Regional Hospital Opens New Emergency Room

George Regional Hospital's existing emergency room was built more than 68 years ago with just a few hundred square feet and two beds. In 2000, the ER was renovated and increased in size to 3,100 square feet and consisted of 8 beds. As our community continues to grow, the need for expanded facilities becomes more apparent each year. Now, after years of planning and development, the modern 10,000 square foot emergency room is ready to serve our patients.

"The new emergency department was designed by our staff with the intent of enhancing our patient's experience. Every aspect was driven by two guiding principles – providing the best quality of care and the highest customer satisfaction possible for our patients," explains Greg Havard, CEO, George Regional Health System.

Treating more than 15,000 patients each year, the new space will make a big difference in our caregiver's ability to perform procedures more effectively and in a more comfortable environment. "After years of treating patients in cramped quarters, this new space will allow us to more quickly triage patients and more effectively manage those with acute medical conditions," adds Clay Wedgeworth, R.N., ER

Supervisor. Clay has been treating patients at George Regional Hospital for almost 20 years. "Our already great level of care will only get better, and it will be so much nicer to have more space—and more privacy for our patients and their families."

"Continuing to meet the growing healthcare needs of this community is a top priority," Havard emphasizes. "And expanding the Emergency Room is a natural extension of our commitment to ensure patients remain in our community for their healthcare."

The new space offers a large waiting area, ten exam rooms, a large trauma room and a triage area. This is the first phase of opening the new building. Radiology will also be housed on the first floor and should be complete by the end of the year. The second story will be home to Obstetrics & Gynecology Associates.

"... this new space will allow us to more quickly triage patients"

- Clay Wedgeworth, R.N.

Pictured Above (left to right): Robbie Langley, George Regional Hospital Board of Trustee; Fred Croom, George County Board of Supervisor; Cohen Holland, George Regional Hospital Board of Trustee; Frankie Massey, George Regional Hospital Board of Trustee; Kelly Wright, George County Board of Supervisor; Larry Havard, George County Board of Supervisor; Larry McDonald, George County Board of Supervisor; Dr. Jay Pinkerton, Chief of Staff, George Regional Health System; Dr. Reese Lindsey, ER Medical Director, George Regional Hospital; Greg Havard, CEO, George Regional Health System; and Deryk Parker, Director of Support Services, George Regional Health System.



More Than a Nursing Home

88 Year Old Resident Learns to Walk Again

With a look of pure determination, 88 year old Betty McCrory lifts up from her wheelchair, grabs hold of her walker, and begins the arduous task of walking with the help of her new prosthetic leg. Ms. McCrory began calling George Regional Health & Rehab her ‘home’ after her health started to deteriorate due to a circulation issue. After her right leg had to be amputated above the knee in 2017, she moved into the nursing facility and began physical and occupational therapy.

Located on the campus of George Regional Hospital, Health & Rehab offers both long and short term care for patients needing extended care and rehabilitation.

“She was dependent on a wheel chair for more than a year before she would even consider prosthesis,” explains Johnny Smith, Physical Therapist and Director of Southeast Rehabilitation. “She didn’t think she could do it, so we gently encouraged her during each therapy session. She was getting stronger with therapy. We knew she could do it and was a great candidate for prosthesis.”

Her two children, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren visit her regularly. For Mother’s Day, she surprised her daughter and granddaughter and walked to the dining room and sat down at the table—her granddaughter cried tears of joy.

“I love it here. Everyone is so nice. It feels like home and they are so good to me. It feels fantastic to be able to move on my own—that

freedom and independence means so much—I just can’t thank Mr. Johnny and his team for what they’ve done for me—what they’ve given back to me.”

Working one-on-one with Vicki Dellacer, Physical Therapy Assistant, Ms. McCrory has excelled. “In just a few short months she went from needing lots of assistance to simply stand up, and then went to standing by herself, then a few steps with help. Now she’s walking independently,” adds Dellacer. “She’s done exceptionally well in a short amount of time.”

