


Tennessee CONNECTIONS

FALL 2023 | CUSTOMER FOCUSED  COMMUNITY DRIVEN



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A performer delights crowds at the 2022 Lauderdale County Fair. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAUDERDALE CHAMBER





Hospital a Critical Community Resource

An architect's rendering shows the new hospital on U.S. 51 in south Ripley. It was built in front of the former hospital building.

A new \$20-million-plus, 40,000-square-foot Lauderdale Community Hospital soon opens its doors on U.S. 51.

"The state-of-the-art, acute care hospital has the capacity for 15 acute care/swing beds with the ability to add another 10 beds when needed," said Norman Hendren, the hospital's CEO.

Lauderdale Community Hospital, the county's only hospital, is a certified critical access hospital, meaning it provides health care services in a rural, underserved community.

"Before 2021, the hospital faced many detrimental struggles," Hendren said. "Without the support of the committed staff and community, we would be without a hospital, and this would have been disastrous to Lauderdale County in all areas of economics and health care. A lot of history and sacrifice has gone into this hospital."

On any given day, a helicopter may leave the hospital to take a critically ill or injured patient to a facility with a higher level of care.

"The hospital is a critical part of this community," Hendren said. "The doctors and staff at this hospital have assessed, treated and saved many lives. Every day, someone's life is in the balance."

The hospital's emergency department has a laboratory and radiology staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with competent, emergency-trained physicians, registered nurses and clinical support staff.

The emergency department physicians and RNs are certified in advanced cardiac life support, pediatric

advanced life support, emergency nursing and trauma care.

The new facility also has a 15-bed medical-surgical wing; two state-of-the-art operating rooms; an in-house specialty clinic; same-day procedure rooms; a full physical therapy department, including speech and occupational therapy; outpatient infusion beds; and a cardiopulmonary rehabilitation department.

The hospital provides a rehabilitation program, called a swing-bed program, that helps patients return to their best conditions after surgery or illness.

The medical staff includes emergency physicians; a general surgeon; pathology, radiology, family practice, internal medicine and pulmonology physicians; and hospitalists who manage the care of patients in the hospital. The facility has 160 full- and part-time employees.

In 2021, Lauderdale Community Hospital was bought by Rural Hospital Group Consolidated, a hospital management company based in Kansas City, Missouri, with community hospitals in several states. The owners of the current hospital building, originally opened by Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation in 1982, are open to discussion for purchase.

Hendren said the new hospital will also be more economical and efficient to operate.

"Lauderdale County is blessed to have this new facility to serve the community of Lauderdale County," he said. "Lauderdale Community Hospital takes pride in offering the best care possible with the best health care staff." ■



Norman Hendren, CEO

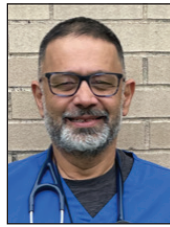
Lauderdale



Community Hospital



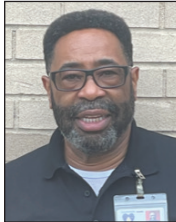
Joe Hunt, MD,
40 years



Syed A. Zaidi,
MD, 26 years



Cheryl Barlow, revenue cycle dir., 33 years; Jacqueline Taylor, patient accts., 10; Cathy Fishburn, reg. rep., 6; Sandra Wakefield, HIM analyst, 8; Shawanda Holloway, reg. rep., 9; and Donna McClish, reg. rep., 34.



CJ Friend, floor
tech, 17 years



Andrew Dunavant,
RT, 5 years



Paula Young, human resources, 11 years; Tamara Ford, PT, 16; and Tera Manning, PT, DPT, 13.



Robin Anderson, radiology interim director, 6 years; Barbara Savage, RT, 25; and Tina Luther, RT, 10.

EMPLOYEES

Lauderdale Community Hospital employees with five or more years of service are pictured here. Employees are identified left to right, by name, title and years of service.

Far right, dietary: Linda Lane, 26 years; Annette Apperson, 17; Mona Blackwell, 7.



Kasey Paulk, RT,
19 years



Lisa Stephens, RT,
5 years



Back row: Brenda Chapman, MT, 16; Sammy Copeland, MT, 24; Amy Coulston, MLT, 7; and Bob Taylor, MT, 39; and front row, Susan Agee, MLT, 14; and Theresa Benson, MLT, 6.



Scott Collins,
CRT, 12 years



Shelby King,
OT, 5 years



Gayle Martin,
RD, 32 years



Aimee Mooney, RN, 34 years; Mary Ann Jarrett, LPN, 5; Cassandra Williams, RN, 42; Leslie Harrison, RN, 7; Carrie Cody, RN, 10; Debra Hargett, RN, 23; Danita Treadwell, RN, 18; Nicole Smith, LPN, 8; Lisa Ward, RN, 20; Rachel Lake, RN, 10; Pamela Glenn, LPN, 18; Priscilla Waits, RN, 9; William Carroll, RN, 15; Charolette Green, LPN, 29; Traketha Jacox-Reed, RN, 13; Georgia Brown, LPN, 44; and Racheal Lumley, RN, 6. Not pictured: Carrie Pridmore, RN, 19; Jackie Glass, PCA, 13; and Tressa Thomas, LPN, 6.

