



from the office of

GATOR DENTAL ASSOCIATES, PA

Gatorales NEWSLETTER

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GETTING A GREAT SMILE READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

One good reason to see the dentist before the holidays is that most dental problems tend to sneak up with little or no warning. For many patients, six-month preventive visits are the best balance for gum health and preventing dental surprises. Problems found and treated quickly equate to less expense and disruption in a person's life. Left untreated, cavities and periodontal (gum) problems will grow. Dental decay can eventually cause a painful infection of the tiny nerves and blood vessels inside the tooth, requir-

ing a root canal treatment to save it, and a crown (cap) afterwards, which translates to more dental visits and bigger expenses. Regular dental care is an important way to help prevent emergencies, and that is especially important prior to major events, like the holidays. Naturally, no one wants a dental emergency during the holidays. Many people travel to places far from home and, unfortunately, it may be difficult to find dental care if an emergency arises while out of town. Take care now to prevent problems later.

DENTAL YEAR-END CONSIDERATIONS

Drs. Garlitz and Hackenberg will work together to provide you dental care through the end of the year. Judy and Sandie, our dental hygienists, will be here until Dec. 21st for your year-end professional cleaning. Don't wait to book your appointment as our December schedules are filling up fast! Year-end considerations include:

1. Many insurance companies allow two cleanings per calendar year... don't waste your much-needed benefit!
2. Consider having your extensive needs taken care of this year if you are itemizing your medical expenses. If you have been waiting on major needs, such as crowns, bridges, dentures, partials, implants, and cosmetics (see our Web site for examples of our work) and qualify to deduct medical expenses, now is the time to get your important care.
3. Don't lose insurance benefits if you have outstanding needs, such

as crowns or bridges. Yearly limits usually reset on January 1st and unused benefits are lost forever. Some procedures take three weeks to complete, so you must start early in December for insurance purposes.

4. For patients who have dental needs and need financial flexibility for care, we offer the following:

Wells Fargo Financial — 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 line.

CapitalOne Healthcare Finance — a health care credit card — will finance anything over \$1000 with a plan as low as 1.9% interest and 18 to 60 months to pay. You can apply online at www.capitalonehealthcarefinance.com.

We hope to see you before January 1st. End your year on a healthy note!

NEWS BITES

2007 will be our 25th anniversary in Hawthorne! Articles and appreciation will grace our newsletter throughout the year. Use the coupon in this month's newsletter (*below*) or pass it along to a friend.

Melissa (dental assistant) and her husband, Michael are expecting a new addition to their family, Abby, in late January.

Troy, Elizabeth's (dental assistant) husband, was sworn in to the Palatka Police Department Reserve in October and will be starting full-time in December. Troy is also Lou Ann's (dental assistant) son. Congratulations to Troy!

Dr. Garlitz continues his extensive work with "Give Kids a Smile," a nationwide effort to provide dental care for needful, elementary school-age children. Check out his UF work at web site www.helpkidssmile.org.

Dr. Garlitz's hobby is Ham Radio. Through his faculty advisor position at UF, he is working with diverse groups across campus, including one planning a Feb. 2008 satellite launch. For more information about his non-dental UF work, see www.gatorradio.org.

The Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce will hold its 25th annual **Christmas Parade and Arts and Crafts Festival** on Saturday, December 2nd. It's a great way to begin the holiday season. The festivities are located on 221st St (Johnson St), right in front of our office.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN HAWTHORNE



GATOR DENTAL DOLLARS \$25 OFF YOUR NEXT DENTAL VISIT

Not valid on insurance-covered portions.
Must present coupon at check out. No copies accepted.
May not be exchanged for cash. Offer valid through February 28, 2007.

NEW TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS IMPROVE DENTAL OFFICE VISITS

Some people avoid dental treatment because of bad experiences they had in the past. An unpleasant incident can sometimes make a person stay away from dental care for many years. Over time and without care, teeth can break, become decayed and infected. Gum disease can erode bone in the jaw that supports the teeth, making them loose. Those who have not been to the dentist for a long time may not realize that today, a trip to the dentist is far better than it used to be. Dentists and their patients both benefit from new technology aimed at making treatment more tolerable, better-looking, and longer lasting.

One of the most important changes in recent years is the improvement in local anesthesia — what the dentist uses in the injection to get their patient numb. The most common anesthetics used in dentistry now are lidocaine, bupivacaine, mepivacaine, septocaine, and others. Septocaine, a recently approved anesthetic, may be stronger than the other local anesthetics and allows most dental procedures to be preformed painlessly.

What makes a good impression? Some people may remember the unpleasant-tasting material their dentist used to take an impression, or mold of their mouth. New impression materials are actually flavored — an important step to help improve the experience of many dental procedures. Materials have also be redesigned to set quicker and require less “goop.”



Some people who have had “bondings” or tooth-colored fillings in the past may have been disappointed if they discolored. Tooth-colored fillings used today match and blend in with the tooth much better. These newer fillings rarely discolor and can create a realistic and cosmetic result that lasts for many years. The filling material is vacuum packed to make them stronger and less likely to stain. It also sets quicker using the new wireless LED light-curing technology now used in our office.

The procedure that has benefited most from new technology is porcelain veneers. Porcelain veneers are custom-made porcelain wafers that the dentist places over the fronts of the teeth to enhance their appearance and repair damage. They can be used to improve a wide variety of cosmetic dental problems. They can whiten stained or discolored teeth, close gaps between teeth, “correct” a crooked smile without the need for braces, repair chips and imperfections, and create a more attractive or youthful-looking smile. This new generation of porcelain veneers is beautiful and natural in appearance, durable, and does not change in color over time.

These are just a few of the advancements in dentistry over the last several years. Although the dental office is unlikely to make anyone’s list of favorite places, new techniques and materials vastly improve today’s trip to the dentist.

Consider scheduling your appointment today!



COSMETIC, FAMILY & RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

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



YOUR GATOR DENTAL TEAM

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM GATOR DENTAL

The staff of Gator Dental Associates wishes you and yours a very happy holiday season.

