

Stay in the know! Sign up to get Fauquier County news updates delivered to your inbox.

Enter search keywords

SEARCH

Advertise on Fauquier Now!



How will the U.S. economy perform over the next four years with Donald Trump in the White House? **Vote!**

- HOME
- OBITUARIES
- NEWS
- HOME & GARDEN
- OPINIONS
- BUSINESS
- STYLE
- CALENDAR
- CLASSIFIEDS

Free classifieds! Members can also post calendar events, news, opinions and more ... all for free! Register now!

Login · Forgot Your Password?

Real Estate Directory

Business Directory

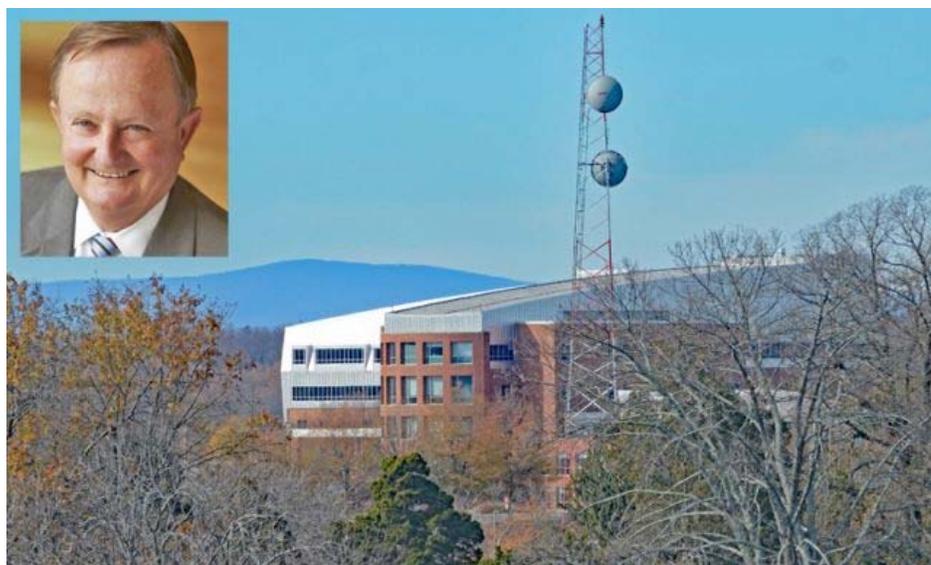
POPLAR SPRINGS
THE INN | THE SPA | MANOR HOUSE RESTAURANT

NEW YEAR'S EVE CULINARY WORLD TOUR
AT POPLAR SPRINGS MANOR HOUSE RESTAURANT

November 30, 2016

32

Search begins for next Fauquier Health CEO



Rodger Baker (top left) joined the hospital as assistant administrator in 1997 and has worked as Fauquier Health's CEO since 1987.

By **Lawrence Emerson**
Editor

Interviews with applicants for the **Fauquier Health** chief executive's position could begin in December.

"My goal is we would have someone

Shop Fauquier

This n' That Amish Outlet

Gift Certificates

Barns, Sheds, Outdoor Furniture and more, all built to last!

Rt. 29 North of Warrenton • 540-341-7883

KEEP YOUR FUTURE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

in here early next year,” Jamie Carter, chief operating officer for **LifePoint Health’s** Eastern Group, said in a telephone interview last week.

But, Mr. Carter cautioned that it may take longer to hire a successor to Rodger Baker, Fauquier Health’s president/CEO since 1987. Mr. Baker, who joined Fauquier Hospital as its assistant administrator in 1977, **will retire next year.**

He oversees Fauquier County’s largest non-government enterprise, with annual revenues approaching \$200 million, about 1,000 employees and an annual payroll of \$77 million.

Three years ago, Tennessee-based LifePoint, a publicly-traded corporation, **purchased 80 percent** of the not-for-profit Fauquier Hospital and related entities.

A six-member board — with three community members and three from LifePoint, including Mr. Carter — oversees Fauquier Health operations. That board will help select the new CEO.

“As a partner with LifePoint, we have 20 percent, but they’re driving the bus,” said Warrenton resident and board Chairman John McCarthy, acknowledging that corporate executives — principally Mr. Carter — will decide who fills one of Fauquier County’s highest profile leadership positions.

The regional COO refused to discuss salary, but Mr. Baker has received about \$500,000 in annual compensation, according to tax returns for the PATH Foundation, which holds the local, 20-percent stake in Fauquier Health.

The hospital in 2014, its first year under LifePoint, produced a profit of \$19.4 million on revenue of \$165.8 million, according to Virginia Health Information. The profit of 11.7 percent almost doubled the 5.27-percent margin a year earlier.

The VHI report includes only hospital financial performance — not that of related businesses, such as nursing homes or specialty medical practices.

“We want someone who will be a good fit . . . part of the community,” Mr. Carter said of the next CEO.

