

MRMC now offers four state-of-the-art da Vinci Xi surgical systems

Surgeons on the medical staff at Maury Regional Medical Center are trained to use advanced technology proven to result in better outcomes for patients. One of those tools is the da Vinci robotic surgical system.

The hospital acquired the first system in 2016, followed by another in 2022. As more surgeons joined the medical staff, the medical center added two more in 2024 for a total of four da Vinci systems. The Xi is the latest generation of the da Vinci system, a tool that utilizes advanced robotic, computer and optical technologies to assist the surgeon during an operation.

The system can be used across a spectrum of minimally invasive surgical procedures and has been optimized for surgeries in the areas of urology, gynecology, thoracic and general surgery.

“Maury Regional Health is committed to providing our medical staff with the latest technology to achieve exceptional

outcomes for their patients,” said Maury Regional Health CEO Martin Chaney, MD. “The da Vinci Xi Surgical System has been a great tool for our surgeons, and we’re grateful to be able to add more platforms to further enhance our robotic surgery capabilities.”



The da Vinci system has a 3D high-definition (3D-HD) vision system, special instruments and computer software that allow the surgeon to operate with enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control. The 3D-HD image is highly magnified, and the da Vinci instruments have mechanical wrists that bend and rotate to mimic the movements of the human wrist, allowing the surgeon to make small, precise movements inside the patient’s body. Benefits for patients who qualify for this minimally invasive approach may include less tissue damage, reduced blood loss and faster recovery.

The da Vinci Xi Surgical System is an expandable technology platform that is designed to accommodate and seamlessly integrate a range of current technologies, as well as future innovations, in areas such as imaging, advanced instruments and anatomical access.

For more information about surgical services at Maury Regional Medical Center, visit [MauryRegional.com/Surgery](https://www.MauryRegional.com/Surgery).

MRMC receives grade ‘A’ for patient safety

Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade, the highest possible ranking, for the spring of 2024 from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog.

Leapfrog assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 measures of errors, accidents, injuries and infections as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

“I’m extremely grateful for all Maury Regional Medical Center staff members who consistently demonstrate their commitment to patient safety, which makes this recognition possible,” said Maury Regional Health CEO Martin Chaney, MD. “This acknowledgement from The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is

a direct reflection of the diligence our employees and medical staff have when caring for patients.”

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program focused exclusively on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day nationally. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To learn more about MRMC’s commitment to quality — including accreditations, certifications and recognitions — visit [MauryRegional.com/Quality](https://www.MauryRegional.com/Quality). Visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](https://www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org) for more information about the Hospital Safety Grade, including details on individual hospital grades and rankings.

Ophthalmologist joins Maury Regional medical staff

John D. Bonner, MD, a specialist in ophthalmology, recently joined the medical staff at Maury Regional Medical Center and is associated with SouthEast Eye Specialists.



Dr. Bonner

Dr. Bonner has more than 25 years of experience, most recently practicing in Chattanooga, Tennessee, prior to joining SouthEast Eye Specialists in 2019. He provides comprehensive ophthalmology services and devotes a large portion of his practice to glaucoma and ocular surface disease management.

Dr. Bonner obtained his medical degree from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile, Alabama. He completed his internship and residency at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Dr. Bonner is board certified in ophthalmology and is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

SouthEast Eye Specialists is located at 927 North James Campbell Boulevard, Suite 103, in Columbia. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. To make an appointment, call 931.840.3501.

Johnson-Schroeder earns CCRN certification

Traci Johnson-Schroeder, BSN, RN, CCRN, in the Critical Care Unit at Maury Regional Medical Center, recently earned certification as a critical care registered nurse (CCRN) from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Johnson-Schroeder has worked at Maury Regional Health since 2017.



Johnson-Schroeder

Graduate salute to appear in May edition, deadline extended

The deadline for submitting photos for the graduate edition of The VitaLink has been extended to May 6.

Photos are accepted from any employees or physicians who earned a new degree themselves or who are the parents or grandparents of a high school or college graduate for the 2023–24 academic year. Photos may be sent via email to TheVitaLink@MauryRegional.com or delivered to the Marketing & Communications Department, which is located in suite 202 of the Medical Office Building. Photos may be casual or formal in nature but should be high resolution (i.e., not blurry). Along with the graduate's photo, include the following details:

- Graduate's name (preferred first and last name only; no middle names)
- School
- Degree or program completed
- Your name, department and extension
- Your relationship to the graduate

The May graduate edition of the VitaLink newsletter will be online at MauryRegional.com/VitaLink on May 31.

If you have a graduate who will be featured in the graduate edition and you would like to obtain a printed copy, email TheVitaLink@MauryRegional.com and include your name, department and how many copies you would like.

