

# West Jefferson Medical Center Community Report

January 2011

## West Jeff First Full Service Hospital in New Orleans Area to Perform New Incisionless Surgery to Treat Acid Reflux



Surgery to get rid of acid reflux or GERD without an incision is now a possibility. It's called Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication procedure or TIF.

In a healthy patient, there is a natural valve between the esophagus and the stomach that forms a physical barrier preventing stomach fluids from backwashing, or "refluxing," up into the esophagus. In a patient with chronic GERD, this valve has become dysfunctional. The TIF procedure reconstructs the valve between the esophagus and the stomach to prevent reflux. It is based on the same well proven principles of conventional more invasive laparoscopic GERD surgery. TIF's advantage is that it is 'surgery from within' performed through the mouth. Because the procedure is incisionless, there is reduced pain, no visible scar and most patients can

get back to their normal activities within a few days.

"The TIF procedure with the EsophyX device can significantly improve quality of life for our patients," said Dr. David Treen, who will speak about new procedure at community seminar, January 11. "Many patients take reflux medications which suppress acid production such as PPIs (proton pump inhibitors) to help relieve their heartburn symptoms and are still unable to eat the foods they want or have to sleep sitting up to reduce nighttime reflux. In addition recent studies have shown that long term use of PPIs can lead to inadequate absorption of minerals such as calcium leading to bone fractures. Clinical studies show two years after the TIF procedure nearly 80% of patients are off their daily reflux medications and can eat and drink foods and beverages they avoided for many years. Reflux no longer impacts their life like it previously did."

This seminar is being offered by the Center for Surgical Weight Loss at WJMC as a topic of interest.

## WJMC Named: "Best Places to Work" for 8th Year in a Row

**CITY BUSINESS**  
2010  
**Best Places to Work**

For the past 8 years, West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC) has been named as one of the top "Best Places to Work" in *New Orleans' City Business* newspaper. It is an honor that is due to the dedication and patient focus of each member of our hospital family.

As the largest employer on the Westbank, WJMC is proud of its benefits, salaries, community involvement, volunteering, team work environment and developmental opportunities.

Our team members are truly patient-focused and are at the heart of the quality care the hospital provides. West Jeff has seen some employees leave for other opportunities just to return to WJMC because it feels like home.

"Before I joined West Jefferson Medical Center, I was familiar of its reputation of being patient focused and family oriented," said Maureen Morris, Director of Human Resources for WJMC. "But you have to experience it first hand to truly understand it. We are truly about family, and we're so proud to be recognized for that!"

For the past 8 years, West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC) has been named as one of the top "Best Places to Work" in *New Orleans' City Business* newspaper. It is an honor that is due to the dedication and patient focus of each member of our hospital family.

by Maureen Morris, SPHR

## BARIATRIC SURGERY

FREE Seminar  
**January 11, 2011**

Noon - 1:30 • WJMC Auditorium

(504) 934-8144

Center For  
**SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS**  
West Jefferson Medical Center™

Bariatric Surgery  
**Changed  
My Life!**

Karen Lost  
110 Pounds



## Remembering Peter Vicari, Sr. Business Leader Donates BLUE DOG Painting to Hospital Foundation

A special highlight of West Jefferson's 50th Anniversary BIRTHday Bash was the unveiling of a Blue Dog painting by artist George Rodrigue. The piece was generously donated to the West Jefferson Hospital Foundation by Peter J. Vicari, Jr. in memory of his late father, Peter J. Vicari, Sr.

"Surrounded by swirls of color, the artwork will inspire joy and an uplifting feeling to the more than five-thousand people who make their way through our hospital's grand, glass entrance daily or visit the main campus," noted Hospital Foundation president Garey Alimia. "Thank you, Pete. This is a wonderful gift."

Mr. Vicari, his mother, sisters and a host of loved ones including 5 week old granddaughter, Rexie Rose Vicari, along with artist George Rodrigue, gathered with Foundation Board members, hospital officials and community members to unveil the painting during West Jeff's Birthday Bash.

