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## Dental Web site provides digital gateway to better hygiene

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THE STAR-BANNER**

The Internet is good for your teeth. At least that's what Dr. Lawrence Sutton of the Marion County Dental Association wants.

As president of the MCDA, Sutton is charged with spreading the word about dental hygiene to Marion County. Which is why he's announced the debut of the MCDA Web site.

Marioncountydental.org, the Web presence for the MCDA, will provide more than just a list of county dentists affiliated with the association, Sutton says.

"We have links to national and state dental Web sites, and eventually we'll post articles and educational stories for the general public."



Dr. Lawrence Sutton, the president of the Marion County Dental Association, has been a major influence in setting up the Marion County Dental Association Web site at [www.marioncountydental.org](http://www.marioncountydental.org).  
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The site contains a list of all MCDA dentists, with links to addresses, phone numbers and for some, e-mail addresses and where they went to school. The site also posts the MCDA's event calendar, links to continuing dental education courses and downloadable MCDA bylaws and a membership application.

Formed in 1916, the MCDA membership boasts around 60 active members, both practicing and non-practicing. Dr. Sutton believes the new Web presence will help shine a bright, halogen adjustable light on the association's activities.

"We offer continuing education for member dentists to improve their skills," Sutton said. "Also, if there are any political issues, we can discuss them on a grassroots level. Most of what will appear on the site will be topics related to dentistry - political, technological or practices, hot topics like 'meth mouth' or the availability of soft drinks in public schools."

Sutton also says people looking for appropriate dental care need not fear when surfing the MCDA site - all doctors listed are licensed.

Stemming from an idea by last year's MCDA president, Dr. Scott Jackson, Sutton helped organize the push to bring the MCDA Web site to life this summer. The site links to the Central Florida Community College Dental Program, a program that the MCDA has funded since 2003 in an attempt to fill a growing need for qualified dental assistants in Marion County. All nine of last year's graduates were employed in Marion County before graduation.

A graduate of Creighton University, University of Florida and Forest High School, Sutton is pleased with the MCDA Web site's initial presence.

"Four months ago there was no such thing," Sutton said. "My vision is for the site to be something that can educate the public about our members."