If you submitted a graduate photo via email and did NOT receive a reply to your submission, call 931.540.4188 to confirm your information has been received.



Maury Regional Health is a not-for-profit regional health system serving southern Middle Tennessee through our hospitals, clinics, surgery centers, outpatient facilities and physician practice group. We are the largest health system between Nashville, Tennessee, and Huntsville, Alabama, with a medical staff of more than 210 physicians encompassing 35 medical specialties.

The VitaLink

The VitaLink is published monthly for Maury Regional Health through the Marketing Department and features news relevant to employees, retirees, volunteers and medical staff members. New editions are published on the last business day of the month at MauryRegional.com/VitaLink.

Share Your Good News

Employees and physicians are invited to share their professional accomplishments for possible inclusion in The VitaLink by emailing story suggestions to TheVitaLink@MauryRegional.com. Possible article topics include, but are not limited to, an individual earning advanced certification, presenting at a conference, publishing research in a peer-reviewed journal, implementing new projects that support the health system and more.

Maury Regional to celebrate Hospital Week 2024

Maury Regional Health (MRH) will recognize employees and physicians throughout the system during Hospital Week activities May 12–18.

Hospital Week will kick off Saturday, May 11, with a picnic for all MRH team members at the Ridley 4-H Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the same time, a food truck will also be on site at the hospital for employees working during the picnic.

Additional activities at Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) will include ice cream sundaes, a wellness fair, retro snacks and a food truck on Friday, May 17. Details about all Hospital Week activities at MRMC will be communicated via employee email in the upcoming days.

Marshall Medical Center will celebrate Hospital Week with the following:

- **Monday (5/13):** Grab-and-go breakfast in the cafeteria from 6:45 to 8 a.m.
- **Wednesday (5/15):** Pizza and drinks in the cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at 8 p.m.
- **Thursday (5/16):** Cupcakes from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the main conference room and deliveries to departments beginning at 8 p.m. for the night shift
- **Friday (5/17) and Saturday (5/18):** Cookout in the cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at 8 p.m.

Hospital Week activities at Wayne Medical Center (WMC) will feature a Hawaiian-theme and be available for day- and night-shift employees. Several games, such as limbo, hula hoop contests, coconut bowling and bingos, will also take place throughout the week. Free snacks and meals for WMC employees will include:

- **Maui Monday (5/13):** Soda and candy (wear Hawaiian shirts)
- **Tourist Tuesday (5/14):** Popcorn and punch (dress like a tourist)
- **Waikiki Wednesday (5/15):** Tropical sherbert ice cream
- **Thirsty Thursday (5/16):** Mocktails
- **Big Kahuna Friday (5/17):** Cookout with Hawaiian burgers

Maury Regional Medical Group employees are invited to attend the Hospital Week activities at the facility most convenient to them.

For more information about Hospital Week meals and events, watch for additional communications via employee email or ask your manager.

Maury Regional plans Nurses Month activities

National Nurses Week is held annually from May 6-12, but Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) will celebrate all month long this year.

The hospital will recognize Nursing Award recipients from May 2-8 with award presentations on the recipients' respective units, and there will be daily drawings for prizes all month long. All RNs and LPNs will also receive a glass lunch container from the Image of Nursing Council on May 29.

There will also be special discounts for T-shirts and massages available for all MRMC nursing staff. Impressions in Columbia will offer a T-shirt discount all month long with free logos on each item ordered with "NURSING" as the department name. A 20% discount on massages by Nick Phillips will also be offered from May 6-12 by texting "Nurses Week Special" to 931.703.5408.

Other fun activities during Nurses Month include:

- **Art supply drive:** An art supply drive will be held during the entire month of May benefitting the Boys & Girls Clubs summer programs. Boxes will be placed in breakrooms, or items may be dropped off in the Nursing Administration office on the hospital's first floor. Items needed include paper, pencils, markers, glue, construction paper and Post-it notes.
- **Cinco de Mayo taco bar:** A taco bar will be available Sunday, May 5, and Wednesday, May 8, in the Auxiliary Conference Room from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 8-9:30 p.m. both days.
- **Florence Nightingale's Birthday:** Cupcakes will be delivered to nurses on Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12.
- **Meal tickets and hand massagers:** On May 15, nursing staff will receive meal tickets from their managers, and electronic hand massagers will be gifted to all nursing units.
- **Columbia Nutrition teas:** Teas from Columbia Nutrition will be available in the Auxiliary Conference Room on Sunday, May 19, and Tuesday, May 21, from 9-11 a.m. and 8-9:30 p.m. both days. Nurse managers will have tea tickets that must be presented to receive a tea.

