

Vol. 18, No. 3 / Summer 2022



Heart to Heart

A publication of St. Tammany Health System



RIDING HIGH

New Folsom facility
takes physical therapy
to New Heights, p. 8

The latest on COVID-19 in St. Tammany, p. 5
Local physicians honored for care, compassion, p. 7
An expansion of Northshore neuro care, p. 10
See the Healing Arts Initiative's stunning new additions, p. 14

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED CHEST PAIN CENTER

The cardiology team at St. Tammany Health System stays in rhythm with the community we love so much. Here on our high-tech campus, many talented specialists and subspecialists devote themselves to providing the latest advancements in cardiac disease prevention and minimally invasive cardiac surgery. Together with our partner Ochsner Health, we're making St. Tammany hearts beat stronger.

WINNING ST. TAMMANY MANY HEARTS



St. TammanySM
HEALTH SYSTEM

WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE CLOSE TO HOME



MISSION

We are the heartbeat of our community, caring for our patients and their families with excellence, compassion and teamwork

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- Melissa Hodgson, executive editor
- Mike Scott, editor and senior writer
- Tory Mansfield, creative director
- Tim San Fillippo, cover design and art direction
- Jan Budenz, editorial assistant



Gratefully Yours

Meet STHS's newest care providers: horses



Joan Coffman, FACHE

“What makes this clinic different is hippotherapy, the art and science of horseback riding as a therapeutic or rehabilitative treatment.”

Isn't that cover a beauty? We are so excited about our new outpatient rehabilitation location with a very special twist that is near and dear to my heart—horses!

STHS Therapy and Wellness cut a ribbon on its newest location on the campus of New Heights Therapeutic Riding Center on June 29, and it provides all the same services as our other locations including physical, occupational and speech therapy for adults and children.

What makes this new one different is hippotherapy, the art and science of horseback riding as a therapeutic or rehabilitative treatment.

From our primary location in front of Flower Estates to our specialty locations in the YMCA, Women's Pavilion and St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center, STHS Therapy and Wellness is everywhere patients need us.

And that's not all we have for you in this issue of Heart to Heart. Learn about Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System and what that means for treating complex brain, spine and back issues close to home. Catch up on the latest Healing Arts installation and more!

We hope you enjoy this quarterly peek into the exciting world of your hometown community health system. We live our values of safety and service each day just for you and your family.

Gratefully,



Joan M. Coffman, FACHE
St. Tammany Health System President and CEO



CELEBRATING SURVIVORSHIP

From left, St. Tammany Health System Chief Operating Officer Sharon Toups, Community Health Coordinator Anne Pablovich, President and CEO Joan Coffman and St. Tammany Hospital Foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre share a smile on Survivor's Day at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center. This year's event, held June 2, was a return to in-person celebrating after two years of COVID-prompted cancellations. (Photo by Tory Mansfield / STHS)

STHS helps plant the seeds for a Healthier Northshore

Community garden yields physical, mental health benefits



By Mike Scott, msscott@stph.org

St. Tammany Health System care providers put their healing hands to work last spring – but not in the way you might expect.

Trading their surgical gloves for garden gloves, a group of STHS doctors, nurses and administrators were among a group of volunteers pitching in to install a community garden on the Safe Haven behavioral health campus in Mandeville.

The garden is a keystone project of Healthier Northshore – a coalition of community groups united by a common interest in improving local population health measures – and is intended to be the first of multiple similar community gardens in the area.

“A garden like this brings obvious nutritional benefits, of course,” St. Tammany Health System’s Dr. Mike Hill said. “But gardening is also good for you from a mental health standpoint, getting out in the sun and the fresh air. So this garden really addresses both physical health and mental health at the same time.”

In addition to St. Tammany Health System, other groups providing physical and financial support for the build were Kent Design Build, Ochsner, St. Tammany Master Gardeners, RCI, NAMI St. Tammany, Chevron, Safe Haven and Target.

