

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Parrish Medical Center Board of Directors Vote No Taxes for 30th Straight Year 1
- Chairman’s Message 2
- Parrish Healthcare Recognized for Higher Quality and Cost-Efficiency in Maternity Care 2
- HealthAware Risk Assessments 2
- Dr. Kevat B. Patel Elected as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians... 2
- Parrish Medical Group Awarded NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Certification 3
- Healing Experiences 3
- Meet Our New Care Providers 3
- Health First and Parrish Healthcare Sign Health Plan and Cancer Center Agreements 3
- News & Notes 4
- Open Interview Tuesdays 4
- Community Support Group Schedule 4

Parrish Medical Center Board of Directors Vote No Taxes for 30th Straight Year

For the 30th straight year, no taxes will be assessed to support operations of the North Brevard County Hospital District d/b/a Parrish Medical Center (PMC). PMC’s board of directors voted unanimously during a public hearing on September 23, 2024.

PMC is an independent, public, not-for-profit hospital, and state law gives the North Brevard Hospital District (d/b/a Parrish Medical Center) the authority to set a tax rate to support hospital operations.

However, unlike most public hospitals, the PMC board of directors has for 30 years voted not to use tax dollars as a means of funding the hospital.

“Parrish Medical Center takes pride in being recognized as one of the nation’s finest healing environments and is committed to providing exceptional healthcare services without relying on taxpayer funding,” said Robert Jordan, PMC Board Chairman. “We are pleased to continue to take this position on behalf of the community we serve while also investing tens of millions of dollars back into North Brevard each year through various philanthropic opportunities.”

“We remain grateful for a community that continues to support Parrish Medical Center. Just as our community supports us, we will continue to support the community and residents we have the honor of caring for,” concluded Jordan.

We are passionate about giving back to our community. Read more at parrishhealthcare.com/communitybenefit



NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
ORLANDO, FL
PERMIT NO. 1058

PARRISH HEALTHCARE CANCER PROGRAM



WHERE HOPE MEETS HEALING

Experience and compassion play a vital role in cancer care. At Parrish Healthcare, we combine hope with a focus on patient-centered care, advanced clinical expertise and exceptional medical professionals. We bring hope, healing and complete care to our patients in the Brevard community and surrounding regions.

Visit parrishhealthcare.com/oncology



Chairman of the Board

Greetings from the

As we enter this special season of giving, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the many things that make our community so remarkable. The holidays are a time to celebrate our achievements and cherish our connections with friends and family. Parrish Medical Center is proud to talk about some of our recent accomplishments. Most notably, becoming the first Cleveland Clinic Connected member in the United States; earning a perfect Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center recertification score; becoming recertified with the American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer; being named an American College of Surgeon's Surgical Quality Care Partner; being recognized by Florida Blue, the state's Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, with a Blue Distinction® Centers+ (BDC+) for Maternity Care designation and being awarded the highest level of certification (level 3) as Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Robert L. Jordan Jr., Chairman of the Board



This season also reminds us of the importance of generosity, not only in gifts, but also in kindness, compassion and support for those around us. At Parrish Healthcare, we are deeply grateful for the continued support of our community and those we have the honor of serving. On behalf of the Parrish Healthcare board of directors, we wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, joy and meaningful moments with loved ones. May the New Year bring health, happiness and continued success to all in our community. As always, thank you, Brevard, for your unwavering support.

Robert L. Jordan, Jr.

Parrish Healthcare Recognized for Higher Quality and Cost-Efficiency in Maternity Care

Parrish Healthcare is proud to be recognized by Florida Blue, the state's Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, with a Blue Distinction® Centers+ (BDC+) for Maternity Care designation, as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. To earn this designation, each facility must deliver quality care, safely and cost-effectively.

The Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program plays a key role in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association's (BCBSA) National Health Equity Strategy aimed at reducing racial health disparities across the care spectrum and improving patient outcomes for all Americans. To align with this strategy, the Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program enhanced its quality and measurement standards to recognize higher-quality facilities that have taken action to respond effectively to obstetric emergencies, reduce racial disparities, and improve maternal health outcomes.

Based on data from the current designation cycle, facilities designated under the Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program demonstrate higher-quality care compared to non-Blue Distinction Center facilities, with overall average rates of 26% lower episiotomies, 60% fewer elective deliveries and 17% lower cesarean births—all of which point to healthier outcomes for patients. BDC+ designated facilities also exhibited an average savings of 21% for maternity care.



