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2017-18 EDITION

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Pillow Talk
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Pillow Talk

The Truth From Your Local Tooth Fairy

Illustration by John Chitwood.

Editor's Note: *Children are always talking about the tooth fairy; but not many adults really know the real scoop. That's why we decided to get the name, phone number and email address of a former Mount Pleasant Tooth Fairy from a willing East Cooper family that chose to remain anonymous – you'll understand why in a few minutes – and ask if she would write an essay for us about being the town's most well-known winged being. Read on, and remember to brush.*



Like any job, being a Tooth Fairy comes with its advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are what most of us think about and what keep most of us working – the opportunity to slip into a window in the middle of the night and wedge a crisp dollar bill (or more, or less, depending on the child’s report) beneath a fluffy pillow; to flutter among bright stars on a warm South Carolina evening; to change my outfit according to my mood (we fairies have killer closets); and to know the DNA of every child I’ve ever loved.

Those are all great perks of the gig, don’t get me wrong. But when *Mount Pleasant Magazine* asked me to pen an essay about my life as the local Tooth Fairy for their annual *Smiling Faces* supplement, I decided I’d better keep it real.

And the real deal is that being the Tooth Fairy can be hard sometimes. I’m not just talking about the gross stuff, like when a kid hasn’t brushed in a while and the particular tooth falls out of his mouth looking all fuzzy and I have to pick it up – or, worse, when a tooth is caked in dried blood and I have to stop and take the tiny vial of hand sanitizer out of my glittery dress and douse myself before the grimy little brat stirs from slumber. Nope, I’m talking about the part of my life that you might call a little bit ... gangster. I mean, did you think we local Tooth Fairies get to keep ALL of the teeth we collect for ourselves – or that we somehow come up with ALL the money we dole out without the help of other fairies who are higher up on the hierarchy? Well, think again. It can be a mighty risky business.

I guess I should start by explaining how I became a Tooth Fairy for Mount Pleasant. I was an ordinary fairy beforehand, doing things like sniffing flowers and hanging out with other fairies. Then I was approached one afternoon by this sinister-looking fairy sitting in a gigantic plant outside of a dentist’s office whose name won’t be mentioned. The fairy motioned me over. I cautiously approached, and he spoke in a whisper.

“You up for engaging in a little business?”

“What kind of business?” I asked with one brow raised.

“Oh, don’t worry; it’s wholesome. Being a Tooth Fairy. I know the main guy in Charleston County, and they need a new gal for these parts. You look perfect for the part.”

He explained what I would have to do – deliver cash to kids (their parents would decide on the amount, based on conduct), then pick up the teeth and deliver them to the Head Fairy in Charleston County, who would sell the teeth on the black market. (You can really do that. Look it up.) The money made from the teeth would pay fellow tooth fairies, fund our supply closet and, of course, go to kids whose parents were financially strapped.

It sounded good to me – a great way to give back to



the community. I didn't think I was asking for trouble, so I signed up. And, for a while, it wasn't any trouble at all. Parents were communicating according to the rules, the Head Fairy was getting his teeth and kids were smiling their gappy grins. Then a few new families moved into the area and decided they didn't want to play by the rules. That's when the job started to, shall we say, bite back.

Typically, losing baby teeth is an exciting time both for parents and children. Moms and dads are eager to meet the Tooth Fairy as soon as their kids start dropping teeth. Whenever I see a "Sold" sign on a front lawn and a minivan in the driveway, I start making phone calls and introducing myself. However, one day I noticed more and more of my calls were ending up in voice mails instead of chats with excited parents. I figured that perhaps my

{ "As long as that Head Fairy minds his own beeswax, we can split the profit between ourselves." }

intuition was off, but, upon closer inspection, most of these neighborhoods had young kids in the front yard – prime tooth losing age. I kept trying to call these homes, but I never got any answers. This was acceptable when it was one home or two every few weeks, but when half of every other street wasn't doing business, I knew my higher-ups would soon start making a fuss.

