



Dentally Speaking

with Dr. Brent M. Songstad



Produced to improve your dental health and awareness

Fall 2007

fromthedentist

Exceeding Expectations Our daily pledge

It's a matter of great personal and professional pride to me and to my team that we provide you and your family with personal, customized attention and the highest quality of care. Do you know how we decide what constitutes excellence in care for you? Every time you return to our practice, give us your positive feedback, and refer someone you know to us, you're telling us that we're continually raising the bar.

Your support motivates us to work hard to provide the services *you want* ... and to keep them up to the superior standards *you expect*. In turn, our commitment to continuing education and leading-edge dentistry keeps our practice unique.

Thank you, from all of us, for your wonderful feedback, your loyalty, and your ongoing referrals.

Yours in good dental health,

Dr. Brent M. Songstad

turnthepage

You can get the look of luck!

Make a connection!

Guilt-free habits to keep!



This time of the year is full of hustle and bustle for just about everybody. With work and school in high gear, it's hard to find time to do anything but try to keep up. Even the dental office is working overtime to meet the latest advances in dental treatment and the increased needs of our patients in this busy time of the year.

No matter how busy we are, there's always time for the people who mean the most. In a dental practice, it's the patients who are number one. That's why in the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, we would like to take some time out to tip our hats and simply say thank you.

You may not think much of it, but your ongoing loyalty, cancellation notification, referrals and each and every kept appointment go a long way toward making this practice run smoothly and efficiently. That makes the dental office a more comfortable and rewarding place for everyone.

These are exciting times for dentistry. You'll read about some of the latest developments and treatments in the pages of this newsletter. If anything catches your eye, or if it's time for a checkup, just give us a call ... we'd really like to say *thank you* in person.

A healthy smile will last a lifetime!



Fight Oral Cancer

Is that a piece of food caught in your teeth? *Made you look!* And a good thing too. Sometimes patients are so nervous about what they'll find – especially oral cancer – that they just don't want to see. But visual monitoring is essential for early cancer detection. It's important that you check your mouth and let us know about sores or ulcers that bleed easily or do not heal, white or red patches or lumps that don't go away, and lingering soreness.

Show & tell

With early detection, most oral cancer can be cured, yet 70% are identified at an advanced stage. That's why we always check your tongue, lips, cheek lining, and gums at every regular visit.

Screening for oral cancer is a team effort. We rely on you ... and you know you can count on us.

Success! What's *luck* got to do with it?

Lucky people smile twice as often and engage in more eye contact than unlucky people do. According to scientists, this leads to more social engagements, which in turn generates more chances for positive experiences. Cosmetic dentistry can give you the confidence to smile more ... maybe that's all the luck you need!

Whether you're looking to network socially or professionally, here are some cosmetic options...

- **Sparkle-up your smile** with teeth whitening. If you're considering

cosmetic dentistry for the first time, this simple procedure can produce striking confidence-building results.

- **Illuminate the shadows** with white fillings. Replace dark, older fillings with new natural-looking materials that can be matched to your enamel.

- **Generate a younger, more attractive smile** with bonding or veneers which offer value-added benefits! They can cover the deepest stains, repair cracks, chips, and rough edges, plus disguise gaps, re-proportion, and balance the appearance of your smile without braces.

- **Add strength and beauty** to your smile with natural-looking crowns. If your teeth have been weakened by root canal therapy, multiple fillings, or trauma, porcelain crowns will restore strength and improve appearance.

- **Create a more balanced and symmetrical gumline** with veneers or gum sculpting. Whether your gums have begun to recede or you have been longing to reveal the beautiful enamel under too much gum, we have a technique that will work for you.



crowns & veneers

veneers

gum sculpting & veneers

IN A HEARTBEAT

Prevent periodontal disease

Periodontal or gum disease has been called the *Silent Disease* because initially there are no symptoms. If your gums are red, sometimes bleed when you brush, feel tender, or look swollen ... these are symptoms of periodontal disease. If your mouth tastes unpleasant ... that's another symptom. If your gums have receded... you may have had gum disease for some time. Receding gums, and bone and tooth loss, are unattractive alternatives to healthy gums. But there's more at stake! Gum disease has been linked to cardiovascular and other systemic diseases.

