



Growing to Meet the Community's Needs

Expansion 2020 Progress Continues

Recent advances in St. Tammany Parish Hospital's largest construction project in 20 years include state-of-the-art automation in its newly expanded pharmacy and installation of huge steel beams that mark the outline of a new patient addition.

to submit digital prescription orders to the roughly 12-foot carousel with 32 rotating shelves through software that is integrated with Epic, the partnership's online health-record system.

Inside the pharmacy, a new carousel now provides automated inventory of more than 1,500 different medications.

The technology allows physicians and pharmacists to submit digital prescription orders to the roughly 12-foot carousel with 32 rotating shelves through software that is integrated with Epic, the partnership's online health-record system.

The equipment provides numerous operational and safety enhancements, including real-time tracking of medication inventories, explained Wendy Talley, STPH department head

"It allows us to work with maximum efficiency," Talley said. A second high-tech element of the expanded pharmacy includes an all-new IV-prep room with leading-edge equipment designed to meet the most rigorous safety standards for patients and pharmacy

The expanded first-floor pharmacy offers an additional advantage over its predecessor: about twice as much space. Planned renovation of the STPH laboratory is currently

staff alike, noted Sharon Toups, STPH chief operating officer.

The technology allows physicians and pharmacists

enlarge that in-house facility by about one-third. The behind-the-scenes

underway and will likewise

milestones are coupled with hard-to-miss progress of a \$96 million expansion project that is designed to support STPH's projected growth over the next five

to 15 years and will result in all private rooms throughout the hospital.

Outside the health system's main building, steel beams for the new four-story patient addition that is the centerpiece of the 36-month project sprung up this summer.

Shaped by in-depth analysis of market need and an expansion of services through STPH's strategic partnership with Ochsner Health System, the new addition will house 30 critical-care beds, 40 all-private med-surgery rooms, additional operating rooms and more administrative space.

Those and additional project elements, including a newly opened level two pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) inside the third floor pediatrics department, additional space for obstetrics and an expansion of the level three neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), are in step with STPH's expanded capabilities in pediatrics, neurosciences, cardiology and other areas of growing demand in western St. Tammany Parish.

"It's a major project, and things are moving forward," said Randy Willett, project manager.

"Step into Paradise" with THE Gala 2019

October Fundraiser Benefits STCC Patients & Families



As mermaids ply the sultry waters of the Southern Hotel pool in historic downtown Covington, guests of the season's pinnacle event will enjoy lively music, delectable food and fun in an upscale Caribbean setting at THE Gala 2019 to benefit St. Tammany Cancer Center patients and families.

"Step Into Paradise" is the theme for the Thursday, Oct. 3 fundraiser presented by HUB International, a long-time supporter of services for Northshore cancer patients and their families.

With support from sponsors and guests, THE Gala 2018 raised nearly \$200,000 for STCC.

STCC provides a full range of cancer-treatment options as a partnership of St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Ochsner Health System and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in a single location.

"Prevention and early detection are important parts of what STCC provides, in addition to cancer treatment," said HUB International's Kevin Gardner. "This event is one way we can help people in our community facing a cancer diagnosis get the care and services they need, while also supporting prevention and early detection services."

TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Tickets for THE Gala go on sale this summer at thegalanorthshore.org.

Sponsorships are available now. Information on coveted sponsorship opportunities is available by calling Melanie Rudolph, 985-898-4141

New Services, Support & Screenings at St. Tammany Cancer Center

Commitment to the community shows at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a partnership of St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Ochsner Health System and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, located in the STPH medical office building, 1203 S. Tyler St., Covington.

"We are experiencing tremendous growth and progress, particularly in early detection initiatives," said Chryl Corizzo, STCC clinical quality coordinator, "and we're excited to share current and forthcoming programs, events and plans, improving lives on the Northshore."

Advancing Early Detection

- Funded by STHF, STCC is preparing to implement a new software application involved in detecting and tracking incidental lung nodules found during CT scans, improving early detection of lung cancer; as well as managing the low-dose lung cancer screening program. Upon launch of the new applications, STCC will be first in the state to utilize this exceptional resource.
- The STCC partners collaborated with START Community Health Center in Covington on a recent community presentation on the importance of cervical cancer screenings. It was followed by a cancer screening event with 43 women attending, 34 of whom received breast cancer screenings and 21 of whom received cervical cancer screenings.

