

Wethersfield Dental Group opens its doors

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Residents have a new place in town where they can access professional dentistry services. The Wethersfield Dental Group recently cut the ribbon for its new facility on Town Line Road.

"It's nice to be back here in the community," Dr. Ukti Phadnis told the crowd at her grand opening. "I love the support I'm getting from Wethersfield."

She has practiced dentistry for

"I have a dentist for every tooth in the family."

- Dr. Ukti Phadnis



six years, most recently at Newington Family Dental. Phadnis said that opening her own practice has always been the ultimate goal.

"There's so many different styles of dentistry," she said. "With your

own practice, you get the freedom to practice the way that you want to."

That means creating a space where people of all ages feel comfortable going for their dental care.

"I wanted it to be a very family oriented practice," she said. "We can work with anyone from age 2 to 102."

Family has always been an important part of Phadnis's life. Growing up in India, she moved with her family to Danbury in the 10th grade and has remained a state resident ever since, attending the University of Connecticut for both her undergraduate degree and dental school.

"I always knew I would go into a medical field," she said.

She took the entrance exam for both medical school and dental school. Phadnis decid-

ed to pursue dentistry, a career also chosen by her father, brother, aunt and some cousins.

"I have a dentist for every tooth in the family," she said with a laugh.

When the time came to open her

practice, she found a location at 55 Town Line Road and immediately knew it would work. The space was previously a dental office and, although Phadnis brought in new equipment and made some changes, it was well-equipped for use. She officially opened Dec. 14 and the ribbon cutting took place in April.

"It just fit well," she said. "The community has been very nice, and being just off the Silas Deane Highway, I don't think you can go wrong."

Phadnis provides comprehensive care to the whole family, addressing typical procedures such as cleanings as well as cosmetic and implant dentistry and oral cancer screenings.

"We do full comprehensive care," she said. "We address the effects of oral health on the body and the body on oral health."

Ensuring proper dental health means addressing care through prevention, a message she hopes to convey to her patients.

"I don't want to see you once every three years when a tooth bothers you," she said. "The more you educate the patient, the more you're

able to prevent problems instead of having to fix them later."

Along with preventive care, the Wethersfield Dental Group offers Invisalign, crown and bridge and some veneer treatments, along with cleft lip and palette surgery. Those treatments have been especially meaningful for Phadnis, who recalled one patient in particular who was grateful for the work.

"She came back and told me, 'I was able to smile in my wedding because of you,'" she recalled.

Being able to help people is a large part of what motivates Phadnis in her work each day. Her practice offers its own in-office dental plan to provide affordable dental care for families and individuals who don't have insurance.

"It's a unique way of preventing problems," she said. "I wanted to make it affordable for people. I feel that the basic maintenance visits should be something that people are able to get."

For a \$350 enrollment fee, members receive two routine exams, one routine cleaning, one emergency exam and X-ray and are eligible for

20 percent off other dental treatments along with other benefits.

For those who do have insurance, the practice is offering a free custom whitening.

"It's those little things that we do that matter to people," Phadnis said.

Those who are unsure of their insurance situation are able to get help from the team at Wethersfield Dental Group.

"We'll help with any insurances that they have," front desk coordinator RoseAnn Allen said. "We want them to choose us as their dental family and we will work with them to figure it out."

Allen has been working in dental offices since she was 19 and has a great deal of experience in coordinating insurance work and helping in the exam room.

"I wear many hats here," she said. "Without all of us pulling together, it wouldn't work."

Phadnis is happy to see that people are beginning to come to see her.

"I think the biggest compliment you can get as a dentist is having people refer family and friends," she said. "We're not the drill and fill type of dentist. We want people to feel comfortable coming in to see us." **WL**

Wethersfield Dental Group is located at 55 Town Line Road Suite 100. It can be reached at 860-400-3007 or online at wethersfielddentalgroup.com.



Dr. Ukti Phadnis, center, was excited to open her dental practice in Wethersfield at her official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Shown are, from left, Wethersfield Town Manager Jeff Bridges, Wethersfield Town Council Member Tony Martino, Dr. Ukti Phadnis, family member Mangesh Phadnis, Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Leslie Civitello and Wethersfield Town Planner and Economic Development Manager Peter Gillespie.

Photo by Allie Rivera