

February 2019

## FROM THE DESK OF...



**Loren Funk**  
*Chief Operations Officer*

As the calendar flips to February, I'm pleased to report that our recent major renovation projects in Gainesville are nearing completion. In the past 12 months, we remodeled a portion of first floor of the 725

building to accommodate our new Voyager MRI (more on it is included in this edition). Also part of that process was a renovation of the Central Lab. For those not familiar, both the MRI and Central Lab are located on the Broad Street side of the building, behind the Chick-fil-A. If you haven't checked out these new spaces, please stop by!

Once we finished that project, we began renovating a major portion of the third floor of the 725 building, including Imaging, which now has a much larger waiting area and new X-ray. You'll also notice an expanded waiting area for Adult Medicine/ Urgent Care, as well as creation of a "Fast Track" suite for Urgent Care. Both adult patients and pediatric

patients (5:30 to 9:00 p.m. M-F only) will be able to access this space when they seek treatment for "simple" symptoms such as a sore throat, a stomach ache or an ear ache.

We thank our staff and providers, particularly those who had to relocate (sometimes more than once) to accommodate all of the changes. While inconvenient, we are excited about the final results and believe they will improve patient care and operational efficiency. And stay tuned for signage updates that we hope will improve patient access and navigation around the campus. If you have any questions or concerns about building projects, please feel free to reach out to me.

*Before*



*After*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Over the past few months, we've added several new pieces of technology to improve patient care. Longstreet Clinic is home to the state's first **1.5T SIGNA Voyager MR System**. This revolutionary technology has a host of features to speed up and simplify imaging and enhance the patient experience.

"The Voyager MRI has a lot of patient comforts in mind," said Longstreet Clinic radiologist Scott Kellermeyer, M.D.

"It's a much wider open tube so less of

the patient is inside the tube during the scan, meaning the patient doesn't feel as constrained as with traditional MR systems."

Benefits of Voyager MRI:

- ▶ Sharper Imaging
- ▶ Reduced exam times and rescans
- ▶ Enhanced patient experience through noise reduction, motion forgiveness and the elimination of breath holds



Voyager MRI



Retina Vue

Another new technology available at Longstreet Clinic is a new diabetic eye screening for patients with diabetes. Diabetic eye screening is a key part of diabetes care. Those with diabetes are at risk of damage to their eyes from diabetic retinopathy that can lead to loss of vision. **RETINA VUE** is a tool that aids in detection of diabetic retinopathy.

"Currently we are using this tool to capture patients who have not had their eye exam in more than a year," said Vicky Trusty, LPN. "Our goal is not to replace

the ophthalmologist but to reach patients who do not currently seek eye care and encourage them to see an ophthalmologist should they have an abnormal screening."

The tool is handheld and the test takes less than 10 minutes. Care Management and Diabetic Education are working together to schedule patient exams at all adult primary care locations. "Eye exams do not have their own schedule but are considered part of the comprehensive approach we have taken in our care of our patients with diabetes," Trusty added.

## LONGSTREET CLINIC RETURNS AS PRESENTING SPONSOR FOR UNITED WAY'S READ & RUN HALF MARATHON & 5K



We are pleased to announce that Longstreet Clinic will return as presenting sponsor for the second annual United Way Read & Run Half Marathon & 5K.

This year's event is scheduled for March 2 at the Venue at Friendship Springs in Flowery Branch.

This event brings together two of United Way's fundamental pillars – health and education – in a unique combination that will allow all ages and athletic abilities to come together to highlight the importance of early childhood literacy in our community and help improve lives in Hall County.

We are encouraging our employees and providers to participate; not only will it be a great time, but it counts toward your Motivate Me incentive.

**Register Today!**

Visit [unitedwayhalfmarathon.com](http://unitedwayhalfmarathon.com) to learn more and register!



# KUDOS KORNER

## DR. NASH FEATURED IN NGMC'S CANCER SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

Longstreet Clinic Cancer Center oncologist, Charles H. Nash, III, M.D., and medical director of the Cancer Center at NGMC recently provided an important update about "Cancer Care in 2018" in NGMC's Cancer Services annual report.

"In 2018, more than 2,000 new cancer patients chose NGMC's nationally recognized Cancer Services to receive treatment. The cancer program is accredited with commendation at the Gold Level by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer – the highest level possible. We are humbled by this recognition and will work to continue delivering care to match.

"However, with an ever-growing patient

population and the expansion of our Cancer Services across the region, we know there are challenges that remain to maintain this level of care. We know that additional physician, nursing and patient support professionals will be needed in the future to match this continued level of growth.

"Our future is bright, and we remain committed to our core principles to guide us through the upcoming year. We are optimistic that we will meet the challenges ahead with great enthusiasm."

Longstreet Clinic's five oncologists include Nash, Richard LoCicero, M.D., Anup Lahiry, M.D., Tim Carey, M.D., and Andrew Johnson, M.D. They treat patients in Gainesville, Braselton and Toccoa.



**Dr. Charles Nash**  
Oncology & Hematology

## AROUND THE CLINIC



On Jan. 24 we said goodbye to two wonderful longtime employees of Longstreet Clinic Pediatrics. Charlene Hall, LPN, retired after 30 years, and Charlene Vimont retired after 17 years.

***We thank them for their service and wish them both a happy retirement!***

Last month Longstreet Clinic was pleased to host the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Hall class for Healthcare Day. Participants enjoyed a truly hands-on experience when Keith Biron with our Orthopedics department demonstrated the casting process. The class then took turns casting each other.



# DATES TO KNOW

3.2

United Way Read & Run

3.28

Chamber Chase

4.27

March for Babies

5.4

Gainesville / Hall  
Dragon Boat Challenge

WE WANT TO  
HEAR FROM YOU

If you have ideas, brags or service updates for our next edition of the Longstreet Beat, please submit those to [prmarketing@longstreetclinic.com](mailto:prmarketing@longstreetclinic.com).



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