Key Support Services

- Beginning mid-summer, genetic counseling services at STCC will help patients better understand their individual cancer risk and what steps or screenings can help them protect their health.
- A good diet works in tandem with treatment, so STCC is working on a new community partnership to address hunger in the patient population without adequate food access.
- The partners plan a car show in the fall to celebrate cancer survivors and their families. Called Survivors. Thrivers and Drivers, the event is planned Nov. 22 and expected to draw as many as 400 cars to the parking lot outside STCC.
- There's healing in art, and patients can paint encouraging messages on stones for a new rock garden on display in the STCC foyer and across the facility.

More is accessible at STPH.org/cancercenter.

Innovative Care-Delivery Model In Use at STPH



The accountable care unit, an innovative care-delivery model at St. Tammany Parish Hospital, is enhancing communication between patients, family members and caregivers and giving patients unprecedented

opportunity to participate in their own care.

Structured interdisciplinary bedside rounds are fundamental to the ACU, which has been in practice at STPH since April.

Patients in each ACU are cared for by one clinical team that spends the day together caring for those patients, another tenet of the approach.

Still in its early stages, the model's use at STPH is tied to its commitment to continuum of care, the process of guiding patients through the entire range of healthcare services.

Research shows ACUs shorten patient hospital stays, boost patient satisfaction, lower costs and enhance teamwork among

The approach was developed at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, where an STPH clinical team visited to study the model firsthand.

During the rounds, each team member-physician, nurse, pharmacist, case manager and/or social worker—addresses the patient with an update on his or her condition or care, with the process concluding after the physician communicates that day's plan for the patient's care.

Patients are physically at the center of those bedside rounding updates and encouraged to actively participate, noted Kathy Felps, STPH director of acute care.

"The patient can speak up and verify the accuracy of what is

"This is an efficient additional opportunity to improve communication."

-Hospitalist Dr. Daniel Elie

reported during the team round," Felps said. "That way, everyone present hears the correct and updated information at the same time."

Team rounds also present a good opportunity for patients

and caregivers to discuss what type of care is appropriate after discharge, Felps added.

It is important to note that the interdisciplinary rounds do not replace traditional inpatient rounds by physicians, nor are they intended to discourage patient questions at other points of the day.

Hospitalist Dr. Daniel Elie, for instance, one of the first STPH physicians to take part in the ACU model, continues to visit his patients separately each morning prior to the team round, much as in a traditional inpatient setting.

"This is an efficient additional opportunity to improve communication," Dr. Elie said.

JoAnne Ehrhard recently experienced the new approach for herself after her 50-year-old son was hospitalized at STPH

Diagnosed with epilepsy at 7 months and in-and-out of hospitals much of his life, Stephen Ehrhard relies on extensive and complex medications, his mother explained.

The team visit from his physician, pharmacist and other caregivers on the second morning of his recent hospitalization reassured her that each member had a full understanding of his medications and conditions.

"It's a great thing because there is a chance for everyone to communicate their information," Ehrhard said









Photography by Still Magnolia Photography

COURAGE TO CELEBRATE

Couple's Wedding at STPH Shares Joy with Bride's Mother

Jade Rider and her mother Diane Sharp grew closer than ever in the weeks before Sharp's death from cancer in late February.

Jade's upcoming wedding was a favorite topic of discussion during afternoons and evenings together over months of treatment at St. Tammany Parish Hospital after Sharp was diagnosed with cancer in her spine, liver, heart and lungs in December 2018.

The 59-year-old Sharp was home briefly for Christmas, but by January cancer had spread to her brain. Blood clots required the amputation of a leg.

Jade and then fiancée, Jordan Rider, 22, had already moved their wedding date from October to March in the hope of including Sharp in the celebration. A heart-to-heart discussion with a nurse caring for her mother helped 25-year-old Jade understand that including her mother required another change in plans.

