



Photo by Payton McCormick

# Family Pharmacy



Terry Spears, Pharmacist

Family Pharmacy has been in Vernon since 1996. It's history began when Jim Spears opened Spears Pharmacy downtown many years prior. That pharmacy then transitioned into the Gibson's Pharmacy.

In January, 1996, Jim Parmer, Pam Caldwell and Terry Spears opened Family Pharmacy, while maintaining the Gibson's branch.

"We knew after a while that we would have to shut down the pharmacy inside of

Gibson's," Terry Spears said.

Since then, Family Pharmacy has expanded to Altus, Okla. and Quanah. But not only has it expanded its locations, the Pharmacy has expanded its resources and coverage area.

Family Pharmacy, for the past six months, has become a specialty pharmacy. This means it can offer services on specialty medications for things such as Crohn's Disease, Hepatitis C Virus, HIV, Hypercholesterolemia, Multiple Sclerosis, Oncology, Osteoporosis, Psoriasis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Ulcerative Colitis.

The pharmacy now provides help in determining your insurance and coverage and co-pay amounts, utilizing co-pay cards and making sure you pay the lowest amount possible. Helping you to learn how to properly inject medicine, and calling when it is time to refill on all of the above special medications.

Since its beginning, Family Pharmacy has also been a compounding pharmacy. "We are able to identify a patient's specific needs and we customize that pharmaceutical product to fit their needs," Spears said. "Whether it's a dosing regimen or if it's a particular product. Some products are no longer available but a doctor might want to use them."

They have taken a medicine used to treat nausea that is typically taken orally or as a suppository and have created an alternative that allows patients to use a gel applied at the wrist which is absorbed trans-dermally.

Spears said they have continued to expand their home infusion business, or Vital Care. Vital Care offers a comprehensive scope of home parenteral services including: IV Antibiotic Therapy, IV Hydration Therapy, TPN Therapy, and Pain Management Therapy.

## Vista Living

### Offering long term care in Texas

Jon Montroll took over as owner of Vista Living, 4301 Hospital Drive, on Nov. 1, 2015. Since that time he has worked hard to renovate the nursing care facility and ensure it has a long and fruitful future in Vernon.

Montroll comes from a background in the computer hosting industry. He said he started working for a service provider in the 1990s, but they did not have a customer service department.

"I saw that as a big problem," he said. "I left to start my own company based on customer service. I still have some of my first customers that have stayed with me since 2002."

"The big difference I see in the health industry is that lack of customer service – they are nickel and diming people. That concerns me. I can't stand people being treated bad," he said.

Montroll said he cut back on his business ventures in 2010 to spend time with his young

children – he and his wife have four, ages 6 through 10.

Then in 2015, an opportunity came up for him to purchase the Vernon facility, as well as one in Archer City.

"I was told it was going to close if I didn't step in. I was the only option left to save 60 to 70 jobs and keep 40 to 50 people from being kicked out of their homes."

He said his mother is a distant cousin to members of the Wood family that previously owned the two facilities, and she was a shareholder in a general partnership that foreclosed on the previous owners. She recommended Jon take control of the Vernon and Archer City facilities.

He agreed, although he says he had never heard of Archer City or Vernon prior to that.

Montroll commutes weekly to and from Fort Worth.

"I consider Vernon my home and leave on weekends. I put about a 1,000 miles a week on my car," Montroll said, adding he kills the time by listening to a lot of audiobooks – everything from westerns to thrillers.

"It's hard being away from the kids during the week."

He added that the family is considering a permanent move to Vernon.

He is also eco-friendly. He said the facility has switched to LED lighting and is looking into alternative energy options for the facility.

"We've cut the electric bill by 65 percent," he said.

Montroll added he plans to continue investing in upgrading the Vista Living facility, although he's not at liberty to divulge

He also said he wants to branch out and invest in bringing new technologies and opportunities to Vernon.



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