

Neighbor

BORN LOSER SEE COMICS
BY ART & CHIP SANSONI ON PAGE 3

SECTION 5



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Dentist Tricia Crosby, right, is participating in a program called Dentist With a Heart, in which she will provide free dental care at her St. Charles office, Midwest Dental Implantology. For a list of participating dentists, see dentistwithaheartonline.org.



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Dentist(s) With a Heart

Volunteering their services, Fox Valley dentists offer free dental care in February

BY RACHEL BARUCH YACKLEY
Daily Herald correspondent

Dental care may not be the most romantic of subjects, but it could save your life. Really.

Regular brushing, flossing, professional cleanings and checkups can help prevent a variety of illnesses and diseases in other parts of your body.

In this day and age of unemployment, unaffordable dental insurance, and even lack of information, a lot of folks are putting themselves (and in some cases their children) at risk.

No matter what your circumstances, you can get your teeth examined for free in February, during the 11th annual Dentist with a Heart free dental care for the day program, coordinated by the Fox River Valley Dental Society.

Each participating "Dentist With a Heart" picks one day to offer free services, including cleanings, fillings, X-rays and extractions. More involved services like



RICK WEST/rwest@dailyherald.com, 2010

Dr. Scott Capper does a filling in his Geneva office as part of last year's "Dentist With a Heart" program. Capper, another dentist and three hygienists at Sacrey & Sacrey Dentistry saw about 20 patients in 4 hours, doing cleanings, X-rays, fillings and extractions.



COURTESY OF FOX RIVER VALLEY DENTAL SOCIETY

Drs. Tricia Crosby, left, Adam Winckler, Melissa Jentz-Cote, Scott Capper, Gary Ahasic, Timothy Skidmore, John Koechley and Elizabeth Sacrey are among the dentists participating in the Fox River Valley Dental Society's Dentist With a Heart program.

to serve people in need throughout the entire Fox River Valley.

"We felt there was a need to treat children and adults who couldn't afford treatment or get treatment through public aid. Our goal is to keep people healthy," Ahasic said. "We get at least 128 patients that

get copies of their X-rays and treatment plans as well, to take with them.

"It's kind of like doing triage in an emergency room," said Ahasic, who will have five dentists all working in the office, that day. "It's certainly different than the normal

If you go

What: Dentist With a Heart free dental care for the day program

When: Feb. 1 to 21

Where: Participating dentists are located throughout the Fox Valley — Aurora, Batavia, Elburn, Elgin, Geneva, Hampshire, North Aurora, St. Charles, South Elgin and West Dundee

Details: For a complete list of dentists, times and dates, visit dentistwithaheartonline.org

expect. Drop in for free services on Feb. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon.

"The first year I got one person. Last year we got at least 20," Sacrey said. "We'll do fluoride treatments, X-rays, sealants, and sometimes they get diagnosis but not treatment."

"The task for dentists is to choose one day in February, which is also