So I decided to search for answers. I Googled the address for one of the newer homes that had given me the silent treatment and planned my investigation. In the middle of the night, I fluttered from my leafy bungalow in the Old Village, past Coleman and Shem Creek and into a quiet backyard. An open window on the second floor caught my eye, and I rushed through. Inside were four kids; a quick survey of their snoring mouths revealed

a few gaps in each set. Shortly after, I heard voices from downstairs. I crept down the hall and peeked past a corner in the stairwell. What I saw astounded me. A whole cabal of parents sitting around a dining room table, with a gigantic pile of baby teeth between them!

"Well ..." started one clearly apprehensive father. "This all sounds fine and dandy, but what about overhead?"

A burly man in his 30s chuckled, "As long as that Head Fairy minds his own beeswax, we can split the profit between ourselves. We've been working this business for nearly a year now, and it sure beats my wife having to sell Pampered Chef."

It only took me a few seconds to realize what was happening. These moms and dads were cutting out the fairies entirely and selling the teeth for themselves! I flew out of there as soon as I could, not knowing what they would do if they caught me.

But I have to admit, I was hooked after that. I wanted to see who all was involved in this scheme – just how many families from the Mount Pleasant community were breaking the rules. So I started going back to that first house when I really shouldn't have. Not only was I jeopardizing my own safety, I was skirting my responsibilities. I could have been making calls and meeting new families – instead, I was eavesdropping. That's the thing about business. You gotta pound the pavement for yourself, not worry about what everyone else is doing.

Soon enough, my higher-ups realized I wasn't producing as many teeth as they saw fit for Mount Pleasant.

"You've only got five molars for this whole month?" the Head Fairy bellowed at me over his cup of fermented dandelion wine. "Seriously, what is going on? There's way too many master-planned communities in Mount Pleasant that are teeming with kids under 12 for this to be the case."

He took a long sip of wine. His eyes were already bloodshot.



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"I might send another fairy out with you. ... maybe you need help tackling the area. ..."

"No," I interjected. "I'm fine. I'll try harder. I'm just ... having a hard time getting in touch."

He finally nodded. "All right. You have 30 days to figure it out and boost your productivity. Go!"

He waved me away as if I were a common housefly.

Back at my bungalow, I thought long and hard about our discussion. I felt like I should take drastic action. I made up my mind to actually make my presence known to these wayward families. I would have to crash their next meeting, tell them they were breaking the rules and see if they were willing to work with me. It was dangerous, but what did I have to lose, honestly? If I got fired from my job as Tooth Fairy, maybe I could just go back to hanging out in flowers.

Two days later, it was Thursday, their typical time to meet. First, I transformed my height from five inches to about five feet. Then I dressed in a rather human-looking outfit – a simple shift dress, a long coat to hide my wings, at least for the time being, and a snazzy wristwatch. At meeting time, I walked into the front door of the house and took a seat at the oak table, wearing sunglasses so they couldn't see my purple irises.

"Hey. Who're you?" demanded the ringleader father who spoke the first night.

I cleared my throat, preparing to drop an octave.

"I'm Farrah. I just moved here. I have a son named Sam who's 8 years old. I was told that you guys can help me make some cash on the side. I'm a single mother."

They looked at me suspiciously.

"I just had cataract surgery," I quickly added.

They seemed satisfied with the explanation. Their discussion went on about Craigslist postings and the price they were asking per tooth. Suddenly, the lady of the house came around the table toward me. The way she looked at me made me nervous.

"Let me take your coat for you," she said.

"No. I'm cold," I insisted – but she started yanking it off my shoulders! The coat was balled up in her arms before I knew it, and my two sparkling wings were revealed.

"I knew it!" she shrieked. "My son told me that he saw you in his window! You're the Tooth Fairy, and you've been spying on us!"

Her husband got up from his chair: "Anna, there's no such thing as a Tooth Fairy," he reassured her. "I think you've had too much Tito's. This is just a single mother, dressed up in a costume. She's clearly an exotic dancer or something."



I took off my glasses; I'd rather be myself than an exotic dancer!

"No, your wife is right. I'm a fairy."

The husband backed a few feet away from me. His eyes were wild. My instincts told me to get out of there, but I was hungrily waiting for something to happen. I was foolish. Then his left hand slowly went underneath the oak dining table, and, when he brought it back out, he was holding a gun.