The garden, consisting of three raised beds planted with a variety of herbs and vegetables, will be tended and harvested by behavioral health clients living



A variety of seedlings await planting during the construction of a community garden at Safe Haven in Mandeville, a project of the Healthier Northshore community alliance. (Photo by Tim San Fillippo/STHS)



STPN Folsom Office Manager Joe Schonacher lays a paving stone on the perimeter of the new Safe Haven community garden. (Photo by Tim San Fillippo / STHS)



St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman thanks volunteers during a pizza break. (Photo by Tim San Fillippo / STHS)

on the Safe Haven campus.

“And this is just Phase 1,” said St. Tammany Health System Outreach Coordinator Anne Pablovich, a leader of the garden project. “We’re hoping to build it out in the future with additional beds, maybe a greenhouse, seating.”

With sunny skies and moderate temperatures, the day brought picture-perfect weather for the build, which started around 8 a.m.

and continued through a lunch of pizza provided to volunteers.

STHS President and CEO Joan Coffman said the project illustrates precisely why the Healthier Northshore initiative was started back in September 2020.

“Healthier Northshore was really envisioned to be that community resource to advance the quality of life for area residents,” Coffman said. “This is a perfect example of that.” ■

Learn more about Healthier Northshore at HealthierNorthshore.health

Vigilance is key as COVID-19 infections rise, expert says

Positivity rate soars throughout southeast Louisiana

By Mike Scott, msscott@stph.org

After the past two years of COVID-19, spring 2022 brought some much-needed relief, with pandemic-related hospitalizations remaining manageable and infection rates sitting at comfortably low levels.

But now, with variants of the omicron strain fueling higher infection rates across Louisiana, experts are warning of what could become a long, hot summer – and we're not just talking about the temperature.

To get the latest on the status of the pandemic, we chatted with St. Tammany Health System infectious disease expert Dr. Mike Hill. Here's what he had to say:

So, where are we with COVID here in St. Tammany Parish?

Well, I can tell you that here at St. Tammany Health System, while we've seen a recent uptick in cases, we're prepared, supplied and ready to care for

our community, no matter what COVID throws at us next.

That being said, we've seen a pretty dramatic increase in the local positivity rate over the past several weeks. This spring, St. Tammany Parish's positive test rate was under 2%. As of July 5, it was at 25.5% – and that doesn't even take into account home tests, so it's probably much higher than that. So, it's out there.

I'm vaccinated. I've been twice boosted. Should I be worried?

Let's say you should remain vigilant. I like that word better. Even for those who are vaccinated and boosted, the threat posed by omicron, which is much more contagious than previous versions of the virus, is very real. Right now, BA.4 and BA.5 – which are omicron strains – are estimated to account for more than half of new U.S. cases of COVID-19. The good news is that the federal

government has committed to updating the vaccine "recipes" to better defend against omicron, so the cavalry is coming, so to speak.

When will those new vaccines get here?

There's the catch. These things take time, and so we're not expected to get new vaccines until the fall. That brings me back to my point about remaining vigilant. Unlike those scary early days of the pandemic, we now know how COVID-19 spreads. So the same guidance we've been offering all along still applies for otherwise healthy people: Get vaccinated and boosted, wash your hands regularly and avoid crowded indoor settings. If you've got no alternative – maybe you've got some air travel planned this summer – I would recommend you consider masking, even if you're up-to-date on your shots, just to be safe. ■

Grant to aid cancer patients with transportation needs

By Mike Scott, msscott@stph.org

Bolstering St. Tammany Health System's ongoing efforts to remove barriers to quality care on the Northshore, the American Cancer Society has awarded St. Tammany Hospital Foundation a \$10,000 grant to address transportation needs of local cancer patients.

It is the second consecutive year the foundation has received the cancer society grant, which will provide gas cards, rideshare rides and other transportation assistance to patients in need who are receiving treatment at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center.

The cancer center, which opened in June 2021 near the intersection of Interstate 12 and Louisiana 21 in Covington, was designed to simplify cancer treatment by locating most cancer services under one roof. For many, however, traveling to and from their treatments – sometimes multiple times a week – still poses an economic burden. Others are too sick to drive themselves.

A study by PubMed.gov found that many patients simply forgo needed treatment due to transportation issues.

"I had a patient from Tangipahoa Parish who we just started working

with, and he's got to come in twice a week for treatments," cancer center social worker Lisa Hidalgo said. "And he literally told me sometimes he has to choose between whether he's going to eat or come in and get his lab work for his cancer treatment. I was so grateful to say, 'You know, let me tell you about the services we provide.'"