Smith explains that it makes a huge difference psychologically to be able to walk on your own and not have to look up to everyone (from a wheelchair). If you don’t walk for a while, you really start to go downhill, losing muscle and general strength. “We felt like she had the potential to do well with a prosthesis and we are very happy with her progress.”

Ms. McCrory is walking over 100 feet at a time now. “It’s really remarkable,” said her daughter. “She’s a different person now—her mood, her behavior. Everyone who visits her has noticed it.”

Patients at Health & Rehab take advantage of physical, occupational, and speech therapy seven days a week provided by Southeast Rehab. “We offer all three therapy services for patients at George Regional Hospital, Greene County Hospital, and on an outpatient basis at Southeast Rehab located on Mill Street,” emphasizes Smith. For more information about Therapy Services, please call Southeast Rehab at 601-947-9190 or visit www.georgeregional.com/Southeast-Rehabilitation.

George Regional Health & Rehab provides:

- 24/7 Nursing Care
- Activities Program
- Spacious Recreational Area
- Laundry Services
- Beautician Services
- Registered Dietician to plan and monitor meals
- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- FREE Wi-Fi

For more information about George Regional Health & Rehab, please call 601-947-9101 or visit www.georgeregional.com/George-Regional-Health-and-Rehab.

“I just can’t describe it—it’s hard to come up with the words...I owe them everything for believing that I could do it.”

George Regional Hospital Makes History with Birth of Triplets

On April 24, Labor and Delivery was bustling with more than 20 caregivers, anxiously awaiting—but fully prepared—to receive the hospital's first set of triplets into the world. The three healthy babies, Loetta Olivia Lynn, Hunter Wyatt, and Breahna Faye were welcomed to the world at 7:00 p.m.

Amber's physician, Dr. Jay Pinkerton, Obstetrics & Gynecology Associates, monitored her pregnancy closely. "We've been following mom all the way through the pregnancy. She had progressed far enough along that the babies were going to be safer outside the uterus than inside. So, we scheduled a C-section and delivered."

Bobby and Amber Cadle's first thought when they learned Amber was carrying triplets was "this can't be true!" It was during Amber's 11 week ultrasound appointment that they learned they would soon be parents to three babies. "The ultrasound tech kept making eye contact with Bobby," Amber recalls. "The screen was turned away from me, so I was like 'is everything okay?' The tech said yes, they look great. So, I say 'okay, twins.' The tech just said 'I'm not done...its triplets! My husband was laughing and crying at the same time.'"

Amber has been a patient of Dr. Pinkerton's for years and he also delivered her first son, Lane, now three. Even carrying three babies, Amber had a very normal pregnancy. "The delivery process is about the same, but with triplets, they are usually going to deliver earlier," Dr. Pinkerton adds.

"And triplets actually run in my family," Amber said. Loetta, Hunter, and Breahna make three sets of triplets for Amber's side of the family. And the new additions turned the Cadles into a family of 10,

eight children, plus mom and dad. "It's been a crazy summer. My husband's children—6, 10, 12, and 14—were here with us all summer, so we had to take two vehicles wherever we went. The older children have done well with the triplets. They've all helped feed and hold the babies—it's been great."

"And although we've delivered quite a few sets of twins," Dr. Pinkerton points out. "This is the first time the hospital has delivered triplets." And while George Regional Hospital made history after delivery its first set of triplets, it's not Dr. Pinkerton's first time delivering more than two babies at a time. Prior to joining the George Regional family, Dr. Pinkerton was Chief of General Obstetrics and Gynecology at University Hospitals of Cleveland, Case Medical Center, and MacDonald Women's Hospital, where more than 5,000 babies were delivered each year. Dr. Pinkerton has experience with complicated surgeries including gynecology and high-risk pregnancies.