Now it was my turn to back up. I looked around for a door, a window, any escape. The wife, Anna, was silent in the corner, her face white as chalk.

"In the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit, there are no such things as fairies," the husband preached.

His voice was like a sonic boom as he pointed the

pistol at my face.

I concentrated. I hadn't made myself disappear in a while, and I was out of practice. Luckily, it worked. I heard the gunshot from the midair of Coleman Boulevard, somewhere high above the house. I was safe.

* * * * *

Naturally, I resigned a few days later, once I had my bearings.

"I'm truly sorry," I told the Head Fairy, placing the tooth-shaped ID card into his palm. "I thought I was cut out for this job. I'm clearly not."

He nodded. "I noticed."

I tried not to bristle at his response. "If you need me to train a new applicant, I will," I offered.

"Nah," he said. "I've trained tons of them myself. I've never had an issue – until you."

I wanted to tell him everything! But I didn't. I figured he would eventually find out that the problem was not me.

"OK," I said. "Good luck."

He smiled at me, his face gleaming in the streetlights. I went home and put my feet up. I knew someone, someday would discover the truth. 🦷



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Photo courtesy of Wando Family Dentistry.

DR. CASON T. HUND

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In a tightknit community like Mount Pleasant, word of mouth is one of the most important ways to grow a business. So when Dr. Cason Hund opened Wando Family Dentistry in 2014, he worked hard to build a network of patients in the area by starting close to home.

Dr. Hund is a local through and through; he grew up on James Island, went to Porter-Gaud School, earned his undergraduate degree at Clemson and graduated from the MUSC College of Dental Medicine. After finishing school, Dr. Hund chose to open his practice close to where he grew up.

BY SHELBY DAVIS

"I love the area; it's always been good to me, and I love the community," he said, adding that being surrounded by friends and family played a crucial role in helping him grow the practice. "I've got a good support network. My family comes to me and they send their friends, then the word gets around town."

When the practice first opened, Dr. Hund made sure to take care of his friends, who were fresh out of college and in what he calls the "dental blind spot of the 20s." As those friends found success, they continued to see Dr. Hund at Wando Family Dentistry and have become some of his most loyal patients.

After being open for almost four years, the practice is regarded as one of the best in Mount Pleasant. Dr.

Hund works hard to give back to the community that has supported him by volunteering with several local organizations in the area, including East Cooper Community Outreach and the Charleston Free Clinic.

"I'm home, serving the community that I grew up in," he explained.

Wando Family Dentistry has built a strong reputation in Mount Pleasant and has even been named one of *Mount Pleasant Magazine's* best dentists. To preserve this status, Dr. Hund and his staff strive to maintain a comprehensive family practice where everyone feels comfortable. He follows one simple rule when it comes to his patients: "I treat everyone as I would want to be treated. That includes their teeth, their time, their feelings and their money."

To do this, the staff focuses on preventive care, which helps patients avoid future problems that could cost them valuable time and money. The staff treats patients just like the friends and family who helped kick-start the practice by making their visits as comfortable as possible and working to maximize insurance payouts to keep costs low.

As the practice continues to grow, Dr. Hund is always looking for ways to improve, like increasing the staff and expanding the office space. Wando Family Dentistry is planning to break ground soon on a new office in Park West, which is set to open in 2018. The new location is poised to be much more convenient for patients, which is the primary goal of Dr. Hund and his staff as they move forward in the building process.

"We are building a new, state-of-the-art office to better serve our patients," he said. 🦷



Photo by Jenn Cady.



DR. CYNTHIA GARNER

Garner Family Dentistry

1059 Chuck Dawley Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina
843-884-6002
www.garnerfamilydentistry.com

Dr. Cynthia Garner has been practicing dentistry for over 22 years, with Garner Family Dentistry recently celebrating 10 years in Mount Pleasant. Now, with a decade under her belt here in the Lowcountry, Dr. Garner feels very much at home helping patients improve their smiles so they can feel good about themselves.

BY KRYSTA CHAPMAN

"I absolutely love dentistry and enjoy enhancing the confidence of others with a smile. There is nothing that brings me more personal satisfaction than helping my patients achieve their goals to look and feel good about themselves," she commented.

