

## Dental Ceramics Opens in State-of-the-Art Green Building

by Dick Jansik

The new Dental Ceramics building is on a nine-acre parcel at 3414 Brecksville Rd. just north of Route 271 next to Alexis Park. Owner John Lavicka built it. The spectacular building is situated off the road on a wooded lot. "I made sure that most of the trees were saved," said Lavicka. As a result, little of the building can be seen from the roadway since it is situated far back on the property and built partially into a small hill where there was minimal tree growth. "Mr. Lavicka insisted on conserving as much of the property as possible," said Richfield architect, Dale Mitchell, who designed the building.

"Our new building is home to specialists that make ceramic teeth and it also has training facilities for dentists to learn ceramic and adhesive dentistry techniques," said Lavicka.

Mitchell said that the building has three levels with a total of 26,250 square feet. The exterior siding meets a base of natural fieldstone. Inside, timber frame



*Energy saving technology is used in the new Dental Ceramics building.* Photo by D. Jansik


construction creates a large, open and airy atmosphere. A spacious deck overlooks a large pond in front of the building that supports geothermal heating and air conditioning.

Roger Swan, director of planning and zoning, said, "It's a beautiful and remarkable building in a lovely setting. We're lucky to have it in our community."

Lavicka's father founded the business in 1963. John joined the company in 1972 and became president in 1988 as the

second generation to head the business. Until this August, the company's previous location was in Garfield Heights at Transportation Boulevard.

The company crafts ceramic dental crowns and implants. "New ceramic technology is becoming popular over the use of gold for crowns, and adhesive dentistry has made ceramic veneers possible to cover badly-worn teeth. The greatest benefit of ceramics over gold is that they look like the patient's natural teeth," said



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# BUSINESS UPDATE

## Patty's Parkside Barber Shop Comes To Richfield

by Dick Jansik

Barber Patti Applebee is no stranger to Richfield. She returns to the city after working at the Richfield Barber Shop until the owner closed it a year ago. "I loved cutting hair here and was very disappointed when the shop was closed. I developed many friendships with the customers and I like the area very much. I'm very excited about coming back to renew those friendships," she said.

She opened her new shop, Patty's Parkside Barber Shop, in the Treasure Loft building on Broadview Road. The bright, airy, 650-square-foot, old-fashioned barber shop is like stepping back into the 1800s. It overlooks the city park and features picnic benches under shade trees where customers can wait their turn on sunny fall days.

Applebee is a graduate of the Akron Barber College and has been a barber for 27 years. She is mainly a man's barber, but can also cut women's hair. "My clients will get a good haircut at a reasonable price," she said. Men's haircuts are \$11 and seniors over 65 pay just \$9. But she plans to have price specials. The shop's hours are



*Patti Applebee recently opened a barber shop in the Treasure Loft building. Photo by D. Jansik*

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. No appointments are necessary. ∞

Lavicka. He added that 30 percent of his clients come from Akron and Cleveland, and 70 percent come from throughout the United States plus Hawaii and Guam. The company has 50 employees.

"Ceramic dentistry is extremely exact-



*John Lavicka is president of Dental Ceramics. Photo by D. Jansik*

ing. The dentist makes a mold of the patient's upper and lower jaws. The mold may show missing, worn, misaligned or crooked teeth. The highly-trained lab technicians, with the help of computer controlled shaping equipment, will make replacement teeth to the exact shape to fit the person's natural bite. It could involve one tooth or 20 depending on what the dentist prescribes.

The technicians start the process by making hardened waxed teeth fitted into the dentist's mold that are sent back for the patient's approval before the final teeth are molded in solid ceramic material. Custom coloring is done to match the patient's teeth then baked into the ceramic. The company makes about 100 teeth a day. Smile makeovers are their specialty. They involve making veneers for the front teeth to make them even and remove spaces from in between them," said Lavicka.

The building uses geothermal heating and cooling, is an economical, clean and nonpolluting method of heating and cooling. A pond on the property provides the reservoir for the heat exchange pipes. ∞

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