Surrounded by his family, Mr. Vicari spoke of his late father reflecting on Mr. Vicari Sr's contributions to Jefferson Parish. In 1946, Peter J. Vicari, son of a Sicilian immigrant, returned from his service with the U.S. Navy SeaBee Construction



The Vicari family and artist, George Rodrigue

founded in Harvey, Louisiana. Mr. Vicari accumulated more than sixty years of construction experience before his passing. His success is carried on by his son and grandson today. Peter J. Vicari was a valued member of the community and a beloved family member and friend to many.

Mr. Vicari also spoke of his family's roots on the West Bank. "I grew up blocks away from the hospital. The front lawn was my playground. I used to play baseball with friends right in front of the hospital," said Vicari. "It's only fitting that I bring this painting home."

With thunderous applause, the painting was unveiled to be enjoyed by countless families for years to come.

by Taslin Alfonzo

Battalion. With hopes for a bright future, Peter J. Vicari General Contractor was



www.WJMC.org

# \$0 Money Down

## 3 Month Membership \$150

### FITNESS BOOT CAMP

Marrero

**Screenings and Education**  
**January 20 • 8 AM to 9 AM**  
 Glucose Screening (Marrero Center)

**February 5 • 10 AM**  
 Community Talk: Healthy Eating for Kids with Kids Fitness Demos (Marrero Center)

Marrero Center • (504) 348-0055  
 Oakwood Center • (504) 349-6908





## Suffering from Reflux or Heartburn?

FREE Seminar  
**January 11, 2011**

6:30 TO 7:30 PM

WJMC Auditorium



**No more Pills. No more Pain. Get back to Living!**

Speaker Dr. David Treen. Please contact (504) 934-8144

for more information about Seminar on new reflux treatment option.

[www.WJMC.org](http://www.WJMC.org)

## WJMC Introduces NEW "Bedside Prescription Delivery"



West Jefferson is proud to introduce its new bedside prescription delivery system. Here's how it works:

When a patient is admitted to the hospital, a few hours into the hospital stay, a message will appear on the patient's television to ask them if they would be interested in bedside delivery of their prescriptions upon discharge. If the patient chooses "yes," a message will be sent via our system interfaces to the Walgreens Pharmacy System. A Walgreens representative will then contact the patient by phone to make arrangements. This process is voluntary; patients can still pick up prescriptions from their pharmacy of choice if they choose to do so.

The new bedside delivery program is made possible by West Jeff's partnerships with GetWell Network (our Interactive Patient Care System), Design Clinicals (our MedsTracker Medication Reconciliation Software) and Walgreens. For more information, call (504) 349-1134.

by Patti Ogeron, RN

## Delivering & Caring for Babies & Moms Across 5 Decades Top 10 Doctors Honored for Longtime Service, Dedication to Community



Ralph Lupin, M.D.  
48 Years of Service

Three, four or five decades is a long time to do anything but when you love what you do, the time may seem much shorter on the one hand and like a lifetime on the other. That was the buzz on

Saturday morning, December 4th. That's because our hospital family and the community came together to celebrate the life service of 10 members of the Medical Staff for 30 or more years of service delivering and caring for babies at West Jefferson Medical Center.

Honored for decades of service were Doctors E. Ralph Lupin (48 years), James Fortino (45 years), Donald McArthur (39 years), Robert Guy (38 years), Michael Haydel (33 years), Maria Cortez (32 years), Juan Labadie (32 years), Charles Watts (31 years), Sergio Castillo (30 years), and Ortholino Remedios (30 years).

To the repeated roaring applause of hundreds in attendance for the physicians, Dr. Frank Di Vincenti, general surgeon and Chairman of the Hospital Board, announced each honoree under the backdrop of the newly unveiled Blue Dog painting by George Rodrigue. Each physician recognized, received a WJMC 50th anniversary poster by local artist Christie Works- Boutte and a Certificate of Recognition. Works-Bouttee scribed each poster thanking and noting the years of service honor and achievement.