Another cancer center social worker, Jane Neel, added: "In a nutshell, without this program, there are many patients who just wouldn't have a ride to get their chemo treatments." ■

STAT!

Quick hits from the STHS newsroom

In June, St. Tammany Health System earned its **14th consecutive Outstanding Patient Experience Award** from Healthgrades, placing it in the top 5% of U.S. hospitals for patient experience. ... In May, STHS earned its **13th consecutive “A” for patient safety** from the Leapfrog Group. It is the longest such streak of any Louisiana health system, with the next closest having eight. ... The Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care has named STHS **2021 Hospital of the Year for Respiratory Care** among hospitals with more than 200 beds. ... In June, STHS was again named an **Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence** by the Infectious Disease Society of America. ... Congratulations to **Dr. John D’Hemecourt**, STHS Director of Anesthesia and Surgery **Chris Connell** and STHS Nurse Anesthetist **Brian Grissom**, who received the St. Tammany Quality Network Medical Director’s Award for the first quarter of 2022 for initiating the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery program at STHS. ... Congratulations also to **Dr. McCall McDaniel**, whose work toward guiding the health system’s Certified Autism Center achievements earned her the STQN Medical Director’s Award for the second quarter of 2022. ... Vizient Southern States in April recognized STHS with a **2021 Brilliance Award** in recognition of an innovative patient navigation initiative designed to reduce avoidable hospital readmissions. ... The STHS Emergency Department has earned a spot on the **American College of Emergency Room Physicians’ 2021 Emergency Quality Network Honor Roll** for its continued work in reducing opioid use in treating emergency room patients. ... The American College of Cardiology honored STHS and its chest pain program with its **NCDR Chest Pain – MI Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award**. ... Congratulations and thanks go to several longtime STHS colleagues who retired recently, including Pre-Access Specialist **Vera Guidry** (34 years of service), nurse **Rod Schafer** (31 years) and cancer care champion **Chyrl Corizzo** (28 years). ■

Celebrating nursing excellence

Daisy Award program shines a spotlight on STHS caregivers



St. Tammany Health System Chief Nursing Officer Kerry Milton was surprised with a Lifetime Achievement Daisy Award in March. Hers marked STHS’s first Daisy Award, an international recognition program celebrating the skills and compassion of nurses. (Photo by Mike Scott/STHS)

By Mike Scott, mscott@stph.org

Things are coming up daisies at St. Tammany Health System. In March, the health system announced its participation in The Daisy Award initiative, an international recognition program that honors and celebrates the skillful, compassionate care provided by nurses – and it wasted no time in recognizing some of its superstar caregivers.

In fact, health system leadership got things started with a bang, nominating STHS Chief Nursing Officer Kerry Milton – a 40-year STHS employee – for a surprise Lifetime Achievement Daisy Award.

Fittingly, Milton’s was the first Daisy Award issued at STHS. “I can’t say enough about how it feels to be recognized,” Milton said upon being surprised with her award in the hospital’s recently completed South Tower. “It’s hard to say you love every single minute of your job, but I do – and I thank every one of you for this recognition.”

In the weeks that followed, four additional St. Tammany Health System nurses were honored with The Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

They are:

- **Jeanne Goubert RN** of St. Tammany Hospice.
- **Ellen Loop RN** of STHS’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- **Rachel Michel-Donovan RN** of the Inpatient Wound Care Department.
- **Ashley Rivere RN** of STHS’s Surgery Medicine Unit.

Anyone, colleague or patient, can nominate a nurse for a Daisy Award by filling out the online nomination form found at DaisyNomination.org/4174 or a paper nomination form, which can be found throughout the hospital. ■



St. Tammany Quality Network leadership, from left, Dr. Patrick Torcson, St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman, Dr. Mike Hill and Jack Khashou are photographed at the annual STQN membership and award banquet. (STQN image)

St. Tammany Quality Network honors local doctors for 2021 achievements

In April, St. Tammany Quality Network held its annual membership and awards event, at which the group of some 300 Northshore community physicians who are aligned with St. Tammany Health System singled out local care providers for healthcare excellence in 2021.