👉 **Studies have found oral bacteria from gum infections in arterial plaque, and have also shown that therapy for periodontal disease lessens inflammation throughout the body.**

👉 **Poor oral health has been identified as a stronger predictor of heart disease than other risk factors such as low levels of good cholesterol, high levels of a clotting agent, and high levels of certain fats in the bloodstream.**

👉 **Long-term and short-term studies continue to clarify the links between oral bacteria, inflammation, and systemic diseases.**

The Surgeon General in his *Report on Oral Health in America* said that the mouth is the gateway to the body, that you cannot be healthy without oral health, and that oral and general health are inseparable. Together, we can prevent and sometimes reverse gum disease. Brush, floss, and keep regular preventive, diagnostic, and maintenance dental appointments.

Sjogren's Syndrome?

Saliva has been called the barometer of the body. Among many things, it can reveal cavity and gum disease risk factors. For some individuals, like those with *Sjogren's Syndrome*, it's the lack of saliva that creates challenges and discomfort when speaking, eating, and swallowing.

Sjogren's Syndrome is an autoimmune disease caused by inflammation in the glands of the body. Inflammation of the salivary glands can lead to mouth dryness which can lead to swallowing difficulties, dental decay, gum disease, and mouth sores. While Sjogren's Syndrome appears to be inherited, about 20% of adults experience *xerostomia* – or dry mouth – that can be triggered by more than 650 drugs and several diseases, and which appears in some menopausal women. Are you one of the 20%? Let us help.

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Great Habits...

Will keep your smile happy!

You know that excessive sweets and big second helpings aren't good for you. Neither are dental cavities. If you really have a sweet tooth, try to remember that cavities don't respect age or attitude... only good habits. Once you get into a routine, you may not need to worry about cavities again!

- 1 **Brush** at least twice a day – to remove food and plaque film from your teeth, gums, and tongue.
- 2 **Floss** once a day – to remove the plaque film from between your teeth where your toothbrush can't reach.
- 3 **Rinse** – plain water can be a great help after snacks or meals when you simply can't brush. It helps saliva, your natural buffer, to keep cavity-causing bacteria to a minimum.
- 4 **Visit us** – your dental team – regularly. Prevention is the best way to keep cavities away.

Who Needs To See A Dentist?

Whether your age is 1 or 100, every life stage presents its own oral health challenges, and for modern health-conscious individuals, lifestyle can sometimes require its own checklist...

Baby Boomers – Whether you are male or female, hormonal changes can increase your risk of periodontal disease which can lead to tooth loss and has been linked to diabetes, osteoarthritis, oral cancer, cardiovascular, and other diseases. Xerostomia (dry mouth) can create problems and worn-out fillings or restorations should be replaced before they negatively impact your bite and appearance.

Sports Enthusiasts – Whether for a child or just the precious child in you, sports enthusiasts need a mouthguard for protection from injury which can increase the risk of an abscessed tooth or expensive restoration. Sports enthusiasts are also at risk for enamel erosion from sports drinks.



New Parents – Expectant mom's hormonal fluctuations put them at increased risk of gum disease and double their risk of premature birth. "New-mom gums" also need special attention. New dads are also vulnerable to oral health problems

as they share the stress and fatigue of interrupted sleep and home care routines including irregular meals and nutrition.

Dentistry provides crucial complementary care to your at-home oral hygiene regimen!

office information

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Office Hours

Monday	8:00 am	–	5:00 pm
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Fall Power!

Take it back!

Whether your power lifestyle centers around a boardroom, a home office, or a nursery, oral health care can be a real challenge during the summer months. Thankfully, fall has the power to jolt us back to re-energize ... reorganize ... and reschedule!

If you've let treatment appointments slide or if you've been delaying your next preventive care appointment, you've got plenty of company. Almost 80% of baby boomers say they consider dental care to be part of their preventive health care routine, yet fewer than half visit the dentist twice a year as recommended!

Everyone today is struggling with a busy schedule. But remember: benefits from dental plans that end on December 31st are not carried forward to the next year.

Schedule a fall appointment and take back the power!

Keep Timely!

With Capital One

We are pleased to introduce *Capital One[®] Healthcare Financesm*, a new way to finance your dental care. You can pay for general dental treatments, crowns, veneers, implants, and more over time ... and within your budget!

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