Dr. Pinkerton is the Chief of Staff for George Regional Health System. He specializes in minimally invasive surgery, high risk pregnancies, and alternatives to hysterectomy.

To make an appointment, please call 601-947-6000.



Community Medical Center

Your Hometown Healthcare Team!



Until this summer, the only time Mary Davis had ever been to a hospital was to deliver her daughter Becky 31 years ago. But things drastically changed when she became violently ill and her sister, Cathy Holland, a nurse, insisted she go to the doctor. “I’ve been a patient of Dr. Larry Henderson at Community Medical Center for many years, so my sister called Melody Shoemaker (switchboard operator and lifelong friend of their family) to see how quickly I could get an appointment. Thankfully she was able to work me in soon.”

“I knew immediately something was terribly wrong with Mary,” explains Dr. Henderson. After a thorough examination, Mary was sent to George Regional Hospital for more extensive testing. Dr. Henderson is Board Certified in Family Medicine and has been taking care of patients at Community Medical Center since 2007.

“Once Dr. Henderson received the results, he called me with the bad news; he said my labs showed total kidney failure and stated that I needed to get to a hospital that could handle this type of emergency,” Mary recalls. “Labs in hand, my husband, Joe, took me to Mobile where I was immediately admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).”

Acute kidney failure occurs when kidneys suddenly become unable to filter waste products from blood. Acute kidney failure develops rapidly, usually in less than a few days. Mary’s labs showed a creatinine level of more than 17, where normal levels for an adult female are .6 to 1.1. Creatinine is a waste product in blood that comes from muscle activity. It is normally removed from the blood by kidneys, but when kidney function slows down, the creatinine level rises.

“They told my husband I had the labs of a patient with 20 years of kidney failure. It was all so strange and scary because I had no history of being sick or of any kidney problems,” Mary adds.

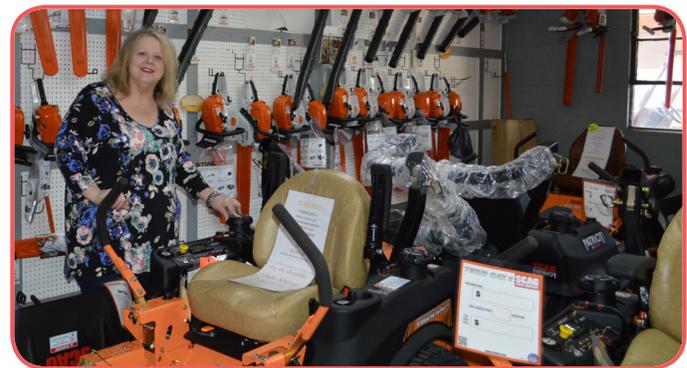
“My doctor in Mobile needed my prior lab work. Because I had the ‘Follow My Health App’ from Community Medical Center, which included several years of my health history, I was able to give him

immediate access to everything he needed. This helped him determine that my condition was acute and not chronic. Three months prior, my labs were completely normal,” Mary adds.

A CT Scan finally revealed the reason for her sickness; two large kidney stones, one in each kidney, had simultaneously moved and began to block both kidneys. “It’s very rare for two stones, each large, to move at the same time and cause this type of catastrophic consequences,” explains Dr. Henderson. “Mary was very lucky. If she had not come straight to the office for an evaluation, the outcome could have been quite different for her.”

Mary began dialysis immediately. After five days in ICU, she was strong enough to have the lithotripsy surgery needed to relieve the blockages. “Acute kidney failure can be fatal and requires intensive treatment,” explains Dr. Henderson. “However, acute kidney failure can sometimes be reversible. Luckily, we caught Mary’s in time and she was able to recover fully and now has normal kidney function” he adds.

Mary is eternally grateful for the care she’s received. “Dr. Henderson, Melody Shoemaker, my sister, Cathy Holland, and my husband all saved my life. Without this walk in appointment, I would have come home and passed. The calls, texts, and prayers from my friends and family in this community were overwhelming. We love our Community Medical and George Regional—it’s a blessing to have them in our community.”