The list of honorees follows:

Top 2021 St. Tammany EPO Performers

- Charles Baier, MD: highest performer in colorectal screening, diabetes nephropathy screening, breast cancer screening and cervical cancer screening
- Robert Faucheux, MD: highest performer in pediatric well visits

Top 2021 Healthy Planet Performers

- Glen Kesler, MD: Highest performer in Healthy Planet on overall HEDIS metrics in primary care
- Jennifer Miles, MD: Highest performer in Healthy Planet on overall HEDIS metrics in pediatrics

Top 2021 OACN Performers

- Charles Baier, MD: Highest performer in OACN on overall HEDIS metrics
- Nathalie Mascherpa-Kerkow, MD: ACO physician with highest annual wellness visit completion
- Ralph Millet, MD: OACN physician with the highest HCC recapture rate

Top 2021 Medicaid Care Improvement Program (MCIP) Performers

- Jill Gibson, MD: MCIP Maternal Care, lowest C-section rate
- Gabrielle Givens, MD: MCIP Hypertension Management, highest MCIP hypertension control rate (100%)
- Libeau Berthelot, MD: MCIP Diabetes Management, highest MCIP diabetic overall metrics
- Jennifer Miles, MD: MCIP Pediatrics, highest MCIP metrics in pediatric care
 - » Well-child visits in 3,4,5,6 years of life
 - » Adolescent well-care visits
 - » BMI assessment and nutrition counseling

Top 2021 STQN Scorecard Performers

- Ralph Millet, MD: top performing primary care provider
- Rob Faucheux, MD: top performing pediatric provider
- Mohammad Almbaslat, MD: top performing specialist

2021 Top Performer in BPCI-A and CJR

- Melissa Inman, MD: Lowest readmission rate for BPCI-A and highest NPRA per episode
- Georges Antoun, MD: Lowest readmission rate for BPCI-A cardiac episodes and highest NPRA per episode
- Joey LaMartina, MD: Zero readmissions for CJR and highest overall NPRA

STQN Citizenship Awards

- Brianna McDaniel, MD, for the STQN Citizenship Award in recognition of her community outreach efforts specific to early detection and prevention of cancer.
- Andy Stone, MD, for the STQN Citizenship Award in recognition of his efforts in leading the low-dose CT screening initiative at STHS.
- Gary Agena, MD, for the STQN Citizenship Award in recognition of his participation in community education programs specific to women's health and breast health awareness.
- Angela Buonagura, MD, for the STQN Citizenship Award in recognition of her community outreach efforts along with patient navigation after screenings with the Be Well Program.
- David Toups, MD, for the STQN Citizenship Award in recognition for his coordination of COVID testing and treatment.

Continuing Medical Education Providers

- Frederick Schouest, MD: "Physician Burnout"
- Phillips Jenkins, MD: "Colorectal Screening in 2021"
- Nathan Ranney, MD: "Spring Primary Care Retreat"
- Patrick Torcson, MD: "Northshore Healthcare Summit"
- Angela Buonagura, MD: "Breast Cancer – Pearls & Tips"
- Julie Talavera, MD: "Outpatient Management of Diabetes"



Ride on!

STHS' new Therapy and Wellness clinic in Folsom is a horse of a different color

By Mike Scott, msscott@stph.org

Ruthie Racine rides tall in the saddle.

Ordinarily, the 9-year-old Mandeville resident, who has cerebral palsy, uses a walker to get around, and she manages it quite well, thank you very much.

But once a week, she mounts up for a session at the New Heights Therapeutic Riding Center in Folsom. Just one look at her atop retired polo pony Pete is all it takes to see Ruthie is in her happy place.

"She loves it," said Katherine Racine, Ruthie's mother. "It gives her

a sense of normalcy. She doesn't get to do a lot of outside activities, so it's nice just to have something to do out in the fresh air."

It's not solely about lifting Ruthie's spirits, though. Her time with Pete — or Natchez, her steed of choice — also helps her physically, improving her core muscles, her trunk control and, by extension, her confidence, Katherine said.

