



Charlie Johnson photo

River Park Hospital held an open house recently to give the public a chance to view the facility's new GE LightSpeed scanner. Pictured are, from left,

Garry Gillentine, Swanson and Nina Bennett, Helen Gillentine, Debby and Rodney Boyd and River Park director of imaging Debra Powers, ARRT CT.

River Park showcases new technology

By CHARLES W. JOHNSON
*News Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.)*

River Park Hospital held an open house Tuesday night to allow the public to view the facility's new GE LightSpeed VCT XT system with cardiac capabilities.

The revolutionary 64-slice CT scanner allows physicians to view more detailed, high-quality images of a patient's respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological systems.

In addition, the increased speed of the equipment ensures patients get lower doses of radiation for improved safety and allows a shorter procedure for improved comfort.

River Park CEO John McLain says the scanner is an example of River Park's effort to provide the best equipment available for its patients. In 2009, River Park invested \$1.25 million in capital improvements, which includes the new CT scanner.

"First, it really comes down to making sure we keep the technol-

ogy at the level we need to here," McLain said. "We needed to upgrade our technology and our CT scanner. The prior year we had done it in ultrasound, so this year we wanted to do it with the CT scanner."

McLain said River Park did some research before choosing the GE LightSpeed VCT XT scanner.

"When we went to look at the CT scanner, we evaluated the types of procedures we do, the procedures we want to be able to do, and which machine would be best for us in the future," said McLain. "What we decided, based on trying to grow and expand into the cardiology services, and to really provide the equipment and technology that would be the same as what someone might get in Nashville and Murfreesboro and other surrounding cities, we have to compete with that, so we elected to go with the 64-slice scanner."

McLain says adding cardiac capabilities is important, but that wasn't the main goal, since that is a relatively low volume of

growth.

"What it really allows us to do is play in the same arena and do all the same studies and provide the same images the other facilities that are progressive and have good technology are able to provide," McLain said.

McLain said parent company Capella Healthcare was supportive of the choice.

"Capella, based on our recommendations and working closely with our medical staff, saw this was a good place to make that investment, and it's a million dollar investment basically," McLain said. "It's a real gift. We are so fortunate to have a hospital like this in this town, so we want to keep the equipment and technology to match it."

River Park Hospital is a 125-bed, full-service hospital, which provides a comprehensive range of medical services and high-quality care. River Park is Joint Commission accredited which demonstrates a commitment to meet the highest national standards for quality and safety.