"The nurse explained that if there was something I felt in my heart I wanted to do, I needed to do it," Jade said.

On Feb. 7, the couple decided to have a small wedding ceremony at Sharp's bedside at STPH. They exchanged vows two days later, Feb. 9, with a friend from church officiating, Jade dressed in a simple white dress, Jordan dapper in a suit and tiny Layne, their daughter, looking on with immediate family.

STPH Food Services provided wedding cake, and Still Magnolia Photography captured the poignant family experience.

"I'm so glad we could share our wedding with her. It's something that I will never forget, because it was what she wanted more than anything."

- Jade Rider, daughter of STPH patient Diane Sharp

Mother and daughter exchanged gifts afterward. Jordan held his mother-in-law's hand and promised to take care of Jade and Layne-her girls, as she called them. Sharp admired the wedding band on her daughter's finger.

"It was something that my mother could still enjoy," Jade said. "It was something that she was still there for."

The ceremony wasn't a legal weddinga church wedding took place on March 23 on what would have been Sharp's 60th birthday.

But it was very real to the couple, who plan to celebrate their anniversary on Feb. 9th to recognize its meaning to them. They will honor Sharp by keeping the focus on her every March 23.

"She was a rock star," Jade said.

The weeks after the ceremony at STPH brought more opportunities for mother and daughter to share their love for each other. After leaving the hospital for hospice care at home in late February, Layne and Jade stayed over for a threegeneration sleepover.

Jade was at work at a dental office when her father called on February 27 and told her to come home. Diane Sharp died that day.

"I'm so glad we could share our wedding with her," Jade said. "It's something that I will never forget, because it was what she wanted more than anything."

First Children's Hospital Comes to the Northshore

Partners complete long-term strategy for comprehensive pediatrics



Ochsner Hospital for Children pediatric intensive care physicians coupled with the St. Tammany Parish Hospital inpatient pediatric unit and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) are part of the partners' comprehensive array of pediatrics on the Northshore. In recognition of the excellence the partnership brings to the service district, St.

Tammany Parish Hospital named its pediatric section, Ochsner Hospital for Children at St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

"For us, this name helps parents know they have the top ranked children's hospital staffing pediatrics inside their world-class community hospital," Joan Coffman, STPH President and CEO, said. "Five years into our partnership, we are excited to see this level of specialty care, closer to home than ever. It's only strengthened by Ochsner's recent recognition by U.S. News & World Report for the third year in a row as a top children's hospital."



This summer's expansion of pediatric emergency hours from 12 to 24 and opening of the PICU capped a focused, years' long effort to complete world-class pediatric services for west St. Tammany families.

From the start, STPH's strategic partnership with Ochsner Health System has been central to the effort, with the partners now providing the most

comprehensive health system for children across the I-12 corridor, addressing everything from inpatient and outpatient clinical care to parenting advice and support groups.

"We are now going to provide medical care for children who previously had to leave the area to get this level of service," said Cindy Ingram RN, STPH director of women and children's services.

The PICU opening and emergency department expansion are milestones of another sort. They represent the final elements of the partners' plans to deliver the full array of pediatric services close to home for the Northshore—a plan shaped by community feedback about what services residents wanted and by the exploding population of families raising children in west St. Tammany.

"This is in response to what the community expressed it wanted and what we see our community needs are in the census data," Ingram said. "We are now a full service health system for pediatrics with the opening of the PICU."

STPH has expanded pediatric services in recent years in a number of meaningful ways.

The two partners have primary pediatrics clinics in Covington, Madisonville and Mandeville with pediatricians, pediatric nurse practitioners, virtual visits, same-day and weekend access for busy families. With these three practices plus a robust network of community pediatricians, STPH is coalescing the widest array of pediatric services into a concentrated area, west St. Tammany.

At the main campus, opening of the level two PICU caps off initiatives that introduced the pediatric emergency room, added a pediatric orthopedist and improved access to care for families.

Ochsner Hospital for Children subspecialists in the Covington pediatric specialty clinic provide a full schedule of appointments in pediatric cardiology, endocrinology, otolaryngology, nutrition, general surgery, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, plastic surgery (including hand), orthopedics, pulmonology, urology and other specialties.