Now, St. Tammany Health System patients throughout the area will get an opportunity to share in the benefits of hippotherapy, a fancy medical term — derived from the

Greek "hippos," meaning horse — for therapeutic horseback riding.

On June 29, the health system's Outpatient Therapy Department cut the ribbon on a new clinic at the New Heights campus off Louisiana 40 in Folsom. In addition to hippotherapy sessions, conducted by a trained STHS hippotherapist using New Heights' horses and riding facility, the new Folsom clinic offers a full suite of traditional physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy offerings.

"The horses are, of course, what sets this location apart from our

other clinics,” said Mike McNeil, director of outpatient rehab services for St. Tammany Health System. “But I’m just as excited that this new location is going to provide full-service, clinic-based rehab therapies – both for adults and for children – even closer to home for people living north of Covington.”

Those more traditional services are conducted in a custom-designed gym outfitted with an array of therapeutic equipment, sparing many patients the drive to STHS’s main rehab facility in Covington.

Located just behind that new clinic, and nestled amid a collection of postcard-ready horse pastures, are the New Heights stables and riding arena, where STHS Physical Therapist Allison Ostendorf conducts hippotherapy sessions.

“What we do is use the horse as a treatment tool, so it’s a traditional physical therapy session but with a portion of it being completed on a horse,” Ostendorf said.

She added that anyone who can benefit from traditional physical therapy – from patients with Down’s syndrome to those with traumatic brain injuries to those with arthritis and many other conditions – may benefit from hippotherapy.

Perhaps no one is as excited about the new facility than St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman, whose love of horses just might equal Ruthie’s.

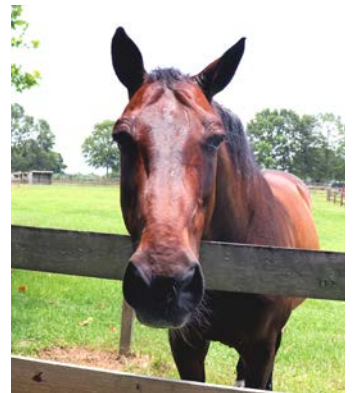
“This is not simply a new location. With the addition of hippotherapy, it’s a game-changer,” Coffman said. “From our primary location in front of Flower Estates to our specialty locations in the YMCA; at our Women’s Pavilion; and at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center, STHS Therapy and Wellness is truly everywhere patients need us.” ■



Dignitaries from St. Tammany Health System and New Heights cut the ribbon on the health system’s new Therapy and Wellness Clinic in Folsom, which will offer physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and hippotherapy. (Photo by Tory Mansfield / STHS)



From left, STHS Chief Operating Officer Sharon Toups, Keith Barre of fl+WB Architects and STHS President and CEO Joan Coffman. (Photo by Mike Scott / STHS)



One of New Heights’ therapy horses says hello to a recent visitor to the Folsom facility. (Photo by Mike Scott / STHS)



Members of St. Tammany Health System leadership pose with some of the staff of the health system’s new Therapy and Wellness clinic in Folsom. (Photo by Tory Mansfield / STHS)

STHS, Ochsner unveil game-changing neurosciences expansion

Added capabilities will allow many patients to stay on the Northshore for treatment

By Mike Scott, msscott@stph.org

In what is being described as a major advancement of neurological care on the Northshore, Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System has expanded its footprint and its capabilities at the health system's hospital campus in Covington.

The groundbreaking expansion allows for many patients with complex brain conditions who would have previously been transferred to a hospital outside the region to remain on the Northshore for the duration of their treatment.

Among other things, the expansion increases the number of dedicated beds in the hospital's neurology unit from eight to 10, with room to expand to 14, and the number of beds in its Neuro Intensive Care Unit from six to 10.

The neuro care team also now includes a round-the-clock neuro-specific ICU physician and a dedicated neurosciences physical therapist.

Taken together, the moves allow for 24-hour neuro-focused intensive care at the hospital.

"Previously, we would have had our neurosurgeons perform surgery and then transfer the patient to Ochsner on the south shore," said Corey Olson, director of the neurosciences program at St. Tammany Health System. "Now, we can perform these complex surgeries, and then the patients are being transferred down the hall to the neuro ICU and staying with us, here, close to home, for the extent of their care."