Dr. Garner started her dental career in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, at Creighton University. She then went on to receive her advanced degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and truly hasn't stopped learning since. She prides herself on staying current with the latest techniques and procedures in dentistry. In addition to 100 hours annually in continuing education, she is a member of the American Dental Association, South Carolina Dental Association and Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

With her phenomenal staff at her side at Garner Family Dentistry – many of them have been with her since she started her practice – they help their patients to be the healthiest versions of themselves in every way possible.

"I feel that dental treatment is an excellent investment in an individual's medical and psychological well-being," Dr. Garner said.

Their passion for helping others is what motivates Dr. Garner and her team every day, and they consider it a true privilege to care for their patient family.

Dr. Garner's team provides a wide range of dental options for their patients. From comprehensive hygiene and cosmetic fillings to the latest in veneers and implants, Dr. Garner said she truly enjoys the art of restoring, preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of smiles using state-of-the-art technology. From small children to aging patients, Dr. Garner understands not only the importance of a customized treatment plan but also the necessity of forming genuine relationships. No matter who is sitting in her chair that day, every patient is incredibly special to her. She said many of her patients have also been with her from the start, which is a fantastic testimony to the quality of care and service provided at Garner Family Dentistry.

To continue providing the best service possible and remaining current with OSHA policies, Dr. Garner's practice uses the latest technology, including digital X-rays to minimize the exposure to radiation and to reduce the risk of harsh film chemicals for the environment. Their dedication to "best industry practices" is evident in their decision to employ a professional sterilization monitoring company and therefore meet and exceed the highest sterilization and safety ratings for their patients.

To know Dr. Garner is to know a true friend and champion of dental health. At the end of the day, nothing makes Dr. Garner happier than to see her patients proud of their smiles, some for the first time in a long while. If you are looking for a caring dentist who puts you first, look no further than Dr. Cynthia Garner. 🦷





Photo courtesy of Pleasant Family Dentistry.



DR. RICK JACKOWSKI
DR. GREG JOHNSON
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Pleasant Family Dentistry

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diagnosing other dental problems the patient may have,” said Dr. Jackowski, who has practiced since 1989.

The new age of 3D dentistry produces more precise images in a time-efficient manner. This method also limits the patient’s exposure to radiation compared to previous methods. This new advancement will enable the dentists at Pleasant Family Dentistry to see nerves and infections more clearly to ensure proper treatment.

Pleasant Family Dentistry welcomes newcomers to the area and actively helps in acquiring information from previous dentists so that better treatment can be provided.

“Our goal is to make the transition as smooth as possible,” said Dr. Jackowski. “We want all of our patients to be informed decision-makers and fully understand any oral health issues they may have and what treatments may be available to them. We also strive to deliver this information in a timely manner by our caring and compassionate team.”

Patients should go to the dentist at least twice a year for checkups and preventive care because cavities and gum disease are preventable. Regular visits to Pleasant Family Dentistry can detect any early signs of disease and problems can be treated at a manageable stage.

All of the doctors at Pleasant Family Dentistry are kind and caring and believe in continuing education to keep up with the constant improvements in technology and standards of care.

“We strive for excellence in everything we do,” said Dr. Jackowski.

Pleasant Family Dentistry has a website, www.pleasantfamilydentistry.com, filled with valuable information about dental health problems and their approach to practicing modern dentistry in a soothing, relaxed and compassionate environment. To schedule an appointment, call 843-491-8995 or visit them in person at 1204 Two Island Court. 🏡

Pleasant Family Dentistry has been a leader in the dental industry for almost 30 years and has been named “Best Dentist” by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* five years in a row.

Started by Drs. Richard Jackowski and Gregory Johnson

BY STACY DOMINGO

in 1989, Pleasant Family Dentistry now has five doctors

and continues to grow.

Together, they actively strive for optimum oral health for their patients that can be maintained for a lifetime. Combine that with a staff that is constantly training with onsite consultants and the result is better service for new and existing patients.

“We have the ability to meet all of your dental needs under one roof,” said Dr. Jackowski, co-owner of Pleasant Family Dentistry. “We offer general dentistry, implants, orthodontics, oral surgery and IV sedation.”

