

COLUMN

"I've been going to the dentist every 6 months for 50 years... And I never even knew this was possible."

I recently had an experience in my office that reminded me that without the proper knowledge and education, it is very difficult to make a good decision when it comes to one's health. This can be true in the medical field, and this can especially be true in the dental world. A family friend brought this to my attention after we rebuilt her smile and gave her back the health and beauty she didn't even know was possible in dentistry. I wanted to share Sandy's story with you because I know her situation is a very common one, and hopefully, it will help others realize that there are solutions for people at any age and at any stage in their dental lives.

Sandy came to my office for a second opinion on her broken tooth. She was told by her dentist that this tooth could not be saved and should be extracted and a bridge placed. When Sandy arrived, I examined her entire mouth, evaluated her bite, photographed her smile and all back teeth, and took the necessary radiographs so that I could give her my opinion on the overall health of her mouth. Like many people Sandy had a mouthful of older style dental work with mercury fillings, crowns with metal along the gum line, and crowns and fillings of different material and colors on the majority of her teeth. A lot of it was failing due to clenching and grinding and because of the older materials that were used. I completely agreed with her dentist's assessment and recommendation about extracting her tooth and placing a bridge, but I was curious about what her thoughts were about her oral health. We sat down and viewed her photos, and Sandy proceeded to point



Dentally Speaking
by Jeffrey S. Haddad D.D.S.

out all the things about her smile and teeth that she was unhappy with.

What Sandy didn't realize was the concerns she perceived as cosmetic were also functional problems that were affecting her oral health. As a result of leaky old crowns, her gum tissue was inflamed and making it difficult for her to keep her mouth healthy. Every year she would have 1 crown done or a filling and after many years, she was left with an unsightly smile with different shapes, colors, and old-style dental work. Sandy had never been given the option to address all of the teeth in her smile at once so she could achieve the end result she actually wanted- a natural looking healthy mouth.



BEFORE



AFTER

Most patients are completely unaware of the significant changes in dental materials, sophisticated technology, and advanced techniques that now allow dentists to give you back that optimal level of dental health. We use porcelains that not only look and feel like natural teeth, but that are three times stronger than anything else we have ever used in dentistry! With a computer analysis, we can magnify your tooth to the size of a TV monitor resulting

in preciseness and fit that are unparalleled. But most importantly, if a person was interested, we can address much more than fixing 1 broken tooth at a time. After talking through Sandy's goals, we were able to replace all of her failing dental work with new, natural-looking porcelain restorations in 2 visits! As you can see by the photos, her smile is now healthier, more functional, and as an added bonus...beautiful. "A cap here a root canal there, left me with different shapes and colors of my teeth. No dentist every told me that this type of dentistry was even possible!" Sandy says.

Over several of the past decades, many patients routinely go to their dentists for a "check-up and cleaning," but rarely for a comprehensive exam to determine the overall status and health of their mouth. As importantly, making the patient part of the process by encouraging questions about their concerns with the health and appearance of their teeth. And finally providing possible solutions to address these concerns. With the continually growing advances in dentistry, you may want to consider asking your present dentist for a discussion or find another dentist that utilizes this approach in their office. Information is power, and it could be exactly what you need to achieve your optimal smile and oral health.

Jeffrey S. Haddad, DDS of Doolin & Haddad Advanced Dentistry, completed his dental education at the University of Michigan in 2001. Dr. Haddad is a fellow of the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies. He lectures nationally on cosmetic dentistry, TMJ and sleep disorders and dental implants. For more information, visit www.rochesteradvanceddentistry.com.

Additional Mt. Avon Cemetery Tour date added July 20

If you missed the recent tour of the historical Mt. Avon Cemetery in Rochester, you're in luck.

Another date has been added to the Mt. Avon Cemetery Tour on Tuesday, July 20 from 7-8 p.m. The cemetery is located at 200 Wilcox Street in Rochester.

Admission is \$8 for Museum members and \$10 for the public. Register in advance at www.rochesterhills.org/musprograms.

Meet at the Billy Yank Civil War Statue. The cemetery is bounded by First and Third streets, at 200 Wilcox Street.

The Rochester Hills Museum is located at 1005 Van Hoosen Road, off Tienken Road between Rochester and Dequindre roads.

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