"This is in response to what the community expressed it wanted and what we see our community needs are in the census data."

- Cindy Ingram RN, STPH director of women and children's services.

Recent data underline community demand for such care. Pediatric cardiology visits to the specialty clinic rose from 78 in 2018 to an anticipated 555 visits in 2019, Ochsner data show. Pediatric endocrinology visits to the clinic are expected to rise from 48 in 2018 to 240 over the same one-year span.

Early achievements in the advancement of pediatrics include Dr. McCall McDaniel's delicate corrective scoliosis surgery for Shelby Stoop and neonatal post-surgery recovery for Celia Lewko, coordinated carefully between Ochsner and STPH neonatal intensive care units.

The partnership's benefits touch STPH's tiniest patients. Telemedicine equipment allows echocardiogram technicians to scan babies' hearts in STPH's level three NICU while communicating in real time with Ochsner pediatric cardiologists in New Orleans.

That means those babies don't have to travel to New Orleans for such care.

"Families want their children to get the care they need close to home," Ingram said, "and we are delivering on that promise with Ochsner Hospital for Children at St. Tammany Parish Hospital."







Patient Point of View

Advisory Council Seeks Patient, Family Insight

St. Tammany Parish Hospital patients and their family members have the opportunity to improve the STPH patient experience through the hospital's new Patient and Family Advisory Council.

Members will meet over a meal with STPH administrators and medical professionals to share their insights and suggestions on patient education and care initiatives or other innovations the health system brings for consideration.

The goal is improving quality of care for all patients and their family members across the STPH campus, explained Sharon Toups, chief operating officer, who will serve on the council.

"There is no preconceived agenda of what the council will consider. We want to hear the voices of patients and their families about their experience with St. Tammany Parish Hospital," Toups said.

The council's first official meeting occurred this summer with subsequent meetings to take place quarterly or bimonthly.

Current and past STPH patients are among the council's first members, Toups noted. The council will seek a diversity of voices, including those of patients who have utilized both inpatient and outpatient services at its facilities.

Such patient-focused community advisory groups are of growing interest at U.S. hospitals, according to the federal Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Councils can result in meaningful improvements to patient health outcomes.

The new group at STPH has its own model close to home. Feedback from St. Tammany Cancer Center's four-year-old Patient and Family Advisory Group has prompted a series of care improvements in recent years, including expanded nutritional options for patients undergoing chemotherapy and formation of a daytime support group.

Anyone with interest in the council can visit the volunteers section of STPH.org for information, application and contact information.

The Gift of Giving

Volunteers Do Vital Work at STPH

Ken Lane knows exactly why he volunteers at St. Tammany Parish Hospital. "In a nutshell, I want to make a difference in people's lives," said the retired education professor and president of the 132-member St. Tammany Hospital Guild. "I also want to give back to the community, and this is one way I can do that. On top of that, it just feels good."

Lane cited an additional reason, one he said he shares with many fellow volunteers. "When children and grandchildren see you volunteer, the hope is that they will do that themselves in their lives," Lane said.

The ranks of STPH volunteers vary from STH guild members to volunteers in specific capacities such as parenting, cancer, hospice and hospital. They are retired engineers, energy workers, teachers, bankers, nurses, pharmacists, homemakers and entrepreneurs. They range in age from 40s to 80-something. Together they donate thousands of hours of their time to the hospital, hospice and cancer center.

STH Guild members populate the information desk on the first-floor, direct visitors to patient rooms and escort them there if they need it. There are volunteers to greet patients in other locations including St. Tammany Cancer Center, and STH Guild members check patients in at the hospital, wheel patients out for curbside pick-up and help to keep families informed as their loved ones experience procedures in surgery, cardiology and intensive-care waiting areas.

"They'll even bring visitors a cup of coffee." Lane said.

Volunteers for St. Tammany Hospital Hospice visit with patients to give caregivers time to run errands, attend medical appointments or spend time to themselves, and help in the hospice office.