"So, we're really caring for



Dr. Seth Hayes, right, a neurosurgeon with the Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System, prepares for a procedure in one of the health system's operating suites. Among other capabilities, St. Tammany Health System boasts the Synaptive Modus V with BrightMatter technology, a highly specialized, robotically controlled digital microscope that aids in complex neurological surgeries. (Photo by Tim San Filippo/STHS)

the patient now from start to finish. They can get top-notch neuro treatment here – and stay on the Northshore."

In addition to the expansion of the hospital's neuro units, Ochsner Neuroscience Institute has also relocated to St. Tammany Health System.

The practice will continue its focus on brain, back and spine care, but with the added benefit of proximity to the hospital.

"Caring for brain and spine takes a huge team of neurosurgeons,

neurologists, therapists, intensive care specialists, and then the emergency personnel in the hospital," said Dr. Benjamin Brown,

a neurosurgeon with the institute. "St. Tammany has done a great job of building the full services around neuro."

The practice is located in the STHS Medical Office Complex

at 1203 S. Tyler St. in Covington, which is connected by pedestrian skybridge to St. Tammany Parish Hospital, the flagship facility of St. Tammany Health System.

"We're really caring for the patient now from start to finish. They can get top-notch neuro treatment here – and stay on the Northshore."

– Corey Olson, director of the neurosciences program at St. Tammany Health System



Dr. Benjamin Brown, right, a neurosurgeon with the Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System, discusses a case with his team. (Photo by Tim San Fillippo / STHS)

Among other things, that provides its physicians and other members of its care team convenient access to:

- The hospital's newly expanded Neuro Intensive Care Unit, providing full-service, neuro-specific care to patients with complex issues that can be managed 24/7 by a neuro intensivist.
- Advanced technology in its operating rooms, including the Synaptive Modus V with BrightMatter technology, a highly specialized, robotically controlled digital microscope; and Globus Excelsius GPS, a precision guidance system designed to assist surgeons in complex procedures.
- St. Tammany Health System's Emergency Department, which is accredited as a verified Level III Trauma Center by the Committee on Trauma and a certified Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission and American Stroke Association.

The Ochsner Neurosciences Institute at St. Tammany Health System is the latest example of the

kind of advanced, specialized care brought to the Northshore through the longstanding partnership between St. Tammany Health System and Ochsner Health, which was initiated in 2014.

"From the standpoint of minimally invasive techniques and some of the technology, we've really done a great job with the partnership," said Dr. Seth Hayes, also part of the neurosciences institute.

"St. Tammany has put a lot of effort into acquiring the technology that we need."

St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman echoed those sentiments.

"From the start, the goal of our partnership with Ochsner was to bring highly specialized care to the Northshore so our friends, family and neighbors wouldn't have to travel long distances for care," Coffman said. "We're grateful to accomplish that together in the Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System." ■

Visit StTammany.health/Neurosciences to learn more about Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System.

ACT F.A.S.T.

Remember the acronym "F.A.S.T." if you think someone is having a stroke.

F = Face Drooping

Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?

A = Arm Weakness

Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S = Speech Difficulty

Is speech slurred?

T = Time to call 911

With strokes, time is everything. Call for help immediately if you suspect someone is having a stroke, noting the time symptoms started.

Other Stroke Symptoms

Watch for sudden:

NUMBNESS or weakness of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body

CONFUSION, trouble speaking or understanding speech

TROUBLE SEEING in one or both eyes

TROUBLE WALKING, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

SEVERE HEADACHE with no known cause

Source: American Heart Association



A 2022 golfer eyes his next shot as his teammates look on.

IN THE SWING OF THINGS

The 11th annual Get Lucky! Golf Tournament presented by Refreshment Solutions teed off on April 28 at Beau Chene Country Club, and it was a perfect day by all accounts. Golfers enjoyed food and drinks by Pyre Provisions, PJ's Coffee, Bosco's Italian Café, Chick-fil-A, and Pot & Paddle. In the process, a record \$65,000 was raised in support of the programs and services of St. Tammany Health System. (Photos by Chuck Billiot)



St. Tammany Hospital Foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre presents the Making a Difference Award to Greg Lucia, the owner of tournament sponsor Refreshment Solutions.