To accommodate this well-ordered dental practice, Pleasant Family Dentistry is undergoing a massive expansion to increase the number of treatment rooms, add surgical suites and enhance the patient experience. The practice is actively looking for another general dentist to join their compassionate team, which offers treatment six days a week.

“With the expansion, we are installing the latest state-of-the-art 3D scanning equipment that will allow us to treatment plan implants and orthodontic needs as well as



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- Sheryll J., Patient

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Photo by Jenn Cady.



DR. NICOLE DAHLKEMPER

Water's Edge Family Dentistry

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Walk into Water's Edge Dentistry any day of the week, and you'll be welcomed by the smiling faces of Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper and her team. The practice, located in Mount Pleasant, has been her home ever since moving from Washington, D.C., where she worked shortly after earning her Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry.

And while Dr. Dahlkemper loves her job – and the path it has taken her down – it wasn't her initial plan after graduating with honors from Allegheny College with a degree in Biological Neuroscience. But as life would have it, the young hopeful that once saw herself with a career in cardiovascular surgery fell in love with the work in dentistry she saw during rotations. Following her own health scare and undergoing heart surgery, Dr. Dahlkemper took advantage of a fantastic opportunity that ultimately led her to the Lowcountry.

As a longtime community participant – and now new mother – Dr. Dahlkemper knows how important it is to truly make an impact through her work and relationships. While providing impeccable service to her patients, she also works hard to establish meaningful connections with the people who help her to continue loving what she does day in and day out. Continuing her dedication to going

above and beyond for her community, Dr. Dahlkemper regularly volunteers her time and expertise at the East Cooper Community Outreach free dental clinic, which provides dental services, cleanings and prescription assistance to low-income families throughout the Charleston area.

At Water's Edge Dentistry, Dr. Dahlkemper and her team work with passion and good old Southern hospitality, as they warmly invite local patients in for an array of dental services ranging from cleanings and fillings to restoration, cosmetic dentistry and oral cancer screenings. Additionally, Dr. Dahlkemper and her staff work hard to create a comfortable atmosphere for children, understanding how difficult first-time visits can be for the youngest of their patients.

When Dr. Dahlkemper and her team aren't in the office, their passion continues to motivate their desire to learn, landing them at various dental education courses, conferences and seminars throughout the year to stay on top of new dental advances. As such, Water's Edge Dentistry is excited to introduce cutting edge technology with the addition of a brand-new, non-surgical procedure that utilizes a laser to reduce and possibly eliminate snoring all together.

A quote often heard throughout the office from Dr. Dahlkemper says, "We are put on this Earth to be a blessing to others" – which she learned in her early years of schooling. And while many years may have passed, it's obvious to everyone surrounding the Mount Pleasant practice that this is a group of talented and compassionate individuals who continue to hold themselves to the principles of serving others. Their friendly professionalism and commitment to helping people achieve top-notch dental health is evident in every service they offer. Whether it's a new patient or someone who has been visiting Water's Edge Dentistry since it opened, every person who walks in through the door walks out as family. 🦷

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Baby Teeth:



Trash or Treasure

Most children have a total of 20 baby teeth. At around 6 months of age, the first of 20 sharp chompers appear, 10 on the top and another 10 on the bottom. Technically known as deciduous teeth, they act as placeholders for the adult teeth that grow in after the baby teeth fall out.

Losing a tooth can often be painful or traumatic for a child. For some, the idea of losing a part of themselves is upsetting. To lessen the fear, in North America, parents turned to offering a small token or payment for the tooth. Hence, the tooth fairy was created and became a wildly successful way of easing the pain.

“The tooth fairy is a great way to help children not to fear but to take an interest or look forward to losing a tooth,” explained Dr. Dorothy Baker, pediatric dentist and owner of Summerville Pediatric Dentistry and

Orthodontics. “Saving lost baby teeth is a special habit in our culture and is wildly popular as well as widely accepted. We even have tooth fairy dolls that mimic The Elf on the Shelf®.”

