



# Summit Family Dental

8136 21 MILE ROAD, SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN, 48317  
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APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

## CHEW ON THIS!



Did you know that April is oral cancer month? This is a very important reason to see your dentist regularly. My Aunt was diagnosed with oral cancer several years ago, and has had many surgeries and now has most of her lower jaw removed as well as half her tongue and all lower teeth. I can't stress enough how important it is to detect this at an early stage.

Oral cancer is divided into 2 categories-those occurring in the mouth, and then in the back of your throat.

Early detection is important, in that over 10,000 people die per year of this.

Here are the signs and symptoms, and to see your dentist if these don't disappear after 2 weeks: sores, red & white patches, pain, rough or crusted lesions.

Some people experience a sore throat, feeling of something caught in their throat, hoarseness, or a change in voice. If you have any of these symptoms, you should definitely let your dentist know, especially if it's been longer than two weeks.

I make sure to do an oral cancer screening as part of my dental exam. I have found several cases of oral cancer in my practice. Luckily, the outcome has been good for these patients, due to early detection.

## April is Autism Awareness Month

I think I've talked a little bit about Autism Awareness in the past newsletters but I wanted to elaborate on it a little more. Last year Summit Family Dental donated \$2100 to PlayPlace which is a center for families who have special needs and autistic children. This is such a wonderful place for families to just "hangout" and it's all geared for all ages, all diagnoses, and all cognitive levels. I've had an epiphany, when my husband was in the hospital with life threatening issues. Life is too short to sweat about the small stuff. I know my husband will get better but families dealing with autism is a life long thing. I've never met anyone with a child with autism that is negative. Their outlook on life is so positive and upbeat and I commend those families. We sometimes take life for granted. When I see posts on Facebook from a friend with a child with autism it makes me think how lucky we all are. They are just excited that they can watch a movie without an outbreak or to have a night without a melt down. Something that most people don't have to worry about. My heart goes out to all families dealing with a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Some kids need to go to a special dentist that puts patients under general anesthesia for dental treatment. Depending on the severity of the case there are different things we can do to treat ASD patients. Some may avoid dental treatment due to sensory processing deficits that can create

anxiety, often leading to uncooperative behavior during the dental appointment. Reducing anxiety by desensitization and implementing specific strategies prior to and during dental appointments are effective in patients with ASD. By facilitating the provision of dental care for this patient population in traditional private dental practices, the burden of seeking treatment under general anesthesia or hospital-based providers is eased. Dental hygienists play an important role in the process and help to significantly improve oral health and reduce the risk of cavities. Dental hygienists can improve oral healthcare for patients with ASD by providing the following:

- Verbal preparation for the patient
- Firm deep touch rather than light touch
- Reclining the dental chair prior to patient seating
- Dark glasses for the patient to wear to block out bright lights
- Head phones to decrease the noise associated with dental care
- Various textures and tastes in polishing pastes
- Weighted blanket to provide comfort
- Management of certain dental tools and practices to address needs of individual patients

This is much easier said than done but we are always here to help in every way and will try to make the appointment as comfortable as possible. Thanks for taking the time to read this and be thankful every day. And don't forget to tell your loved ones that you love them!

*Karyn Casey R.D.H.*

## PELOTON BIKE +

All you have to do is refer your friends or family and you get 3 entries to win this amazing Peloton Bike +. Or give us a Google Review and you will get 1 entry to win. Did you have a great visit? Say a testimonial and you can get some entries to win this Peloton Bike as well. What a perfect way to start your New Year's resolution to get in shape! The drawing will be held on April 28th, 2022. No time to waste.

Summit Family Dental loves new patients and this is the perfect way to thank you.



# WHAT OUR PATIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

Karyn's positive and upbeat attitude and personality really puts all "Karen's to shame!! Always a pleasure to work with her ---Makayla N.

What a great duo...Carolyn and Savannah. This was more than a great cleaning and a dental visit, it was a fun good time. The whole staff is great but Carolyn and Savannah made my visit way more fun. They made it a personal experience, not making me feel like just another patient. We laugh, joke, we tease! And Dr. Lauren, great personality and fun! I feel relaxed at Summit Family Dental and recommend this place for sure! ---Robert D

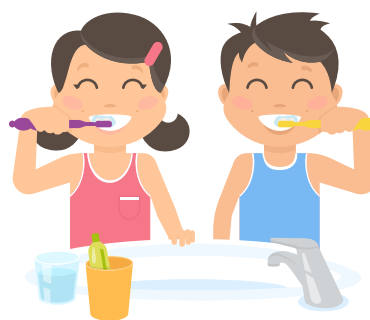
## TEAM HIGHLIGHT: WELCOME LAUREN!



Let's welcome our newest hygienist Lauren to our SFD family. She graduated from Kellogg College in 2000 and later received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. Lauren enjoys working with people to improve their dental health and takes great pride in her occupation. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing golf, and has a passion for winemaking. She also loves her two goldendoodles, Lola and Mara. Lauren is looking forward to the professional growth that Summit Family Dental will provide!



## APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH CONGRATS JOSCELYN!







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## INSIDE ISSUE SUMMIT FAMILY DENTAL'S NEWSLETTER

### CHEW ON THIS!



- April Autism Awareness Month
- Refer a friend to be entered to win a Peloton! Or give us a Google review too! Drawing on April 28th
- Patient reviews
- April Employee of the Month
- SFD Team Highlight



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HAPPY  
Easter 

