



About Our Office

A bi-monthly newsletter from the office of Timothy E. Gillespie, DMD, FAGD
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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 BASF, the world's largest chemical maker, says it has found a way to prevent cavity-causing bacteria from attacking teeth, a development that could be seen in toothpaste, mouthwash and even candy (oh, my!) as early as next year. Using a microorganism related to those used in yogurt cultures, the company says it has engineered a process that clusters harmful bacteria in the mouth before they can bind with sugar and form plaque. The organism and plaque-causing bacteria are then swallowed as part of the mouth's natural cleaning process. The bacteria, streptococcus mutans, is safe to swallow as it is naturally found in the mouth and humans already digest it constantly.

The product is not a replacement for brushing and flossing, but the company believes it will clearly help to improve daily oral hygiene. BASF hopes to have the product on the market by 2010 or 2011, pending FDA approval.

Around the Office Take a look at our new patient bags! In keeping with our commitment to become "greener", we are now using bags made of 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Another area in which we are "green" is in waste management: Belinda routinely collects our plastic items and takes them to be recycled. We also have a paper-shredding vendor come and dispose of our paper waste, which ultimately is used to make more post-consumer recycled paper. Also, our move to digital radiography has cut down on usage of film processing fluids, which treads softer on our environment. Lastly, we utilize an amalgam separator, which removes the silver filling material from our wastewater, making our impact on the environment even smaller!

Employee Spotlight *Donna Barnhart, RDH*, is a member of our hygiene team. She has been with our office since 1997, having started out as an office assistant, then went on to receive her degree in Dental Hygiene from AB Tech. Donna is happily married to Chris (co-owner of our local Bruegger's Bagels), and they enjoy hiking, biking, travel, spending time with their many friends and relatives, as well as playing with their dogs, Sydney and Myley.

Quote Unquote The brave may not live forever, but the cautious do not live at all!

–Sir Richard Branson

Thank you for your continued referrals! We are currently accepting new patients, so if you know someone in need of a dental home, we are at your service!