Uptown Catz Answers Need in Community

Uptown Catz, a rescue group for homeless cats and kittens, was founded by Jane Ashe, a retired air traffic controller who moved back to Ripley with her husband, Jim, to be near her mother. They, like many people, just can't look away when a kitten is homeless or a cat needs care.

Terry Kissell Sr., director of Lauderdale County Animal Control, reached out to Jane, who was known as an animal rescue advocate, when he was approached by a homeless woman who had 14 stray cats in her car. Animal Control, which mostly handles stray dogs, doesn't have the facilities to take care of cats.

Jane took the 14 cats, and had them spayed and neutered. When Terry called Jane again about more cats, she realized there was a huge need to rescue cats, and Uptown Catz developed from there. Uptown Catz is a part of Gemini Pet Rescue and Transport, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that also includes Downtown Dogz, a dog rescue group.

The Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce named Uptown Catz the 2023 Organization of the Year.

Jim is the organization's president, Jane is vice president, Pam Worley is secretary, and Christy Daily is treasurer and an adoption coordinator.

On any day, Uptown Catz has about 150 cats and kittens in a building it owns and another 50 cats in foster homes throughout the community.

Few homeless cats are adopted locally. The organization runs a 24/7 cat transport as it works with others to adopt their cats and kittens.

The organization has a \$100 adoption fee, said Pam, who volunteers daily.



"Our cats, however, are already spayed and neutered and have their shots," she said.


The cats have their own personalities and many have special needs. Louie, for instance, is blind. Sally is diabetic. Some of the volunteers' favorites are the "eye kitties," Irene, Watson and Holmes.

"We think that when we come in the morning, they've had a big party overnight," Pam said. "They're just adorable." ■







You Can Help Uptown Catz


 **Donate money.** Uptown Catz spends about \$12,000 a month to feed, vet, house and transport the cats and kittens to their new homes. Its only funding is \$2,000 once a year from Lauderdale County and \$2,500 once a year from the city of Ripley. The


rest comes from donations and monthly fundraisers.

Donations can be sent to 176 Randolph St., Ripley, TN, 38063; or by PayPal @ Uptowncatz, Venmo at Jane-Ashe or Cash App at \$Uptowncatz.

 **Donate time.** The organization runs on about 10 main volunteers and can always use more help.

 **Foster.** Give a pet a home until it finds its forever home.

 **Adopt.** The shelter, at 176 Randolph St., is open 8-11 a.m. seven days a week. The cost is \$100 to adopt a cat, which includes shots, spaying and neutering.

 **Care.** If you own a pet, make sure it is spayed or neutered.



It's Fair Time in Lauderdale County!

The Lauderdale County Fair celebrates its 20th birthday when it opens September 13-16 at the fairgrounds in Ripley.

The fair celebrates the importance of agriculture in Lauderdale County, with plenty of livestock and culinary events.

Sonshine Amusement Center offers midway rides and food.

Nightrain, a Guns N' Roses tribute band, headlines the main stage entertainment September 16.

The fair is open 5-10 p.m. September 13-15, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. September 16. Admission is free.



Nightrain, a Guns N' Roses tribute band, headlines the fair's entertainment.



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Ripley Power and Light offices are closed:

**Friday, November 10,
for Veterans Day.**

**Thursday, November 23,
for Thanksgiving.**

**Friday, November 24,
for Native American
Heritage Day.**

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VAMPIRE ELECTRONICS

Many consumer electronics continue to draw power even when they are switched off. Because this often happens at night, they're called vampire electronics.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which is part of the U.S. Department of Energy, estimates vampire electronics waste up to \$200 or more in electricity costs annually for the average home—and even more for businesses.

NREL defines vampire energy as the electricity that some devices use when they are turned off but still plugged into a power outlet.

The worst offenders are electronics and smart devices that have built-in clocks or digital displays, and remote-ready equipment and appliances, such as computers, cable boxes, TVs, microwave ovens, garage door openers and video game consoles.

Other appliances can be energy vampires, too. Any cord that is plugged into an electrical outlet draws electricity. So if you're done charging your phone, but the charger is still plugged in, or you leave your computer plugged in after you've shut down for the day, you're still using energy.

You can save energy with obvious actions, such as turning off lights and fans when you leave a room. Unplugging every appliance you're not using isn't always practical, but you should unplug those you don't use as often, such as an electric razor or hair dryer.

NREL recommends investing in advanced power strips, which shut off the supply of power when electronics are not in use. For example, use a power strip that's on a timer and turns off every night, or a remote-controlled power strip that's easy to turn off when you leave the house.

This Halloween, enjoy the goblins, princesses and vampires that show up at your door and, as much as possible, say goodbye to the vampires wasting energy and costing you money. ■