



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford celebrating 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary

*“The Insider” Podcast features Gordon Ferguson, president and CEO of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford*

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** – Gordon B. Ferguson, president and CEO of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford, is featured in the latest edition of “The Insider,” the City’s official podcast.

The hospital is celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> year of serving Rutherford County with plans for a new cardiac surgery program and neighborhood hospital, Westlawn, west of I-24. Ascension Saint Thomas hosted a celebration Monday, May 2, 2022, to commemorate 95-years of serving the people of Murfreesboro and surrounding communities. Community leaders attended the event, including some associated with its early days and beginnings of the new hospital.

Listen to “The Insider” at <https://cityofmurfreesborotn.podbean.com/>. “The Insider” is also available for viewing on YouTube [https://youtu.be/rmPGwNix\\_kl](https://youtu.be/rmPGwNix_kl).

This edition of Insider features:

- The history of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford in Middle Tennessee from its humble beginnings officially opened **May 2, 1927**, through a \$162,000 grant from the Commonwealth Fund of New York.
- The first baby born at the hospital on Bell and University streets was **Mary Alice Robinson Richmond**, on May 22, 1927.
- In 2010, Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford relocated to the larger facilities at 100 Medical Center Parkway.
- The new \$5.6 million **cardiac surgery program** at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford with surgeons and staff being hired for the facilities, starting in early 2023.
- The new 2-story **Westlawn neighborhood hospital** under construction in the Blackman area as a satellite of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford.
- Updating plans for a new **Level 2 Trauma Program** at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford.
- Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford’s life-saving **stroke intervention**, thrombectomy.

For more information on Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford, visit [www.Ascension.org](http://www.Ascension.org).

This latest edition of “The Insider” is available via Podbean, Spotify, Apple Podcast and “Amazon Music/Audible.” Podcasts can be accessed on the City of Murfreesboro’s website. Just click the “Podcast” link on the bottom of the homepage under “Connect With Us” <https://cityofmurfreesborotn.podbean.com/> then click the latest episode or listen to previous episodes.

“The Insider,” hosted by Mike Browning, originates from City Hall, and is produced by award-winning producer Michael Nevills.

Murfreesboro CityTV can be found on Comcast Channel 3 and 1094, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, YouTube, Facebook and the City website [www.murfreesborotn.gov/citytv](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/citytv).

#### SELECTED QUOTES:

“The official date the original hospital opened was May 2, 1927. The hospital actually was started through a grant from the Commonwealth Fund of New York,” said **Gordon Ferguson, president and CEO of Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford**. “It was part of a health demonstration project focused originally on the pediatric population, but as more study was done it became readily clear that this community was at the point where it needed its own hospital.”

“In our book that we came out with when we moved to the new hospital, ‘A Time to Build Up,’ there’s great illustration of letters that were written by residents trying to convince the Commonwealth Fund that this was the place they needed to invest as a grant. Fortunately, Murfreesboro and Rutherford County were the recipients of that grant.”

“We saw that the City had actually bought property in that area [Medical Center Parkway] for a proposed Conference Center. When that did not happen, that’s when we started having discussions with the City of Murfreesboro about the possibility of acquiring that land, but conditioned on having the infrastructure and also the State needed to put in a new intersection, which we now know as Medical Center Parkway.”

“I remember several building advising wherever you build, you need to have it on the east side of I-24 because that’s where the population is, and now some 20 years later you have the growth were seeing now on the west side in the Blackman area and the Westlawn areas.”

“When I started the hospital was licensed for 286 beds, however, because of needed to take more space in that facility for out-patient services, the most we could get was 215 patients. You compare that to today, we are licensed and operate 358 beds with plans to increase that to just over 400 beds in the next couple of years.”

“The cardiac surgery program is going to be more convenient for our patients where currently it’s a procedure where they have to drive mostly to Nashville have surgery. We feel with the growth of our area that we are at the point where this program is justified.”

“The Westlawn neighborhood hospital is under construction with 8 beds and an 8-treatment room Emergency Room support by lab and imaging on the first floor and second floor space

for primary care physicians and clinic. We're very excited that this will be the first of its kind in the State of Tennessee. We're probably looking at a February 2023 date for completion."

For City News online, visit [www.Murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.Murfreesborotn.gov).

**Photos and Graphic attached:**

1. *"The Insider" with Gordon Ferguson, president and CEO, Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford.jpg.*
2. *"The Insider" Official Podcast Topic: Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford celebrates 95-years.jpg*
3. *Nashville Banner cover page featuring Formal Opening of Rutherford Hospital, May, 2, 1927.jpeg*
4. *Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford at 1700 Medical Center Parkway.jpeg.*