Designated
BlueDistinction®
Center+
Maternity Care



"Earning the Blue Distinction® designation means that we are fulfilling our mission on behalf of the community we so proudly serve and we are achieving the quality, safety, experience, and cost expectations established within the Affordable Care Act," said Parrish Healthcare President/CEO George Mikitarian.

"We thank Parrish Healthcare for helping drive care that aligns to our commitment to whole-person health that is accessible, affordable, and high quality," says Dr. Craig Hersh, vice president and chief medical officer for commercial business at Florida Blue. "We salute their achievements through the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program that help patients truly manage health and their well-being."

Visit parrishhealthcare.com/bluedistinctioncenter to learn more about the Blue Distinction Specialty Care Program, including program criteria

Be HealthAware. Know Your Risk.

HealthAware is a series of free assessment tools that provide information about your risk for various health conditions. The assessments take only minutes to complete.

When you finish, you'll receive a personalized, confidential report of your results. You'll also have the opportunity to connect directly to our patient navigation team. They are ready to assist you in your health care journey.

Assessments are available for orthopedics, cancer, stroke, sleep disorders and more.



Scan the QR code above, or visit parrishhealthcare.com/healthaware

Board Members

Robert L. Jordan, Jr., CM, *Chairman*
Stanley Retz, CPA, *Vice Chairman*
Herman A. Cole, Jr., Col., USAF (Ret.), *Treasurer*
Elizabeth T. Galfo, MD, *Secretary*
Maureen E. Rupe, *Member-at-Large*
Dan Aton, *Board Member*
Billie Fitzgerald, *Board Member*
Ashok C. Shah, MD, *Board Member*
Billy Specht, *Board Member*

Editorial Team

George Mikitarian, *President/CEO*
Natalie Sellers, *Sr. Vice President, Communications, Community & Corporate Services*
Samantha Decker, *Director of Communications*
Jessica Manning, *Sr. Communications Specialist*
Christie Rimsky, *Sr. Communications Specialist*
Susan Norman, *Art Director*

Dr. Kevat B. Patel Elected as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians

Kevat Patel, MD, MSc, CHCQM, FACP, an internist practicing at Parrish Medical Center, has been elected as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the society of internists. The distinction recognizes achievements in internal medicine, the specialty of adult medical care.



Dr. Patel, a board-certified physician advisor, was elected upon the recommendation of peers and the review of ACP's Credentials Subcommittee. He is board certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Patel is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians (ABQAURP). He is also an active member of the following boards and organizations: American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, Society of Hospital Medicine, American College of Physicians, Associate Alumni of Harvard Medical School, Harvard Alumni in Healthcare, American Medical Association, Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement Distinguished Scholar, Everest Scholar and a Rutgers Scholar at Rutgers University, Honors College.

For more information, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/patel



Kevat B. Patel, MD, MSc, CHCQM, FACP

- Primary Care Physician & Hospitalist
- Medical Director, Parrish Medical Group
- Chair of Medicine, Parrish Medical Center
- Chair of Institutional Ethics, Parrish Medical Center

Parrish Medical Group Awarded NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Certification



Parrish Medical Group Primary Care Practices, with locations in Titusville and Port St. John, have again been awarded the highest level of certification (level 3) as Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the most widely adopted evaluation program in the United States. Through a rigorous review process conducted by the NCQA, PMG has earned this distinction since 2015.

"NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition raises the bar in defining high-quality care by emphasizing access, health information technology and coordinated care focused on patients," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "Recognition shows that Parrish Medical Group has the tools, systems and resources to provide its patients with the right care, at the right time."

The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home program reflects the input of the American College of Physicians (ACP),

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and others. It was developed to assess whether clinician practices are functioning as medical homes and recognize them for these efforts. The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home standards emphasize the use of systematic, patient-centered, coordinated care that supports access, communication and patient involvement.

"As health care providers, the patient is always at the center and forefront of everything we do," said Parrish Medical Group Medical Director Kevat B. Patel, MD, MSc, CHCQM, FACP. "Earning the PCMH certification from the NCQA affirms our dedication and adherence to the superior clinical and patient experience standards that our patients expect and absolutely deserve."

For more information about Parrish Medical Group Primary Care Practices, with locations in Titusville and Port St. John, please visit parrishhealthcare.com

Healing Experiences

Forever Grateful

Lindsey underwent her very first surgery (ever), at Parrish Medical Center and was so touched by the compassionate care she received. "From the moment I checked in for surgery, each person I interacted with was nothing short of amazing. Being apprehensive about my first surgery, I am extremely grateful to the staff that calmed my nerves and provided the most amazing patient experience. I will be forever grateful. To Dr. Zambos, his team and all those that took such great care of me, THANK YOU!"