Congratulations!

Kristen Horst, Emergency Department, and family welcomed Magnolia Lin Horst on April 8. She weighed 8lbs.

Alexis Gayle Woodard, MedSurg, and family welcomed Harper Jane Woodard on April 8. She weighed 6 lbs. and 15 oz.

Maury Regional Health commemorates the gift of life through organ donation

There are more than 100,000 people awaiting lifesaving organ transplants and another person is added to the wait list every eight minutes. On Tuesday, April 16, Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) and Tennessee Donor Services held a ceremony to honor those who gave and received the gift of life through organ donation as they raised the “Donate Life” flag in their honor.

April is National Donate Life Month, an opportunity to recognize the life-saving gifts provided by organ, tissue and eye donors across the nation and the legacies that prevail through these selfless acts. Through MRMC’s collaboration with Tennessee Donor Services, the wishes of donors and their families were honored and resulted in 43 tissue donors and five organ donors in 2023. Nine lives were saved through the transplantation of two hearts, three livers and four kidneys in addition to those whose tissue donation improved the quality of life for another.

To learn more about organ donation, visit tennesseedonor.org or donatelife.net.



Patient Safety Week: Uncovering the gold standard in prevention

During Patient Safety Week in April, health care providers come together to discuss strategies for improving patient safety, share best practices and highlight the importance of reducing medical errors and preventable harm in healthcare settings.

This year, Patient Safety Council participated in educational rounding throughout the hospital with an emphasis on the fundamentals of preventing patient harm. The overarching goal is to empower both health care professionals and patients to take an active role in promoting safety and preventing errors in healthcare delivery.

“Throughout the week, we witnessed an incredible level of engagement from all departments, with a total of 356 employees participating in the activities related to the fundamentals of preventing harm to our patients,” stated Tiffany Crews, MSN, RN, CNML, Director of Nursing Professional Development.

Goodloe-Head earns Sunflower Award

Congratulations to **Thelma Goodloe-Head**, a unit secretary on 3W, on receiving Maury Regional Medical Center’s (MRMC) Sunflower Award for Exceptional Service for March!

In her nomination for the Sunflower Award, the nominator described Goodloe-Head’s dedication to the patients on 3W and her positivity.

“Thelma works hard daily to make sure 3W is a great place to stay for our patients,” the nominator said. “From scheduling appointments and answering the phones, to assisting the nurses and techs with things, Thelma does it all. Her positive attitude and the joy she gives her coworkers is admirable. Working with Thelma, you are guaranteed to have a good day, no matter what.”

The Sunflower Award is an opportunity to recognize MRMC employees from all disciplines and departments who go above and beyond in their roles. Nominations are accepted year-round from patients, family members and colleagues. Learn more about the Sunflower Award or nominate an employee at MauryRegional.com/Sunflower.



Thelma Goodloe-Head

MRMC recognizes Calahan, Owens with DAISY Awards

Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) recognized **Jim Calahan, BSN, RN, CMSRN**, and **Autumn Owens, BSN, RN**, as the recipients of the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses for the months of February and March, respectively.



Jim Calahan



Autumn Owens

Owens works in SSU/ CVSD and was recognized for the compassion and empathy she demonstrated while caring for a long-time patient who chose to go on hospice care.

“Autumn went above and beyond to make her last moments the best,” the nominator said, describing how Owens

In Calahan’s nomination, a patient shared how Calahan and the entire sixth floor surgical team were thoughtful and kind during an unexpected visit.

“Jim especially took time to explain the medications and procedures to myself and my family,” the patient said. “He made us laugh and smile during a scary and unexpected time in the hospital. He also encouraged me to get up and moving so I could go home and recover. Jim went above and beyond in his care, and I want to thank him for bringing joy and healing.”

purchased ice cream for the patient and did her best to make the patient feel dignified for her visiting family and friends. “Autumn truly is an asset to our team, and she deserves to be recognized and appreciated.”

The DAISY Award is presented to MRMC nurses as part of the DAISY Foundation’s mission to recognize the compassionate and extraordinary nursing care that award recipients provide each day. To nominate a nurse for the award, visit MauryRegional.com/DAISY.

Volunteers recognized during services award celebration

On April 16, Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) celebrated volunteer week (April 21-27) and recognized its volunteers who reached service milestones in 2023 during a super hero-themed luncheon and service award program at the Ridley 4-H Center in Columbia.

Volunteers at MRMC collectively gave 20,354 hours in 2023, providing the equivalent of \$647,257 in services.