Mary and her husband Joe, both lifetime residents of George County, have been married for 38 years. They own and operate J&J Power Shop in Lucedale.

Meet Dr. Henderson



Larry Henderson, M.D., is Board Certified in Family Medicine. He was born and raised in George County and has been taking care of patients at Community Medical Center since 2007. Dr. Henderson graduated from the University of South Alabama with a BS in Biomedical Science where he also completed Medical School, as well as an Internship and Residency in Family Practice.

He is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice, American Medical Association, and Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Dr. Henderson enjoys family time with his wife and children, working on cars, gardening, hiking, dining, creating, and inventing.

Community Medical Center provides Family Practice and Pediatric Care to patients seven days a week. Located at 92 West Ratliff Street, the medical center offers Full Lab, X-Ray, and Pharmacy Services.

Our Staff at Community Medical Center



DR. TOLAND ASH
FAMILY MEDICINE



DR. JENNIFER ATKINS
PEDIATRICS



DEEDY CAIN
NURSE PRACTITIONER



COURTNEY BURNS
NURSE PRACTITIONER



DR. NATOYA GRINDLEY
PEDIATRICS



KELLEY DEBAR
NURSE PRACTITIONER



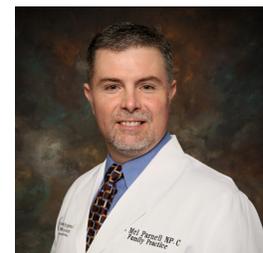
DR. MIKE HUBER
FAMILY MEDICINE



DEBORAH HYATT
NURSE PRACTITIONER



DR. CHRISTOPHER LANSDOWN
FAMILY MEDICINE



MEL PARNELL
NURSE PRACTITIONER



DR. COURTNEY VALENTINE
FAMILY MEDICINE

Scheduled Appointment Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Walk-In & Urgent Care Hours:
No appointment needed!

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday
8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Our goal is to provide you and your family with exceptional healthcare services in a convenient, caring, and cost effective manner. We will care for you when you are sick and help you stay healthy with regular check-ups and health education services. We offer full lab, X-ray and Pharmacy services.

For more information, please call 601-947-8181 or visit the center's Facebook page.

“Like” the George Regional Health System Facebook page to keep up with news and events.



George Regional Hospital Volunteers Mark 20 Year Milestone!

On August 6, 1998, the George Regional Hospital Auxiliary was established with 23 volunteers. Twenty years later, six of the original members still serve; Faye McNeill, Doris Alexander, Rose Burgess, Mavis Dungan, Coe Alice Sturgis, and JoAnn Weaver.

Formed by Millie Whilhite and Linda Holland, the Auxiliary program was created to assist medical personnel in serving the community. In a newspaper interview in 1998, Ms. Whilhite explains, “George County Hospital Auxiliary is dedicated to provide the best volunteer services in supporting the activities of George County Hospital. Our goals are to promote the positive role of volunteers serving the hospital and to increase public awareness of the auxiliary membership and its role in the hospital—to make it a sought after activity in the community.”

Shortly after its formation, Faye McNeill took the reins as President and still holds that title today.

The volunteers have many jobs throughout the hospital—from assisting patients and family to different departments throughout the hospital, to delivering flowers, to serving coffee as families wait for their loved ones, and even supplying pediatric patients with toys and coloring books. Auxiliary members average 550 volunteer hours each month.

“We have a great group,” Faye says proudly “The time we spend at this hospital is such a fellowship for us—we definitely receive as much as we give.” If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer, please call Ms. McNeill at 601-770-0422.

Since 1998, the Auxiliary has provided:

- Monitors for the Emergency Room
- A power lift and converter chair for surgery
- Wheel chairs
- Rocking chairs for the nursery and recovery room
- Recliners for the intensive care unit
- Toys for pediatric patients
- CPR Mannequins