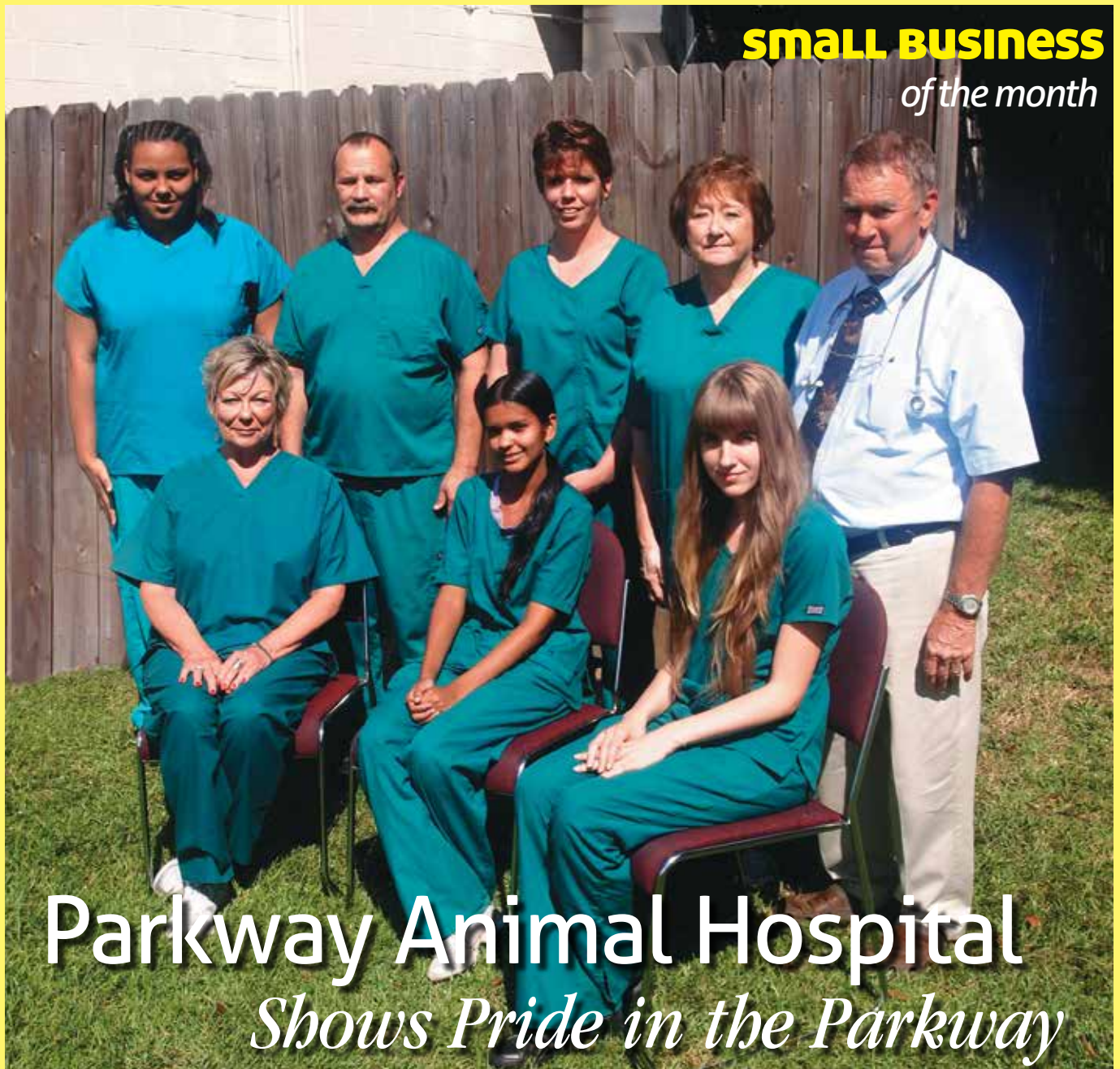


Parkway Animal Hospital serves furry friends across the Mobile area. The veterinary clinic has a staff of 10. Pictured are: front row, left to right, Beth Young, Lisandra Marrero and April Moore. Back row, left to right, Deona Smith, Tom Willemssen, April Stewart, Susan Fell and Dr. Tom Fell. Not pictured are Dr. Lauren Lackey and Katherine Lipscomb.



Parkway Animal Hospital *Shows Pride in the Parkway*

Dr. Tom Fell attributes his career in veterinary medicine to two events. The first was a meeting he attended with his roommate who was a veterinary student at Auburn University, where he saw a demonstration on how to remove an object swallowed by a cow. The other was a friendship with a veterinarian in Greensboro who allowed him to observe clinic cases and farm visits.

After a tour in Vietnam, where he served as a Forward Air Controller with the U.S. Air Force, and graduation from Auburn's School of Veterinary Medicine, Fell came back home to start his practice in 1984. Parkway Animal Hospital, located at 2551 Dauphin Island Parkway, has been there ever since, and Fell believes it's important to show "Pride in the Parkway."

"There has been a tremendous change in the Dauphin Island Parkway area since the days of my education at B.C. Rain in the early 1960s," Fell said. "The area at that time was so reliant on Brookley Air Force Base that when the political tides changed and the

base closed, the area began a slow but steady slide into an underserved and non-marketed area that has so much potential.

"As many have known, and Mayor (Sandy) Stimpson has recently discovered, this area has it all. Great residents, wonderful ecological diversity and beautiful waterfront with Mobile Bay on the east and Dog River/Perch Creek on the south and west make this area a desirable place to live. All that is needed is for those that live and work in the area to catch the vision of what it can be and make the commitment to get there."

Fell and his nine employees at Parkway Animal Hospital have sought to do their part by participating in career day at Gilliard Elementary School, hosting rabies clinics to provide funds for the Environmental Studies Center wildlife rehabilitation program, donating items for the Wesley Center animal fundraiser, sponsoring local youth sports teams and supporting the establishment of a Boys & Girls Club in the area.

"In any endeavor, whether it be work, sports or improving the parkway, you will

only get out of something whatever you put into it," Fell said.

His business has been run in the same way, providing a caring staff and professional care for pet owners in the area as well as throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties. While medical and pharmaceutical advancements have given veterinarians more tools than ever to combat the common ailments of pets and other animals, Fell said it's important to remain vigilant.

"One of the greatest challenges in veterinary medicine is to not get complacent with the success that is being experienced in the area of preventative care for pets, such as that seen with the effective heartworm and flea and tick control products that are available. We have to stay one step ahead of the diseases that can affect our furry friends, as some of them are zoonotic (transmissible to humans)."

Go to mobilechamber.com/award.asp to submit a Small Business of the Month application, or contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or drichards@mobilechamber.com.