



from the office of

GATOR DENTAL ASSOCIATES, PA

# Gator Tales NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4, No. 1 Winter 2000

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

## Prevention Is the Key to Good Dental Health

Your dental health is very important at Gator Dental Associates. Professional dental care is vital to your overall health and well-being. When coupled with your quality home care efforts, a happy, healthy, and good-looking mouth results. Prevention is the focus in our office. Preventing disease is the best dental insurance one can have. Visits for cleaning and examinations are where the dentist and dental hygienists coordinate your strategy for health.

Every patient has individual differences in regard to dental disease. How often one comes in, and has x-rays taken, varies with the level of present and past problems (based upon your risks and needs). Regular visits allow the dental team to monitor and stop disease processes before irreversible damage occurs. Every opportunity is taken to give you the ability, techniques, and home-care hardware (such as a Rotodent® appliance) needed to stop dental disease progression before it results in a seat in the dentist's treat-

ment room. Successful restoration and maintenance of your dental health is a team effort!

Our patients are fortunate to have access to Dr. Garlitz's expertise in the use of technology. He lectures on the use of computers and their impact on clinical care. Your preventive visits are charted on computer where gum and tooth health (or disease) can be graphed and monitored over time. Visit our Web site, www.gatordental.com, for information about our use of technology and view Dr. Garlitz's background in lecturing and computer integration at www.gatordental.com/biog.htm.

Don't wait too long to book your appointment! Our December schedules are filling up fast. Our hygiene department will be closed from Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many insurance companies allow two cleanings per calendar year...don't waste your much-needed benefit!

*Gator Tales Newsletter is now web-enhanced! Green, underlined words indicate a more extensive article at our web site, [www.gatordental.com](http://www.gatordental.com)*

## News Bites

■ It's a wedding! Allison Simmons, long-time employee who helps out part-time as a dental hygienist, and daughter of former high school principal, Dr. and Mrs. Lamar Simmons, is getting married in December. Husband, Jonathan McKinney, is training to be a commercial airline pilot.

■ Dental Assistant, LouAnn Presser, is a grandma again. Daughter, Angel, and her husband, Michael, welcomed little Michael on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Grannie Lou-Annie's son, Troy, and his wife Elizabeth have a two-year-old daughter, Hanna.

■ Business office manager, Mary, recently was married at the Hawthorne Hideaway on Little Orange Lake. Husband, Jerry Stewart, is a patient and one of Dr. Garlitz's long-time friends.

■ Our staff has the first wave of college students from its ranks. Hygienist Julie's daughter, Whitney, is a National Merit Scholar at UF. She studied a semester in Italy last school year. Front-desk Manager Suzanne's son, Daniel, is studying at UF and son, Scott, is dual enrolled at SFCC. Dr. and Mrs. Garlitz's son, Dustin, is in NY for a five-year dual degree program in Jazz studies and Economics, while daughter, Janine, is dual enrolled at SFCC. Dustin plays (tenor sax) at Jazz venues throughout NYC. Dental assistant Kathy's son, Michael, is a student at SFCC.

■ Dr. Garlitz was a speaker at the state dental meeting in Orlando last June. Fifty dentists and staff attended his early Saturday morning lecture, making that Dr. Garlitz's proudest accomplishment considering the time and Orlando attractions!

## Speaking of Insurance and Year End...

1. Consider having your extensive needs taken care of this year if you are itemizing your medical expenses.
2. Don't lose insurance benefits if you have outstanding needs such as crowns. Yearly limits reset on January 1<sup>st</sup> and unused benefits are lost forever.
3. For patients who have dental needs and need financial flexibility for care, Wells Fargo Financial

Group can help. Six months-no interest terms are available (if the entire amount is repaid within 6 months, you pay no interest). Fill out an application. Once approved, your credit line can work as a revolving credit line.

4. Dr. Garlitz will be working 8 am to 2 pm Dec. 26-28<sup>th</sup> to help patients get their care finished up before year end. End your year on a healthy note.

## Dr. King Joining Our Dental Team

Dr. Shelly King is planning on joining our staff next summer. She will be looking forward to meeting you at the Holiday Reception on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. King and her husband are both at UF and are from Ft. Myers. Her

family, from SW Florida, will be visiting us that day as well. Make plans to stop by and introduce yourself to Dr. King.





## Community News From Gladiator Gator

■ The Lions Club of Hawthorne is having a cash drawing for \$750 in prizes. Tickets can be purchased at our office. The drawing will take place there after the Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas parade on historic Johnson Street.

■ Hawthorne city addresses go 911. City streets have been renumbered to

be consistent with 911 county-wide addresses. If you have a new address, be sure to let your friends (including your office friends) know!

■ Highway 20 expansion continues... right to Hawthorne. The next phase is in the property acquisition stage, with some businesses having already relocated. A new overpass will be built as the road comes through town.

## Dental Appointments are Reservations for Care

Our office strives to make your visits pleasant and productive. Extensive planning takes place in making this a reality. The front-desk staff prepares your paperwork and dental chart the day before your appointment. In order to make the most of your reserved time, the entire staff meets early on the morning of your visit to review all of your information and treatment needs. This team approach focuses on a discussion of your care, disease risks, and ways to optimize your dental health through preventive measures.

You may have not known why we call two days before your appointment to confirm your presence for your reserved time. We do so to obtain at least 24 hours' notice for accommodating appointment change needs. Since the

whole team focuses on your reserved time to benefit your health, missed appointments are very expensive to the office, and ultimately to the cost of your care.

If you call at least 24 hours ahead to change your appointment, other patients who need help would get to use that precious time and care the dental team is reserved for.

We appreciate our patients and hope this helps you understand our appointment policy. We do reserve the right to charge \$30 per hour of broken appointment time, but patients and staff lose much more than this since the true cost of chair time is four times that cost...and we are dedicated to keeping professional fees at a minimum.

## Holiday Reception and Technology Demonstration

Gator Dental Associates invites you to attend a holiday reception given in honor of our patients. The reception will be held at our office on the same day the Hawthorne Area Chamber of Commerce holds its annual Arts & Crafts Festival and Christmas Parade— Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>. The festival runs from 10 am through 3 pm. The holiday reception at our office is from noon through 2 pm. Come visit the booths at the Arts and Crafts festival and stay for the 3 pm parade. (Park across the street if you'd like to leave before the parade.)

Refreshments will be served at the holiday reception, and Dr. Garlitz will be demonstrating the new technologies he is applying in the treatment rooms. These include such modern tools as voice recognition, intra-oral image capture, computer charting for dental and gum disease, and computer enhancement of x-rays.



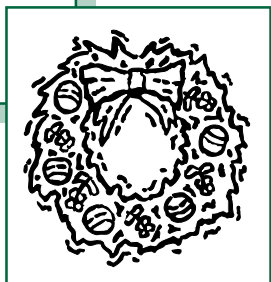
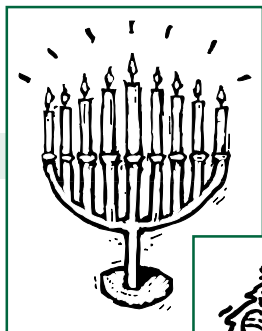
**FAMILY-GENERAL DENTISTRY**

JAY H. GARLITZ, DMD and ASSOCIATES

PO Box 10 ■ 107 N. Johnson St. ■ Hawthorne, FL 32640-0010

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 10  
Hawthorne, FL

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



# Holiday Greetings

*Join your friends from Gator Dental Associates at a Holiday Reception on Saturday, December 9, 2000 at our office, from noon to 2 pm. Refreshments will be served.*