The team from PJ's Coffee took home the trophy as the first-place finishers of 2022.



A golfer puts a little body English on his putt.



CARS FOR CANCER

The Northshore Wrangler Association gave local cancer patients something to get revved about recently, in the form of \$15,500 raised at a Cars for Cancer car show in May to benefit cancer care at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center. Pictured are Jessica Cangelosi, left, and Mike Cangelosi, right, of the Northshore Wrangler Association, presenting the check to Cancer Center Director Sandy Martin and Administrator Jack Khashou.

THAT'S AMORE!

St. Tammany Hospital Foundation says 'grazie' with an 'Evening in Tuscany' donor recognition celebration



One of the highlights of the annual donor recognition party is the announcing of the Adrian Award recipients, named after founding foundation member Dr. Adrian Cairns. This year, it went to Pelican Pointe Carwash owners Jennifer and Ronnie Bonner, at right, photographed with St. Tammany Hospital Foundation Executive Director Nicole Shure, left, St. Tammany Health System Foundation President and CEO Joan Coffman, and Cher Cairns, the widow of Dr. Cairns. (Photos by Chuck Billiot)

RIGHT: From left, Dr. Paul Stahls and wife Kelly share a smile with St. Tammany Health System Vice President – Quality and Utilization Dr. Mike Hill and wife Jamey at the donor recognition event, held June 9 at the Southern Hotel in Covington. BELOW: That bottle of chianti isn't a bottle of chianti at all. It's a cake!

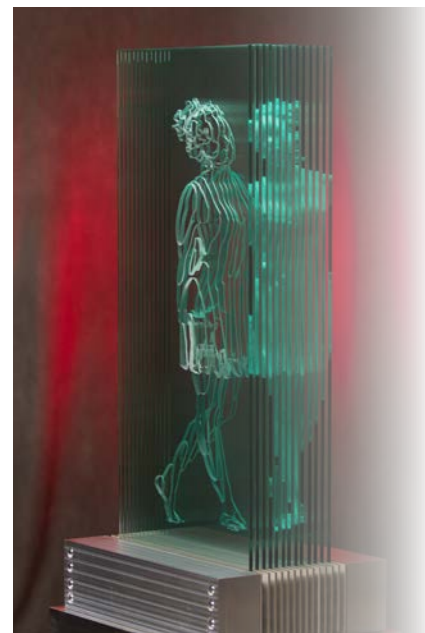


St. Tammany Health System Nurse Anesthetist Frank Stuart and Vince Liuzza.

St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's Melanie Rudolph, left, Metairie Bank's Paul Myers and the foundation's Emily Revere.



'Siren' (below), a 6-foot carved-glass sculpture by former Covington gallery owner Jed Malitz (pictured at left), was installed in June at St. Tammany Health System's Covington hospital. A similar Malitz sculpture, titled 'Serenity,' resides at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center. (Photos by Tim San Filippo / STHS)



Art and soul

Unique sister sculptures installed as part of Healing Arts Initiative

By Mike Scott, mscott@stph.org

"Serenity" lives at St. Tammany Health System. The striking 6-foot glass sculpture and its sister sculpture "Siren" are the latest artworks installed as part of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's Healing Arts Initiative, which, in recognition of the role of art in the healing process, has since 2003 enriched the health system's myriad facilities with works of local artists.

In the case of "Serenity" and "Siren," that artist is former Covington gallery owner Jed Malitz, whose unique process involves the vertical alignment of several meticulously carved plates of glass that combine to represent a female form. As the viewer moves around each piece, the forms appear to change shape.

"(With) the physical art form, which is just the edges of holes cut through glass, those edges are fairly abstract," Malitz said. "If you look at any given one, they're sort of a blob. They're just amorphous. But when you piece them together, you get the collective physical representation of the subject."

And that's just the half of it.

"The ultimate goal is to represent the human form both physically and through light," Malitz said. "So, using the light, which is refracted by

the art, it shows an alternate perspective of the individual, in a sense, representing their soul."

He added: "Half the sculpture is light. The other half is physical."