An Ambiance of Healing Care

Edward visited Parrish Medical Center's Emergency Department for evaluation after experiencing sudden brief losses of consciousness. After his visit to the emergency department, he called to convey his appreciation for the care he received, saying, "The ambiance in the room was remarkably uplifting early in the morning, which took me by surprise. The collective positivity of the individuals around me created an environment that didn't resemble a typical setting for the unwell; rather, it felt like a place of healing. The seamless teamwork between the nurses and doctors was commendable."

Parrish Medical Center is Amazing

During the weekend, my husband, Paul, was bitten by what we thought was a fire ant. We headed to the emergency room at Parrish Medical Center. The ER doctor and staff were quickly on top of his care. Indications were that Paul had been bitten by a brown recluse spider and not fire ants. The staff at Parrish were absolutely amazing! Every doctor, nurse and CNA were so attentive to Paul. THANK YOU for the excellent care you provided to my husband.

Read more Healing Experiences by visiting parrishhealthcare.com/experiences

Meet Our New Care Providers



Mahmoud Barbarawi, MD
Cardiology
Parrishmed.com/barbarawi



Rahul Chaudhari, MD
Gastroenterology
Parrishmed.com/chaudhari



Andre Gabriel, MD
Cardiology
Parrishmed.com/gabriel



Raquel Justiniano-Gonzales, Midwife
Licensed Midwife
Parrishmed.com/gonzales



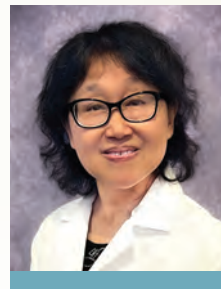
Anitesh Jaswal, MD
Occupational Health and Primary Care
Parrishmed.com/jaswal



Lara Molina, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Parrishmed.com/molina



Ervin Szoke, MD
Endocrinology
Parrishmed.com/szoke



Yanchun Zhang, MD
Neurology (Board Certified)
Parrishmed.com/zhang

Health First and Parrish Healthcare Sign Health Plan and Cancer Center Agreements

On July 17, 2024, Health First and Parrish Healthcare resolved their legal differences and established a new collaboration focused on expanding healthcare access across Brevard County. Today, the leaders of the two not-for-profit health systems have further committed to this collaboration by signing new agreements to enhance care options for residents.

These agreements include the integration of Parrish Healthcare system into the Health First Health Plans network, and conversely, the Health First system will participate within the Parrish Health Network. This extended partnership allows Brevard County residents to access two comprehensive networks, improving access to quality care throughout the region.

"With our two systems coming to an agreement the community wins by gaining county-wide access to two high-quality comprehensive networks of care," said Parrish Healthcare President/CEO George Mikitarian.

In addition, as part of this collaboration, Health First and Parrish Healthcare have signed a real estate agreement that will transfer ownership of the Health First Cancer Institute building in Titusville to Parrish Healthcare, effective by late 2025.

"Health First is committed to removing barriers to care and providing the Brevard community with access to a broad range of high-quality healthcare services. This



Left to right: Parrish Medical Center Chairman of the Board Robert Jordan, Health First Chief Administrative Officer Paula Just, Parrish Medical Center President/CEO George Mikitarian and Health First CEO Terry Forde

partnership with Parrish Healthcare will help us achieve that goal by making care more accessible for everyone in the county," said Paula Just, Chief Administrative Officer at Health First. This partnership exemplifies Health First and Parrish Healthcare's shared commitment to a healthier, stronger Brevard County.

To read more about how Health First and Parrish Healthcare have agreed to further commit to improved access to care for all in Brevard, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/news

News & Notes

Foundation News: Dancing in the Moonlight Gala Huge Success

Jess Parrish Medical Foundation's (JPMF) annual benefit gala *Dancing in the Moonlight* was a tremendous success, raising more than \$125,000 in net proceeds to benefit the advancement of innovative healthcare technologies and services in support of the healing mission of Parrish Healthcare. Presented by the law firm of Zumpano Patricios, the event was held October 5, at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex's Apollo/Saturn V Center.

More than 300 guests dined and danced amidst the iconic Saturn V rocket to music from the sixties and seventies along with a special selection of tunes from the Apollo 11 moon landing mix tape. Throughout the evening, guests relived the first crewed Saturn V mission into space and experienced the Apollo era through interactive exhibits and artifacts.