He also stressed the need for experience recruiting and working with “the medical staff. That’s so important to us. But, it’s about meeting the needs of



We want somebody who wants to run a community hospital, who has enough experience to run it in a competitive environment.

— John McCarthy, Fauquier Health board chairman



\$895,000 Warrenton



patients and families first.”

The interviews will include physicians and hospital staff members, along with the three local board members — Mr. McCarthy, Mary Leigh McDaniel and Ray Knott — and Christy Connolly, the PATH Foundation president/CEO.

“I would imagine we’ll probably start in December,” Mr. Carter said last week. All interviews will take place in Warrenton.

LifePoint continues to accept applications for **the position**.

Fauquier Health faces greater competition — from Novant, Inova, Valley Health and others — than many of LifePoint’s 72 hospitals, Mr. Carter conceded.

“We want somebody who wants to run a community hospital, who has enough experience to run it in a competitive environment,” Mr. McCarthy said. “One of the reasons we partnered with LifePoint was the economy of scale they brought to the table and the ability to make the capital investments we need.

“So, we want somebody who’s savvy about competition. Yes, they’ve got to have people skills. Yes, they’ve got to get along with the medical staff But the environment has changed.”

Since taking over in September 2015 as the chief of LifePoint’s Eastern Group, which has 22 hospitals, Mr. Carter has hired two new CEOs and retained two others after mergers.

The process leading to the Fauquier Health acquisition and discussion of Mr. Baker’s tenure have been more open than some of LifePoint’s previous mergers.

After the company’s 2005 purchase of the Danville Regional Medical Center, which surprised many in that Southside community, Virginia enacted a law requiring a public hearing before a non-profit hospital could merge with a for-profit company.

At the Fauquier Health **hearing in September 2013**, Mr. Baker said his contract would run through January 2016 and that he planned to stay at least that long and possibly longer.

By contract, the CEO’s office in Danville had a revolving door for almost a decade after the merger, which also resulted in an exodus of physicians and community resentment. Things have since calmed considerably in Danville.

Still, “I’d be a fool if I failed to pay attention to that; I’d be an idiot,” Mr. McCarthy said. “The lessons that Danville provided are valuable to us.”

Of LifePoint, he added: “I think they’ve probably gotten better at listening and finding better solutions, and our (Fauquier Health) staff has some answers that they’ve used in other hospitals.”

But, whatever happens, the next CEO probably won’t work four decades at Fauquier Health, as Mr. Baker has.

Calling Fauquier “unique,” Mr. Carter said Mr. Baker’s agreement to stay on as a consultant through the transition provides him a well-earned “long runway to retirement” and the hospital with the opportunity to get it right.

“We don’t see the first patient in Nashville,” he added. “We feel like healthcare is local. That differentiates us from other companies.

“What Rodger has done with that hospital stands up well and aligns with what we hope to continue.”

Fauquier Health in April will break ground for an \$18-million medical office building on Shirley Avenue.

“But, (CEO) succession is the hot button,” Mr. McCarthy said.

✉ [Sign up for e-mail news alerts from FauquierNow.com](#)

f ["Like" FauquierNow on Facebook](#)

Member comments

Please, be polite. Avoid name-calling and profanity.

For credibility, sign your real name; stand behind your comments. Readers will give less credence to anonymous posts.

To comment, please [log in](#) or [register](#).

Silli · December 1, 2016 at 8:00 am

It remains unclear why Fauquier Hospital didn't partner with UVA, Novant, or Inova/Valley Health rather than going with an out-of-state entity focused only on profit and with no broader network in this area. That decision cut residents of our area off from access to a higher level health care, including more specialists. Most people I know head to one of these other systems when they need specialized care, recommended physicians, surgery, etc. Maybe that's why there are so many empty beds and even partially closed wards at Fauquier. Maybe that's why ambulances take emergency patients to Inova or Mannassas ER because the Fauquier ER is full and/or understaffed?

LifePoint - listen up.

Facebook comments

0 Comments

Sort by



Add a comment...

f Facebook Comments Plugin

40 years of
Orthopaedic Excellence

**SPORTS
MEDICINE**

BLUE RIDGE
ORTHOPAEDIC &
SPINE CENTER

EXPERTS

WARRENTON BROAVA.COM GAINESVILLE

CPA, ACCOUNTING, TAX SERVICES

Douglas
Marshall
Managing Principal

MCG LLC
Marshall Consulting Group

WARRENTON • 540-347-2161

FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

**Gulick, Carson
& Thorpe, P.C.**

540-347-3022 • Warrenton

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Shops in Old Town Warrenton

THE TOWN DUCK
100 Main Street, Warrenton • 540.347.7237

When It's Serious

Christopher T. Whelan

- General Civil Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Criminal Defense

**MORRISON
ROSS AND WHELAN**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Email News Alerts

Enter your email address above to begin receiving news updates from FauquierNow.com via email.