In medieval Europe, tradition dictated that the baby’s tooth be buried right away to prevent a witch from taking ownership. It was thought that if a witch were to acquire the tooth, she might be able to obtain total power over the child. In Norse culture, soldiers going into battle wore children’s teeth because they were believed to be a source of good luck.

The concept of saving or storing a child’s tooth is practiced around the world and in many different cultures. Today, many parents add the caveat that the tooth fairy won’t pay for decayed teeth, only for healthy ones – another reason to brush them three times a day.

School nurses often send home a child’s tooth in a



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plastic molar necklace. Students proudly show off the necklace to their friends and can't wait to place it under their pillow that evening. In 2013, Visa Inc. conducted a survey that found American children receive an average \$3.70 per tooth.

One mother creatively stocks \$2 bills and gives them as a gift from the tooth fairy. In the past, candy was the preferred gift, but most parents have drifted away from

TOOTH FAIRY RECEIPT

NAME _____

AGE _____

DATE _____

QUALITY OF TOOTH

☐ FAIR ☐ GOOD ☐ EXCELLENT

PAYMENT TOTAL: _____

SIGNATURE: Tooth Fairy

this practice in order to protect the precious adult teeth that are about to follow.

One child even received a partially used gift card under his pillow, indicating that receiving something – anything – for a used tooth is more important than what is actually given.

So while most families have accepted the tooth fairy tradition, storing your children's teeth presents somewhat of a conundrum, especially if you have more than one child. How do you hide 20, 40 or 60 teeth in a dresser or medicine cabinet? What to do with all of those teeth? Sandwich bags? Envelopes? A glass jar? Parents have chosen many different paths, from the garbage can to a keepsake box, necklaces or cute items such as a pirate treasure chest box.

"In our practice, we give tooth fairy boxes when we pull them, but parents have many options. There are many cute internet sites that provide options for storing teeth," said Dr. Baker.

Within the past decade, some parents have opted to extract, freeze and cryopreserve their children's baby teeth in hopes that one day stem cells may be acquired from the preserved teeth.

Dr. Will MacDonald, dentist and co-owner of Kids Teeth, explained that "while the use of stem cells is growing to treat more diseases and injuries, it is still in its infancy. There are limited facilities that will properly preserve and store baby teeth for the future."

Preserving teeth can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars as well as a monthly fee. Dental stem cells are adult stem cells found in wisdom teeth and baby teeth, which can differentiate into bone, dental tissue, cartilage, muscle, neural and other cell types. Teeth are being studied for applications in regenerative medicine and dentistry.

"This field shows a lot of promise in the future, but further achievements need to occur before this becomes a



widely accepted procedure," continued Dr. MacDonald. "To date, the only reason to preserve the baby teeth is for future stem cell treatment. Otherwise, some families elect to save the baby teeth for scrapbooks and shadowboxes."

So if your child is close to losing a tooth, be sure to continue brushing it until it is removed or falls out so that an infection does not set in. Then, be prepared to be visited by a winged fairy delivering cash in the middle of the night. 🧚



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Photo by Jenn Cady.

It's usually the first thing others notice – your smile is your calling card. In a world of fading trends, having pearly whites is one look that never goes out of style.

In addition to offering top-of-the-line care, Kari Ryan Dentistry makes all who journey through its doors feel like family. Warm, accessible and fully committed to customer satisfaction, they consistently deliver the very best results. Whether you are looking for a thorough cleaning or a cosmetic procedure, these professionals make the process enjoyable from start to finish. With a sincere staff committed to staying up on the latest industry practices, it's clear to see why so many flock to this office.

BY KALENE MCCORT

"I have always been interested in science and medicine, and originally I wanted to be a veterinarian," said Dr. Ryan. "I've also always loved art. So when I discovered the unique blend of science and art with dentistry, I had found my true calling."

There is creativity to creating perfectly aligned smiles, and Dr. Ryan and her team are skilled in crafting megawatt grins. From veneers to removable dentures, the options they offer patients who wish to transform their smiles are vast. Kari Ryan Dentistry is there to help you decipher the best option. From toddlers to teens, all ages are welcome at this practice that prides itself on going the

extra mile to assure an above-average visit.