While the proper lighting has yet to be installed for "Serenity" and "Siren," the sculptures themselves — one donated by Malitz and one donated by the Gutterman family — were installed in early June and are both on display.

"Serenity," made of laser-carved acrylic with a composite wood base, is at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center.

"Siren," made of water-jet-carved glass on an aluminum base, is on view on the first floor of the health system's Covington hospital.

Weighing in at around 1,000 pounds each, they are easily among the biggest pieces installed as part of the Healing Arts program. Depending on whom you ask, they're also among the most eye-catching.

"There is so much I enjoy about these pieces. Jed is clearly an extremely talented and visionary artist," Foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre said. "However, what I'm most excited about is the type of work they are. I love that this installation will highlight a different form of art that will impact our visitors, patients and colleagues in a new way." ■

To learn more about the Healing Arts at St. Tammany Health System, visit sthfoundation.org/HealingArts.

Investing for Good

Competition, compassion, capitalism combine to benefit local healthcare



STHF Executive Director Nicole Suhre

“Your support ensures St. Tammany Health System continues to be at the forefront of delivering world-class, compassionate healthcare to our families, friends and neighbors.”

Hello, friends!

I hope the summer season is treating you all well. Though we are a busy community full of movers and shakers, there is something refreshing about the way the pace slows down just a tad during the summer months.

Our Foundation Board of Trustees and team members have their share of summer fun planned, but we are also hard at work ensuring that our motto – Keeping St. Tammany Health System Health Keeps Our Community Healthy – gets fulfilled. Of course, we couldn't do that without our generous supporters.

One unique way we are working to ensure the health of our organization is through a new fundraising venture called Investing for Good. You may have seen us promoting this investment challenge a few months ago.

Through Investing for Good, participating donors signed up by committing a minimum amount of stock to the challenge. All stocks will be tracked for a period of six months, and at the end of the challenge the donor with the highest rate of return will win, and all participants' stock selections will be donated to the foundation. It's simple, yet effective way to harness the power of non-cash giving – and have a little fun!

Each year, more and more donors demonstrate an interest in non-cash giving options, which is a smart way to maximize your philanthropy while receiving a variety of tax benefits. Giving methods include gifts of appreciated stock and securities, real estate and planned gifts of charitable remainder trusts, annuities, bequests or insurance beneficiary designations. Visit sthfoundation.planmygift.org to learn more.

Your support ensures St. Tammany Health System continues to be at the forefront of delivering world-class, compassionate healthcare to our families, friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Nicole Suhre, CFRE
STHF executive director

Foundation calendar Save the dates!



THE GALA 2022

Oct. 13, 2022 | Tchefuncta Country Club

The foundation's signature annual fundraising soirée, which has become a highlight of the local fall calendar, celebrates Willy Wonka with the theme "Step Into Your Imagination." Expect a night of music, food, fun – and, of course, chocolate – all in support of local cancer care.

Details: THEgalaNorthshore.org | (985) 898-4141

MONSTER MASH

Oct. 22, 2022 | Bogue Falaya Park

St. Tammany gets in touch with its spooky side with the 34th edition of its not-so-scary Halloween celebration, presented by Metairie Bank Northshore and featuring family-friendly games, costumes, silent auction, trick-or-treating and more. Proceeds benefit the STHS Parenting Center.

Details: DoTheMash.org | (985) 898-4435

ANGELS OF LIGHT

Dec. 8, 2022 | St. Tammany Parish Hospital Lobby

The foundation ushers in the holiday season with the lighting of its Hospice Tree for Life, which is decorated every year with tribute angels purchased by community members to remember or memorialize a loved one. Proceeds benefit St. Tammany Hospice.

Details: STHfoundation.org/Angels | (985) 898-4141



1202 S. Tyler St., Covington, LA 70433

THE GALA

PRESENTED BY

HUB

GOLDEN TICKET

THURSDAY
OCT. 13

7 P.M.

TCHEFUNCTA
COUNTRY CLUB

STEP INTO YOUR IMAGINATION TO SUPPORT THE PATIENTS AND FAMILIES
AT ST. TAMMANY CANCER CENTER, A CAMPUS OF OCHSNER MEDICAL CENTER

TheGalaNorthshore.org

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