

DDS DENTAL NEWS



Toothbrushing Tips

It Takes A While
To Brush Your Smile

- Morning after breakfast and evening after the last snack are the best times to brush.
- Everyone likes routines and toothbrushing is no different. Always start brushing in the same location and follow the same path. Don't forget the back, inside and chewing areas.
- Position the toothbrush where your gums and teeth meet.
- Gently, in a circular motion brush the outside and the inside of all teeth surfaces. Remember, please take your time.
- If you notice bleeding of your gums, don't stop brushing! Continue to brush a little longer and more thoroughly. Call your dentist if there is no improvement in seven days.
- Replace toothbrush every 3 months.

*Please, only brush
the teeth you would
like to keep!*

DDS

CURRENT EVENTS



On May 9, the department held a seminar titled, "Aging Matters". A dental display was included to educate consumers and staff on the importance of oral health. Joyce Rivers, Self Advocate, Melissa Gaulin, Private Support Coordinator and Commissioner Peter O'Meara were among the participants.

Dr. Stephen T. Stanley has joined the Ella T. Grasso Dental team in Stratford. Dr. Stanley has an extensive background in community-based dentistry and currently practices with the Levy Dental Group. Dr. Stanley has strong ties with the community and looks forward to continuing high quality and compassionate treatment with the staff of the Grasso Dental Clinic. WELCOME! DDS is thrilled to have your commitment to the consumers!

Dr. Felix Wagher joined the Southbury Dental Team in May. Dr. Wagher has 18 years of experience in general dentistry and will continue to practice dentistry in his private practice and at STS. He will be treating DDS consumers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Dr. Wagher is looking forward to enhancing quality and comprehensive treatment at the dental clinic. WELCOME! DDS is very happy to have you on board!



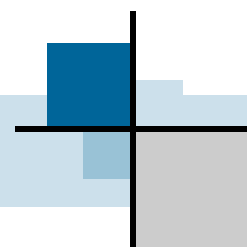
TEAM with the collaboration of **Hill Health Center** is opening a brand new dental clinic. This facility is named The Richard O. Belden Dental Clinic, in memory of State Representative Richard Belden. It is located on 30 Elizabeth St. in Derby, with a parking garage next door. The clinic should be fully operational in July. The clinic includes 6 state of the art dental treatment rooms and is able to accommodate DDS consumers. To schedule an appointment please call 203-736-5460.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS DENTAL COVERAGE



There has been a great deal of talk in the media regarding the increase in dental benefits. The increase only affects the people under the HUSKY Dental Program. Husky primarily covers children under the age of 19 and is great news for the children in this program! Most of the adult DDS consumers participate in the State Medicaid Program (Title 19) and those rates have not changed dramatically.

Mission of Mercy - This weekend of free basic dental services in April 2008 was sponsored by the Connecticut Dental Society. It was my privilege to volunteer at this event and be a part of that incredible weekend. It definitely opened my eyes to the need for availability of affordable basic dental care. When I arrived at four in the morning it was dark, raining and cold. What caught my eye was a long line of people waiting outside. I later met and treated some of them. The youngest was three years old and that was his first dental visit. The oldest was a woman in her late seventies. She had not been to a dentist in several years, because most of her money goes for food, rent and medications. Real people, real problems, but no real solutions at the moment.....



Diabetes Advisor

There has been a lot of talk in the media regarding diabetes and gum disease. Here are some facts:

- High blood glucose over time can affect blood flow to the gum tissue, changing the saliva and bacterial consistency, which may lead to periodontal (gum) disease and ultimately the loss of teeth.
- Gum disease can make it harder to keep blood sugar in the target range, so gum disease and diabetes can make each other worse. That is why it is important to prevent gum disease and to keep the blood glucose in the target range.
- People with diabetes often complain of dry mouth. This may be caused by medications or occurs if the blood glucose is high.
- People with diabetes are more likely to get fungal infections such as thrush. Thrush forms white patches in areas of the mouth, which may turn into sores. High blood glucose or if the individual is taking antibiotics may increase the incidence of thrush. Please notify a physician or dentist if thrush is present.

For more information contact the American Diabetes Association: 1-800-342-2383

History shows us that no disease ever has been eliminated by treating it. Prevention is the key to diminishing the rate of decay and gum disease for our most vulnerable population.