



from the office of

GATOR DENTAL ASSOCIATES, PA

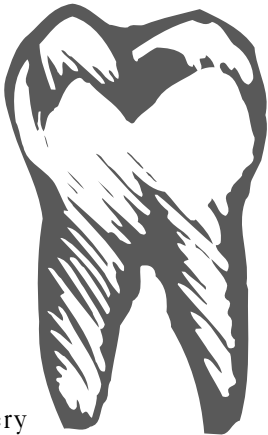
Gator Tales NEWSLETTER

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GATOR DENTAL ASSOCIATES, PA ■ 352/481-2741
E-mail: smile@gatordental.com

How Can You Prevent Dental Disease?

Prevention of dental disease is our mission. To prevent, by Webster's definition, is "To stop or intercept; to impede; to thwart." So what is prevention in our office? Just about everything we do has a preventive component! We are continuously preventing major problems from occurring. Just as exams and x-rays prevent disease through early diagnosis and treatment, sealants and well-designed modern fillings prevent expensive crowns and root canals by breaking the cycle of retreatment. This preserves every iota of tooth possible and utilizes the remaining tooth in such a way that it is restored in harmony with your body and remaining teeth.



How can patients participate in prevention?

Keep up with your home care, recalls and recare. Come in for prompt cleanings, exams and x-rays. There is nothing better than finding the problem before the patient knows it is there or it is too small for the patient to feel. For teeth this allows for small fillings that leave the most natural tooth structure and last the longest. For gums this is diagnosing the subtle changes that result in one of the most common human diseases, gum disease (90% of adults have some level of disease).

Listen to your body.



Signs & Symptoms of Dental Disease

- Bleeding or sore gums
- Color changes in gums or oral tissues
- Discomfort upon chewing
- Sensitivity to air
- Sensitivity to cold
- Sensitivity to sweets
- Swelling or tender areas in the mouth
- Ulcers that will not go away
- Darkened or stained teeth
- Sore jaws and headaches
- Grinding your teeth at night
- Chenching during the day
- Excessively worn or chipped teeth
- Bad breath

If you notice any of these signs and symptoms listen to your body and come in for prompt professional diagnosis and care.

Prevention is the best insurance available. Please see our Internet site for a detailed article on dental insurance and more on prevention. How and why to obtain dental insurance is featured as well.

News Bites

■ Hygienist Judy Wright thanks all our patients for their kind thoughts, wishes and help during the difficult time following her severe car accident last October. She is just getting strong enough to slowly come back to work.

■ Dr. Garlitz has received several professional accolades recently.

- He was appointed Technology Editor of the Florida Dental Association's journal.

- He was recently featured in an issue of the journal with an article about his activities as a prominent FDA volunteer. He has been elected into the officer's line of the 1500 member Dental Alumni association of UF where he will serve as president in two years.

- He is webmaster for four dental Internet sites and is developing online continuing education courses on the Internet and computers' use in dentistry. He will be lecturing on the topic at the annual meeting of the FDA.

■ Dr. Maxwell's wife, Lori, has been busy traveling the world for Hewlett Packard where she trains hospital staff in the use of HP echocardiographic equipment. Recent trips have included Saudi Arabia. Dr. Maxwell's professional duties keep him close to home, but he joins her whenever possible.

■ Hygienist Sandra Comstock was recently re-appointed to the Dental Hygiene Program Advisory Board of Santa Fe Community College. She is a 1982 graduate of their program and has, in addition to serving in this capacity, been active in the local dental hygiene association.

■ Our staff recently attended a two-day seminar in Orlando about total quality in treatment and working with patients for their utmost satisfaction. Total Quality Management is a corporate buzzword that has a place in dentistry for offices that are dedicated to their patients!



Community News From Gladiator Gator

■ Patient **Matt Wright**, son of Robert and Deborah Wright and a 1998 graduate of Interlachen High, received an appointment to West Point.

■ Patient **Sean Howard**, son of Susan and Greg White, who will gradu-

ate this year from Eastside High, has received an appointment to the Naval Academy.

■ Sean and Matt join our many patients who have graduated and moved on to colleges locally and throughout the country.

New, Improved Office Software

We recently upgraded our office computer software to allow for integration of clinical tasks into our computer realm. Look for advances such as computer charting of your dental and periodontal exams, intra-oral photography and digital radiographs. Last year was the first year of a three-year project to integrate these services, which are on the cutting edge of technology. Fortunately, this is one of Dr. Garlitz's areas of professional interest, so we will be one of the first area offices to utilize 21st-century dental equipment.

This first stage of our computer upgrade is to get your account, insurance, prevention and medical information into the system.

PLEASE CALL with recent information or questions if:

- You are overdue for your exam and cleaning
- You have recently switched from a RR (rural route) address to a named address.
- You have recently changed employers or dental insurance coverage
- Your phone number has changed
- You have a need to take pretreatment antibiotics that you have not previously notified us of
- You feel part of your account balance is due from insurance from a previous year (this year's insurance is detailed on your statement).
- You have an E-mail address!

Interest-free Financing

Payment for dental treatment over 6 months to a year without interest charges?

We are proud to have an arrangement with Norwest, a financing company with a local office in Gainesville. Our patients have been using this program for over a year, with much success. Pay no interest on your dental services when you pay back the balance within the program's time and payment guidelines.

Patients need to fill out an application and be approved. Once in place, the credit is available for improving your dental health.

We accept MasterCard and Visa as well, but Norwest offers you another option, with payments spread out over time and interest-free!

Call Reba for details.



FAMILY-GENERAL DENTISTRY

JAY H. GARLITZ, DMD ■ DAVID W. MAXWELL, DMD
PO Box 10 ■ 107 N. Johnson St. ■ Hawthorne, FL 32640-0010

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Dentistry for the Lake Areas of Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Marion, and Putnam Counties.



Visit our Internet Website at www.gatordental.com

- The site includes:*
- Expanded versions of this newsletter's articles on prevention and insurance
 - Our office hours and answers to the most frequently asked questions
 - A complete guide to our office and office policies
 - Maps and directions for your friends and family who you refer to us (*Thank you for your continued referrals.*)
 - Links to other web sites of dental interest to our patients
 - Hawthorne information, including historical photos supplied by Francis and Mary Moore
 - The ability to E-mail us at the click of a mouse

Share our site with others! We are glad you want to share our pride of Hawthorne and our office.