County likely to spend millions on broadband



Thursday, December 1

Support building for county investment of \$20 million to extend service to rural areas

Video

VDOT video explains Opal “crossover” proposals



Thursday, December 1

Public hearing Tuesday night at Liberty High School on plan to close two Route 29 median breaks and to rebuild two others

“3 Who Made a Difference” nominations sought



Obituaries

- John E. “Jerry” Utz
- Eugene J. “Gene” Martin
- Margaret C. Anderson
- Florence Mae Carter
- Charles D. “Ducky” Gouldthorpe

[View all obituaries »](#)

Business Directory

Food & Dining

- Red Truck Bakery
- [View all food & dining](#)

Health & Medicine

- Robert C. Flikeid, DDS & Associates
- The Natural Marketplace
- Fauquier Health
- [View all health & medicine](#)

Pro Services

- Ask Dave Wills, Long and Foster REALTORS
- Anne Michael Greene, Principal Broker – Marshall Real Estate
- Edward Jones - Thomas Tucker
- Silent Partner Security
- Gulick, Carson & Thorpe, PC
- Patti Brown - Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
- Tammy Roop - Century 21 New Millennium
- [View all pro services](#)

Retail Shopping

- The Town Duck
- McClanahan Camera
- Dragonfly Native American Jewelry
- Red Thread Yarn Shop
- Kelly Ann’s Quilting
- Sherrie’s Stuff
- Early’s Carpet
- [View all retail shopping](#)

Commonwealth Obstetrics & Gynecology

TRUST OUR
experience

Whether You’re Expecting, or Expect the Best in Care.



JEFFREY W. BELL, M.D.
Board certified
540.349.0100

428 Hospital Drive - Warrenton, VA
Gladly accepting new patients. We accept most insurance plans.
Practicing for 27 years, more than 6,000 babies delivered.



10% off for all new customers

Minimum wait time

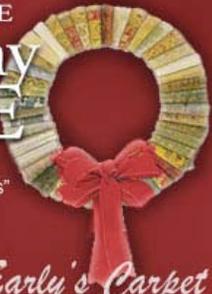
Open for state inspections

TRUSTED
AUTO CARE

A Division of Country Chevrolet

283 Broadview Ave., Warrenton • 540-347-9687

STOREWIDE
Holiday SALE



Congrats to the “Oldest Invoice Winners”
Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Jenkins won \$1,966 for an invoice dating back to 4/11/73

Early’s Carpet
RT. 211, AMISVILLE • 540-937-5500
Celebrating 50 Years!

John W. Harre, DDS




TFB The Fauquier Bank
wishes you and your family a very happy holiday season!

TFB.bank **Member FDIC**

Thursday, December 1

Year-end stories will profile some of Fauquier County's unsung heroes who make the community better

[More Fauquier news](#)

FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE
NOVEMBER 2016 VINT HILL, VIRGINIA

THIS JUST IN FROM VINT HILL



VINT HILL
VIRGINIA



10% off

Any Two Flushes, brakes, oil, air, induction, coolant, transmission, differential, power steering

warrentontire.com



WARRENTON
TIRE & AUTO

540-349-0900

SENIOR APARTMENTS

Mintbrook

BEALETON, VIRGINIA



Yes, you can afford to live at Mintbrook

Call 540-642-2076. We are now leasing.




OAK VIEW NATIONAL BANK

THIS IS LOCAL
Personal | Business | Non Profit

We love that you are passionate about your business. We are too. Stop by and talk to us.

OakViewBank.com

Member FDIC

Traffic Ticket

Our team can help.



MARK B. WILLIAMS & ASSOCIATES, PLC
WARRENTON, VA • 540.347.6595
"The Firm To See" www.mbwalaw.com



BECAUSE YOU DESERVE IT...



PEJAY
CREATIONS
since 1988

TRUNK SHOW • OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH



We don't cut corners,
We clean them.

Fauquier • Culpeper 540-736-7824
merry maids
Relax. It's Done.™

Tribute Assisted Living



Dentistry for the Whole Family



Now participating with
Anthem for Fauquier County
Government and School
Employees currently
covered by Delta Dental

Robert C. FLIKEID, DDS
ASSOCIATES

CLICK HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION >>

The Grapevine

**WINE FINDS,
CIGARS & SURPRISES**

Warrenton's best source for great wine, premium cigars and craft brews

309 W. SHIPLEY AVENUE, WARRENTON, VA 20186 • (540) 349-4443
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEGRAPEVINEWARRENTON





© Copyright 2011-2016

50 Culpeper Street, Suite 3
Warrenton, Virginia 20187
540.359.6574

News

Crime Log
Obituaries
Business
Add Your News

Sports

Style

The Big Picture
Ellen's Kitchen
and Garden
Features

Classifieds

Real Estate
For Sale
Employment
Automotive
Announcements
Legal Notices
Post an Ad

Calendar

About Us

Advertise
Terms of Service