The Guild runs the gift shop and has generously donated proceeds from their retail endeavor to St. Tammany Hospital Foundation, raising more than \$155,000 over the past three years for projects that include an initiative to combat opioid abuse, and more than \$331,000 total since 2003.

Guild sales of linens and jewelry fund eight or nine \$1,500 scholarships each year for STPH allied-health employees and nurses working to complete their college degrees.

Volunteers carry out important research tied to STPH's commitment to continuous improvements in patient care and experience by noting what patients say they like and don't like during visits to their rooms.

Such feedback helps to shape changes in STPH services, amenities and other aspects of the patient experience, Lane said.

Joan Gagliano began volunteering in the hospice office about a year ago after a friend told her she would enjoy it. Gagliano's friend was right.

"It gives me joy," said the retired nurse who each week also volunteers in St. Joseph's Abbey infirmary and gift shop.

Like Lane, Gagliano derives personal satisfaction from her volunteer work for STPH. It also has helped her form deeper ties to the Northshore after many years of weekday commutes to and from New Orleans.

"I always wanted to give back to this community and to make new friends here," Gagliano said. "Volunteering has given me the chance to do that."

To volunteer with St. Tammany Hospital Guild, contact Shirley Primes, volunteer coordinator, 985-898-4008 or sprimes@stph.org.





Art with Heart: New Carts Entertain Pediatric Patients

Latest Gallery Exhibit Opens In July

Healing arts initiatives abound on the main campus of St. Tammany Parish Hospital, the fruits of years of labor by dedicated community leaders, local artists, STPH colleagues and St. Tammany Hospital Foundation.

The newest of these initiatives, art carts offer soothing distraction to children in the health system's pediatric emergency room and its

pediatrics department, housing both the inpatient pediatrics unit and level two pediatric intensive care unit.

The rolling heART Carts are stocked with art supplies and comfort amenities for use by pediatric patients from toddlers to 18-year-olds.

STH Foundation calls on #GivingTuesday for community and STPH colleague donations along with supplies from area school groups, including St. Paul's School, helped stock the carts with markers, paper, books, puzzles, games, putty, fuzzy socks and even pacifiers.

Such items have proven to be helpful distractions to small children frightened by blood-pressure readings or other procedures, noted Suzanne Fraiche RN, STPH department head for pediatrics.

iPads for use by older children or teenaged patients are helpful for those who are in medical isolation and cannot leave their rooms, Fraiche added.

"The carts have been a great investment for pediatrics," she said. As part of STPH's focus on healing arts, the acquisition of the specially designed carts required extensive planning and expert

Art carts offer soothing distraction to children in the health system's pediatric emergency room and its pediatrics department.

input, including from the hospital's infection-prevention team.

The iPads, for instance, must be disinfected with special wipes and contained in special cases to ensure they are sterile, Fraiche explained.

To prevent the spread of infection, items from crayons and scissors to

jewelry-making kits are gifted to patients for keeps.

"There was a real team effort in making sure the carts would be fun and safe for the children," Fraiche said.

As the carts bring art to young patients upstairs and down in the peds emergency room, meanwhile on the first floor, the foundation will unveil its newest art exhibit this summer for the benefit of all patients and visitors.

The Healing Arts Initiative juried exhibition of works by local and regional artists will be on display on the health system's first floor, July 23 to September 27.

A Colorful Voyage is reflective of the entries' vibrant use of color, explained Nicole Suhre, the foundation's executive director.

This summer marks the seventh such exhibit in the four-year-old rotating gallery series and the only one planned for 2019.

The foundation does not take a commission on the sale of works displayed throughout the health system; participating artists often generously donate work to the hospital's permanent collection, which now numbers about 200 pieces.

"It's really a partnership that benefits artists, the hospital and the community," Suhre said.









A Spring Celebration of Generosity

Prestigious Adrian Award Goes To Northshore Media Group

Roses galore, festive spring décor and music from New Orleans pianist Joe Krown set the scene for St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's annual donor recognition event on Thursday, May 16 at Benedict's Plantation in Mandeville.

Dubbed "Enter the Winner's Circle," the derby-themed celebration honored outstanding donors for contributions in 2018.