“Whether they are volunteering in the waiting areas, playing beautiful music in the hospital lobby, providing pet therapy or providing comfort to patients and their families, our volunteers make such a difference at Maury Regional,” said Director of Volunteer Services Cindy Short said. “We’re happy to be able to celebrate them and recognize the services they provide.”

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with MRH, visit MauryRegional.com/Volunteer.



Volunteer Service Champions Mary Anna Hoelscher, Nancy Hunter and Sandy Lee were recognized during the annual luncheon and service award program.



Record amount raised from 5K participants, sponsors

A total of 700 runners and walkers participated in the 2024 Mule Kick 5K & 1-Mile Trot, presented by First Farmers Bank, at Riverwalk Park on April 6, raising a record \$64,344 for the Maury Regional Health Care Foundation thanks to contributions from racers and local sponsors.

Proceeds from the Mule Kick 5K & 1-Mile Trot help to support Maury Regional Health's mobile medical unit, which serves at-risk and uninsured patients throughout the region and has touched the lives of thousands of individuals since 2017. Proceeds also support the Foundation's Wellness and Aquatics Center Healthy Living Endowment, the city of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and the physical education program at Brown Elementary, the area school with the most race participants.

"This year, the Foundation's annual Mule Kick 5K & 1-Mile Trot topped our fundraising record once again," said Maury Regional Health CEO Martin Chaney, MD. "This would not be possible without the generosity of our community and the outstanding efforts of Foundation Executive Director Joe Kilgore, Development Specialist Courtney Lewandowski and Department Support Coordinator Leah Henry. I would like to thank presenting



sponsor First Farmers Bank and all of our sponsors, runners, walkers and volunteers who make this event possible. The funds raised from this event will support at-risk and underserved populations through services like the Maury Regional Mobile Medical Unit."

David Hudson had the fastest run of the day in the 5K, finishing first overall in 18:34, while Sienna Anderson was first overall for the women with a time of 19:29. In the master category, Ethan Kreul was first for the men in 19:10, and Andrea Rich finished in 23:42 to lead the women. David Craig and Carol Mosher went home winners in the super grand master category, finishing respectively in 29:37 and 34:50.

The top three female finishers in the 1-Mile Trot included Hannah Tucker, Kenzie Calabrese and Emersyn Teele, while the top three male finishers were Ezekiel Stewart, Axel Spare and Dean Turner.

A full overview of all the winners from the male and female age group categories is available at runsignup.com/MuleKick5K, where all 5K racers can also view their individual times and download their finisher certificates. Photos from the 2024 event can be seen at Facebook.com/MuleKick5K.

Coming soon: IT to introduce new help desk portal

Maury Regional Health will soon launch a new user-friendly IT Help Desk portal that will feature a streamlined user experience to assist internal constituents with finding answers faster.

The new Help Desk platform will replace the current portal and system of submitting tickets via email. With the new tool, employees and physicians will access the Help Desk from a convenient button on the homepage of the intranet, where they will be able to submit tickets, track the progress of existing tickets and access a resource library where they can browse policies, read FAQs and learn how to resolve common issues on their own.

Additional information about the new IT Help Desk Portal, including details about the launch date, will be shared soon in a communication from the Information Technology Department.



MAURY strong

MAURY FORWARD >>>



Maury Regional Health hosted its inaugural Veterans Meet and Greet on April 2 in the Auxiliary Conference Room. The meet and greet was an opportunity for employees to make connections with fellow veterans within the organization and to learn more about the new Veterans Resource Group, which was established earlier this year. For more information about the resource group and upcoming meetings, contact the Human Resources Department at ext. 1073.



During the month of April, the Human Resources Department hosted a Team Spirit Day, inviting Maury Regional Health employees to represent their favorite teams. Pictured are a group of administrative assistants and department coordinators.

MRH partners with community businesses

Maury Regional Health partnered with local company WireMasters, Inc., to offer employee health screenings during the first week in April. The multidisciplinary team recorded measurements, calculated body mass index, took blood pressure, drew labs and tested flexibility and grip strength.

Representatives from Maury Regional Health also attended the General Motors employee health fair in Spring Hill, sharing information about the organization's programs and services.



WMC hosts community health fair

▼ On Saturday, April 20, Wayne Medical Center (WMC) hosted its annual community health fair at Frank Hughes High School in Clifton.

The event featured a number of community organizations, including representatives from WMC, who offered free health screenings, health and wellness information, refreshments and door prizes. The event also served as a free drug take-back location in partnership with local law enforcement for community members to dispose of unused or expired medications in a safe manner.



▼ Maury Regional Health volunteers were on hand during Mule Day festivities the first week of April offering free blood pressure checks and hands-only CPR training. The Maury Regional Emergency Medical Services team also had a tent to care for anyone in need during the festivities.

