

PROGRESS 2008



Oskaloosa Vision Center looking to the future

With roots as far back as 1920, Oskaloosa Vision Center has a strong history in the community. The constant addition of new technology, well-educated doctors, technicians and office staff, Oskaloosa Vision Center is

"looking to the future when it comes to eye health care for the Mahaska County area residents. Optometrist Dr. H. Craig Coen is proud of the quality vision care they have provided to the Oskaloosa area for the last 23 years.

The history of Oskaloosa Vision Center can be traced as far back as 1920 when Dr. Forest Lee Crumbaugh first began his practice in Oskaloosa, upon Dr. Crumbaugh's death 15 years later in 1935. Dr. C.C. Kitchen took over the practice for the next 50 years. Dr. H. Craig Coen established Oskaloosa Vision Center in 1985, upon Dr. Kitchen's retirement. In 1994, Dr. Coen built and moved Oskaloosa Vision Center to its present office building at 303 North 1st Street. In 1994, his new office building was awarded the Community Development Improvement Award of the year by the Oskaloosa Area Chamber of Commerce.

With the increased office space and addition of new technology made possible by the new office building, Dr. Coen was able to expand professional services. Dr. Robert Tobin of Tobin Eye Institute started his association with Oskaloosa Vision Center in 1996. Dr. Tobin sees patients for surgical consultation the first Wednesday of each month. He performs pre-surgical exams and minor eye surgery at the Vision Center. Major eye surgery, such as cataract removal, is performed at the Mahaska Health Partnership Hospital. Due to this association, area patients who require surgery can remain in Oskaloosa for their surgical eye care.

Oskaloosa Vision Center offers much more than a wide selection of eye glasses and contact lenses. Not only does Dr. Coen test for early detection and provide treatment of glaucoma, a silent and blinding disease, he also performs both pre- and post-operative care for LASIK and cataract surgery patients. Dr. Coen stresses the importance of eye health care and can perform a broad spectrum of services. Routine eye exams are provided to children of all ages, dilated vision exams for the detection of eye disease, fundus photography with digital imaging for the detection of and following of progression of eye diseases, such as macular degeneration and diabetes. Comprehensive visual field analysis is also available to help with the detection of glaucoma and/or neurological ophthalmic diseases. In addition, Dr. Coen can prescribe medication to treat conditions such as eye infections (pink eye) and remove superficial foreign bodies.

Dr. Coen is on call 24 hours a day for eye health emergencies. If such emergencies occur, simply call Oskaloosa Vision Center and follow the directions to contact the doctor. Dr. Coen is a provider for several different insurance plans, and his staff will file medical insurance claims, as well as routine vision claims at no additional cost to the patient. Oskaloosa Vision Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m.-5:15 p.m. as well as Saturday morning, 9 a.m. until noon.

Dr. Coen and the staff of Oskaloosa Vision Center would like to thank all of their patients for their support and trust over the last 23 years. Both Dr. Coen and the staff look forward to providing the community with professional routine and emergency eye care for many years to come.

Town Square Dental at home in downtown Oskaloosa

Growing up in rural Mahaska County, Eric De Boef always knew he'd like to stay close to home. So, while in his final year of dental school at the University of Iowa, he began making plans to return to Mahaska County and open his own private dental practice.

"I was excited about the prospect of coming home but anxious about starting a practice from scratch," De Boef said.

De Boef decided not to take on the task alone and collaborated with his sister, who had marketing and business administration experience, to help him get the practice going. Nearly five years later, De Boef's dental office, Town Square Dental Care, is thriving.

The office, located on the northwest corner of the square in Oskaloosa, operates Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Since opening in 2003, five full-time employees have been hired, including a front desk receptionist, two dental assistants, and two hygienists.

De Boef's sister works part-time as the office manager.

"In no small way, our success is because of our team," De Boef said. "I don't think I could find a more competent and enjoyable group of people with whom to work. Our patients notice and appreciate this."

Town Square Dental Care is a general dental practice providing preventative and restorative dentistry to patients of all ages. Services include cleanings and comprehensive examinations; fillings; root canal therapy; crowns, bridges and implant restorative; simple extractions; and full and partial dentures. Some cosmetic services have also been added like in-office teeth whitening.

De Boef, his wife and three children, ages 5, 3 and 6 months, live in rural Mahaska County. Looking back, it is hard for De Boef to believe how much has happened in such a short period of time. "Whenever I get the chance to talk to a dental student about their future, I always encourage them to consider



photo provided
Town Square Dental Staff include: Front row, L-R: Tammy Appeget, CDA; Lynne Veldhuizen, CDA; Sue Boyer, receptionist; Back row L-R: Lisa Stodghill, RDH; Jennifer Grove, office manager; Eric De Boef, DDS; Melissa Falb, RDH.

practicing in a small community," De Boef said. "For me, the experience has been very gratifying."

"There is a shortage of dentists practicing in rural areas," De Boef said. "Most of my graduating class joined, bought or opened practices in large,

urban areas. I don't think many health care providers realize the personal and professional opportunities a smaller community offers."

For his part, De Boef plans to stick close to home and serve the people in the community he loves, one smile at a time.

'TEAM GATTON'

In 1940, Kelly Gatton started Gatton Realty specializing in farm brokerage, and then expanded into residential and commercial properties. Today, we continue to work with farms, residential, commercial, new construction and new developments.

Four full-time agents joined Gatton Realty in the summer of 2007. "TEAM GATTON" now consists of 14 independent agents and a full-time office manager. Every member of Gatton Realty prides themselves with maintaining integrity and their attention to detail that makes for a smooth transaction for both the seller and buyer.

Gatton Realty's philosophy is that a team approach gives the client(s) the best marketing strategy. Over the past 68 years, Gatton Realty works with clientele ranging from first-time home buyers, growing families, relocation companies and seniors looking to downsize or add a second home.

Our agents have the experience to guide the first-time farmer, small business owner or the developer to establish them in the Oskaloosa marketplace. Our tools for success are advertising your property in full color two times a month, our Web site www.gattonrealty.com providing additional information and our high definition virtual tours that are user friendly.

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