"I want patients to feel comfortable, well taken care of and actually excited about keeping their smiles and bodies healthy," said Dr. Ryan.

Her compassionate nature isn't just extended to those who step foot in her Mount Pleasant office. When she isn't looking at X-rays and reminding folks to floss, you can find her devoting her time and skill set to clinics where people who don't always have the funds to cover dental procedures can finally receive the care they need.

"I hold myself to a high standard of professionalism, compassion and dental expertise, and I surround myself with a team of skilled people who do the same," said Dr. Ryan. "So our whole office exudes this great level of care. It is so rewarding to connect with people about their health and self-image once we've gained their trust. Changing a person's smile can truly change their life, which is so fulfilling to be a part of."

Just one glimpse into the many client testimonials of Dr. Ryan's patients and it's evident that the level of care she provides is something you just can't find in other practices.

"It is so fun to be around town with my family and run into patients of the practice," said Dr. Ryan. "I try to sponsor or support patients whenever I can. We have the most amazing patients, so I love being a part of their lives, whether it is in the office or out."

As for advice she gives to others seeking a bright career in dentistry, Dr. Ryan recommends looking below the surface.

"For the aspiring dentist, I would suggest the key to success is connecting with your patients and taking the time to get to know the whole person, not just their mouth," said Dr. Ryan. 🦷



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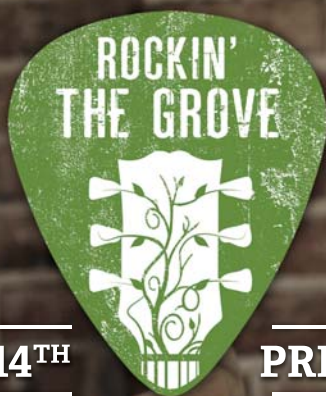
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many different ways. They can replace a single tooth, multiple teeth or a full set of teeth. The dental implant serves as the root of the tooth and is placed within the bone after a tooth is removed. When a single missing tooth is replaced by an implant, a crown is placed on the implant to restore function and esthetics.

When many or all teeth are missing, dental implants may be used to attach removable dentures, as well as support teeth that are permanently seated into place. Dental implants have totally changed the idea that a lost tooth is lost forever.

Another appealing service offered at the practice is sedation during dental treatment. Most patients prefer to have treatment while in a state of relaxed sleep. Dr. Dillard and Dr. Phillips are board-certified and trained in administering IV sedation. This procedure allows patients to be unaware during the procedure and have little memory of it once it's over. Sedation is particularly helpful for those who are hypersensitive to sensations and sounds. For patients who don't want deep sedation, the practice also offers nitrous oxide sedation – laughing gas – as well as conscious sedation with medications. Local anesthetics are used in every surgical procedure to numb the tissues in the area of treatment.

The patient's experience is of utmost importance to Dr. Dillard, Dr. Phillips and their entire team.

"We strive to make our patients comfortable by staffing only the most knowledgeable, qualified and caring personnel," Dr. Dillard said. "We are dedicated to your health and well-being and committed to providing the latest surgical techniques to help each and every patient reach their goals."

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Lowcountry has three convenient locations: Mount Pleasant, West Ashley and Walterboro. 🏠

Visits to the dentist have historically been perceived as a worrisome experience for many. The fear created by a painful tooth and the thought of having it removed has created a stereotype that associates going to the dentist with pain. The phrase "I'd rather have my tooth pulled" is often used when referencing an activity in which one does not want to participate.

BY KATIE WELLS

Thanks to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Lowcountry, you no longer have to worry about painful visits to the dentist. At this Charleston-based practice, a wide array of dental services are offered in a professional and caring environment by Dr. Matt Dillard and Dr. Donald Phillips, both board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeons with over 15 years of experience each. The goal of this Lowcountry practice is to make its patients feel relaxed and comfortable while the surgeons and staff take care of their dental needs. Dental services offered range from dental implants, wisdom tooth extractions, bone grafting, repair of facial trauma and biopsies to orthognathic surgery, where the relationship of the upper and lower jaws do not properly align.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Lowcountry specializes in dental implants, the most dependable and innovative way to replace natural teeth. They can be used

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