"We are overjoyed by the tremendous support we have received for *Dancing in the Moonlight* and are thrilled to have so many organizations and community partners joining us to make a difference in the health of our community," stated Melissa Lugo, chair, JPMF board of directors.

Thank you to all sponsors of this year's gala. For a full list of sponsors please visit parrishhealthcare.com/2024gala



To learn how, contact Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066 or visit parrishmedfoundation.com

Open Interview Tuesdays EVERY TUESDAY 9 AM – NOON

Would you or someone you know make a great Care Partner at Parrish Healthcare? Stop by Parrish Medical Center at 951 N. Washington Ave. in Titusville. We look forward to meeting you!

- We're recruiting for several clinical and non-clinical positions
- Bring a copy of your resume and a smile

Visit parrishhealthcare.com/careers for additional information

**BE
Valued
AND
Appreciated.**



Be a **Parrish Care Partner.**



Thank You Titusville Fire Department

The Titusville Fire Department (TFD), Parrish Medical Center and Jess Parrish Medical Foundation celebrated a decade of their annual Pink-Out campaign. Since the campaign's inception, the Titusville Fire Department has raised more than \$20,000 to show their continued commitment to help advance Parrish Healthcare's vision of *Healing Families—Healing Communities*®.

Jess Parrish Medical Foundation Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Jess Parrish Medical Foundation (JPMF) has launched its 2025 scholarship application period and is now accepting applications from high school seniors and college undergraduate students who plan to pursue a career in a medical or healthcare field related to human health.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 7, 2025. Scholarship award recipients will be announced in May 2025. To date, JPMF has awarded more than \$535,000 to 485 students, supporting future generations of healthcare professionals.

Visit parrishhealthcare.com/scholarships or call 321-269-4066 for questions, or to obtain an application

2025 Fran Gerrett Memorial Golf Tournament



SAVE THE DATE
April 4, 2025
JOIN US—ONE DAY,
TWO COURSES

Event proceeds will benefit The Children's Center, a service of Parrish Healthcare, and one-stop childhood development resource center.

To secure your 2025 event partnership, contact Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066 or visit parrishmedfoundation.com/golf



Thank You Mims Volunteer Fire Department

Our sincerest thanks to Mims Volunteer Fire Department for their partnership in the fight against cancer and for all they do for so many in our community! They graciously presented the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation with a check for \$500 in support of Parrish Healthcare's oncology programs. We are grateful for their generous support and selfless commitment to those we serve in North Brevard.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE

Amputee Support Group of Titusville

Meets the second Tuesday monthly, 3-4:30 PM
Parrish Healthcare Center, Manatee Conference Room
5005 Port St. John Parkway, Port St. John
Contact Matthew Julian at 239-850-4117

A.W.A.K.E. Sleep Support Group

Meets the second Monday monthly, 6-7:30 PM
Parrish Healthcare Center, Manatee Conference Room
5005 Port St. John Parkway, Port St. John
Contact our Sleep Center team at 321-268-6408

Cancer and Survivor Support Group

Meets the third Wednesday monthly, 4-5:30 PM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Shannon Luker at 321-268-3544

Caring for Caregivers Support Group

Second and fourth Thursday monthly, 9:30-11:30 AM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Diabetes Support Group

Meets the second Monday monthly, 3-4:30 PM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Peggy McLaughlin at 321-268-6699

Early Steps Community Play Date

A special play date for children five and under and their parent(s)/guardian(s).
Meets the fourth Wednesday monthly, 9-10:30 AM
The Children's Center
5650 South Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Mary Cancel at 321-292-1370

Fearless Café

Presented by St. Francis Reflections Life Stages Care and Parrish Medical Center.
Meets the first Wednesday monthly, 10-11 AM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Kidney Smart Class

Meets the last Thursday monthly, 1-2:30 PM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Jackie Torres at 321-383-1245

Mom's Support Group

Meets Mondays, 10-11 AM
The Children's Center
5650 South Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Melinda at Melinda.Hodges@parrishmed.com

Stroke and Heart Failure Survivors Support Group

Meets the third Tuesday monthly, 2-4 PM
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Tools to Quit - Quit Smoking

Meets the last Tuesday monthly, 5:30-7:30 PM
Parrish Medical Center, Conference Room 6
951 North Washington Avenue, Titusville
Facilitated by Jennifer Wolowitz, Tobacco Free Florida
407-889-2292 ext. 102

Visit parrishhealthcare.com/events for information and to register