Presentation of "The Adrian" Spotlight Award to Northshore Media Group and the Dowdy family recognized their longstanding

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support of the STH Foundation and St. Tammany Parish Hospital. The Adrian each year honors a corporate donor for exemplary in-kind contributions to the foundation in support of the hospital.

Ken Lane spoke in his capacity as president of the St. Tammany Hospital

Guild, whose lifetime contributions exceed \$331,000, elevating them to the Champion level of giving on the foundation's Donor Wall of Honor. Ken shared that the Guild supports the foundation's role in promoting health and wellbeing across the Northshore.

Events Raise Funds for Expansion

First-ever Golf Rainout Still Lucky, Renewed Gurney Games Still Successful

Two very different weather days in February and April provided fun and support of technology advancements at St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

Stormy weather moved the fun inside but did not deter the celebration or fundraising success of the 2019 Get Lucky! Golf Tournament at Money Hill Golf Course in Abita Springs on Thursday, April 18.

The first ever "rain out" version of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's long-running tournament featured indoor putting, an open bar, food, prizes and more inside the clubhouse.

"Even without the tournament itself, everyone came out to celebrate the importance of the cause," said Nicole Suhre, the foundation's executive director.

The event raised nearly \$44,000 for the STH Foundation Expansion Initiative to provide exciting new technology in the four-story patient tower now under construction.

Sunshine was the order of the day for another favorite spring event—the lively Gurney Games competition at the Covington Trailhead.

The Sunday, Feb. 17 event drew more than 400 spectators and participants. Gurneys decorated in themes from Candyland to the Wizard of Oz were among the entries.

This year's judges included Covington Mayor Mike Cooper, STPH president and CEO Joan Coffman and Kieran Weldon of title event sponsor fl+WB Architects.

Proceeds from the beloved gurney parade and race also benefited the foundation's expansion initiative.

"Even without the tournament itself, everyone came out to celebrate the importance of the cause."

-Nicole Suhre, STH Foundation's executive director.













OUR MISSION

A full-service acute care facility committed to providing world-class healthcare and the latest technology, St. Tammany Parish Hospital delivers today's life-improving procedures with the utmost care to area residents with emphasis on wellness, preventive care and disease management close to home. STPH is recognized for quality, safety and the patient experience by CareChex, Leapfrog, Healthgrades, Hospital Compare, Women's Choice and US News & World Report. St. Tammany Parish Hospital is an independent service district in a clinically integrated partnership with Ochsner Health System. Together, the two organizations focus on aligning their healthcare offerings to best serve patients and families in west St. Tammany and surrounding areas. Under their agreement, the two organizations retain their autonomy; neither partner manages nor owns the other. STPH is a self-supporting not-for-profit community hospital; it receives no tax funding. Learn more at stph.org.

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STPH complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. If you need these services, contact the Patient Relations Department at 985-898-4669.



OUR MISSION

The St. Tammany Hospital Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established to sustain the healing work of the physicians and staff of St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

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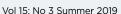






Nicole Suhre CFRE, Executive Director





Upcoming Events

As the Northshore's community health network, St. Tammany Parish Hospital hosts events, meetings and opportunities for you to improve and maintain your physical and emotional well-being. We've provided a short sample of the many upcoming events below. Please check the calendar on stph.org or additional learning opportunities for individuals of all ages.

"A Colorful Voyage"

JULY 23 - SEPTEMBER 27

Come Set Sail with us for an exhibition of healing art. First floor, St. Tammany Parish Hospital www.sthfoundation.org/healingarts

THE Gala

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Transport yourself to paradise and join us at THE Gala, an unforgettable evening benefiting local cancer care in one healing place—St. Tammany Cancer Center—where nationally ranked leaders, St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center and Ochsner, are fighting to beat cancer. thegalanorthshore.org



Save the Date: Monster Mash

presented by Metairie Bank Northshore

OCTOBER 19, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Join the STPH Parenting Center for a reimagined twist on this beloved Halloween family festival featuring new attractions, activities and pricing structure. To sponsor the event, contact Melanie Rudolph at 985-898-4141. For more information on the event, call 985-898-4435 or visit www.stph.org/monstermash.