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Rock 'n' roll dentist hits the right notes

Amanda Cuda, Staff Writer

When most dentists refer to their "instruments," they generally mean things like drills, mirrors and tongue retractors. But for dentist [Mark Schwartz](#), the word has a much broader meaning.

Not only is Schwartz, 48, of Orange, a dentist whose Monroe practice is celebrating its 20th anniversary, he's also been a musician since he was 5 years old. He plays the guitar, accordion, organ and a variety of other instruments and has been in several bands.



Dr. Mark Schwartz, a Monroe dentist, is celebrating 20 years in business. He's also a musician in his spare time. Photo: Autumn Driscoll / Connecticut Post

Despite the fact that he still performs from time to time (he's currently part of a duo with his 17-year-old son), Schwartz is probably best known for his work with teeth. But his hobby is an indicator that he isn't your typical dental professional.

"It's not every dentist that can serenade you in the office," joked dental assistant [Fran Gates](#).

Schwartz, who also has a 15-year-old daughter, has been a dentist for 23 years and started his practice in Monroe on Jan. 22, 1992. The office provides a variety of dental services, from basic exams and cleanings to cosmetic dentistry and restorative procedures, such as crowns and fillings.

Since his career began, Schwartz said, he's seen dentistry evolve due to advances in technology (such as the widespread use of digital X-rays) and a greater understanding of the impact of dental health on the rest of the body.

"About 30 years ago, dentists fixed teeth only," said Schwartz, a 1988 graduate of the [University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine](#). "Then dentistry became a subdivision of medicine, where dental problems were (discovered) to affect other areas of health, including heart disease."



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Schwartz has also tried to give back to his community, regularly participating in the [American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile Day](#), a national event in which dentists give free care to children from low-income families and other efforts. "I think it's really important to give back and show thanks for the many blessings you have," he said.

<http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Rock-n-roll-dentist-hits-the-right-notes-2743921.php>

Though his musical leanings make him somewhat unique, Schwartz said what really sets his practice apart is a commitment to customer service. He said he and his staff try to minimize the dread many feel about going to the dentist by providing a warm, inviting atmosphere. Gates, who has worked in Schwartz's office for two years, confirmed that.

"Most people, when they come to the dentist's office, don't want to be there," she said. "I think we're able to put people at ease."

Schwartz's dental practice is at 501 Main St., Monroe. Call 203-268-0377.