"We gather today to mark a tremendous symphony of service by physicians who have dedicated their careers and sacrificed to be with our mothers and babies at every hour of the day and night for the past 50 years," Dr. Di Vincenti remarked. "While we recognize all physicians who have served on our Medical Staff over the past 5 decades, today we gather to especially salute and honor 10 physicians for their longtime service to West Jefferson Medical Center, our Family Birth Place and this great community."

To see photos of the BIRTHday Bash, go to [www.wjmc.org](http://www.wjmc.org) or our facebook page.

by Carol Hatchett

## Your Musculoskeletal System is Important to Us

The musculoskeletal system includes bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, nerves and tendons. For the proper diagnosis and most appropriate treatment options, it is important to consult an orthopaedic surgeon. An orthopaedic surgeon is a physician devoted to the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of injuries, disorders and diseases of the body's musculoskeletal system. So, where do you turn for your musculoskeletal pain?

West Jefferson Medical Center has 13 board certified orthopaedic surgeons with subspecialties in spine, sports medicine, hand, shoulder & elbow, foot & ankle and total joint replacement. WJMC's team focus is from the onset of musculoskeletal pain through diagnosis, treatment and recovery. Medical management and non-invasive treatments (such as immobilization, medications, physical therapy) are utilized whenever possible. When medical management no longer provides effective pain relief or allows for pain free routine daily activities, our team of orthopaedic surgeons offers the newest advancements in surgical technology including minimally

invasive procedures (including endoscopic carpal tunnel surgery, hip and knee arthroscopy and microdiscectomy), arthroscopic rotator cuff surgery and total joint replacement surgery to name a few.

One of the services WJMC provides is total joint replacements, including computer assisted and anterior hip approaches. The Joint Connection @WJMC is an innovative program for patients scheduled for hip or knee replacement surgery. The class incorporates patient and family participation to maximize outcomes. Patients are admitted to the orthopaedic unit and receive in-patient physical and occupational therapy which can then be continued on an outpatient basis if warranted.

For more information on orthopaedic services at WJMC or to get a referral to one of our surgeons, please call the Orthopaedic Navigator at (504) 349-1106.

by Janet Boudreaux, RN



## 50th Birthday Bash Smashing Success

Hundreds of families took part in West Jeff's recent 50th BIRTHday Bash. The festivities kicked off

with the unveiling of a Blue Dog painting (see Remembering Peter Vicari, Sr. article in this community report) followed by the cutting of a giant Blue Dog cake. The 8 ft. wide by 20 ft. long cake was baked and assembled by the One Smart Cookie Company. The first



Marc Walker cuts anniversary cake

baby born at West Jeff, Marc Walker, did the honor of cutting the first piece. He was joined at the cake by hospital CEO Nancy R. Cassagne, Chairman of the Board Dr. Frank C. Di Vincenti, Hospital Foundation president Garey Alimia, Councilwoman Diane Hollis, many officials, hospital board members, foundation board members, doctors, staff and guests.

To the delight of many young children in attendance, Santa arrived by fire truck courtesy of the Marrero Harvey Fire Department and Westwego Rotary Club. Ornament decorating was hosted by Michaels. The ornaments and sugar cookies from Santa were made by Café Hope and sponsored by the family of the late nurse Margaret Gerrets. Louisiana Kids sang carols during the ornament making and visits to Santa. Infants, children and adults enjoyed the party.

Guests attending the party received a WJMC 50th anniversary print painted and signed in the Atrium by artist Christy Works Boutte. Nearby in the Fonseca Auditorium, The Medics played popular tunes. West Jefferson pathologist Dr. James Brown performs in the band. All enjoyed the music, watching the assembling of the 20 ft. long cake then enjoying the tasty treat sponsored by the family of the late Dr. Benny and Micki Goldman. Dr. Goldman was a charter member of the Medical Staff and his wife a charter member of the hospital auxiliary. Lemonade and milk were served up compliments of Budget Saver grocery.

As our 50th anniversary year comes to a close, we'd like to thank our neighbors, patients and families for supporting our community hospital and allowing our motto to ring true: *Our Family, Caring for Your Family.*

by Jennifer Steel, RN