



## About Our Office

A bi-monthly newsletter from the office of Timothy E. Gillespie, DMD, FAGD

www.drtingillespie.com

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**Introduction** We feel that the best time for our patients to learn about dentistry is while you are in the office, and your comments have proven this to be correct. Please enjoy our latest in-office newsletter!

**Hot Topics** The ADA has asked the profession to ramp up their efforts in screening for oral cancers and you will notice us following suit as we screen for this condition during your routine cleaning visit. Oral cancer strikes an estimated 34,360 Americans each year and an estimated 7,500 will die of the condition. Although risk factors typically involve alcohol and/or tobacco use, about 25% will have no known risk factors at all. Oral cancer is often preceded by the presence of clinically identifiable premalignant changes. These lesions may present as either white or red patches or spots, so if you notice a spot of this nature that does not go away after a week or two, or have a sore spot that doesn't heal in about the same amount of time, let us know. Of course, we will also be looking for signs and symptoms as well when you visit us for routine exams.

**Around the Office** *Colene* has been published, for the third time in 8 months, in *Dental Economics* magazine, the nation's leading business journal for the dental profession! Her latest article, entitled **Monster in the Shadows**, talks about her successes in reassuring anxious dental patients. Isn't it wonderful to see her developing this new part of her iconic dental career?.....On a separate, but related note: After 37 years in dentistry, *Barbara* is hanging up her dental instruments. Yes, Barb is retiring. She has been a wonderful fixture in our office staff for a long time and her loyalty and longevity is much appreciated—so much so that we will honor her at a going-away luncheon on her last day (along with a nice parting gift!).....You may have noticed a fresh, new face in our office this summer. It belongs to *Krista Manny*, the daughter of one of our assistants, Yvette. Krista has grown up around our office and now, at 15 years old, is able to come in and work with us a little (we used to charge her tuition to come in, *now* we have to pay her!). We all agree that Krista has been a great help during her summer vacation!

**Employee Spotlight** As mentioned above, **Barbara Earle, RDH**, has been practicing dental hygiene for 37 years—21 of those years have been spent with our office! Born in Anderson, Indiana, Barbara went to Asheville High School, then went on to graduate from UNC-CH in 1970 with an A.S. in Dental Hygiene. Barbara has one son, Daniel. She enjoys walking, yoga, photography, traveling, and has a repertoire of jokes which rivals that of Rodney Dangerfield. We'll miss you, Barbara!

**Quote Unquote** Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better.

—Richard Hooker

Our practice family continues to grow thanks to the kind referrals of great patients such as yourself. When we may be of service to your friends or acquaintances, let us know!