



EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

at RED BARN DENTAL

By Laura Kolnoski

Fascinating historic treasures dot Monmouth County, just waiting to be discovered. Over 45 years ago, Dr. Thomas Tucker, now a retired dentist, began converting one of them, an over-100-year-old barn at 361 Kings Highway East in Middletown, into his office. Dr. Tucker owned the land behind the barn and lived in the white carriage house adjacent to it with his family. His dental treatment rooms were once horse stalls. The upstairs hayloft was converted to a dental laboratory, where crowns and dentures were made. For decades, the horses he kept on the property were fed by his patients through the windows during their dental procedures. He still keeps some horses on his current property, just down the road.

The old barn is now seeing new life as Red Barn Dental. New owners and married practicing dentists Dr. Christopher Armento and Dr. Lisa Indelicato have completely restored, refurbished, and refitted the barn, creating a welcoming place for patients and staff while maintaining the barn's historic character.

The history Dr. Tucker obtained about the barn dates to the 1600s, when Dutch settlers first arrived in the area. Reportedly among them were Penelope Stout and her husband, who traveled from the Netherlands to New Amsterdam (now New York) and eventually Sandy Hook. Some believe all on their ship, including Penelope's husband, were attacked and killed by Indians. Legend has it that Penelope survived and sought shelter in a hollow tree and was rescued by friendly Indians who supposedly nursed her back to health, then sold her to the Dutch. She went on to marry Richard Stout. The couple settled in Middletown in 1665. It is said that the red barn was part of the Stout family farm.

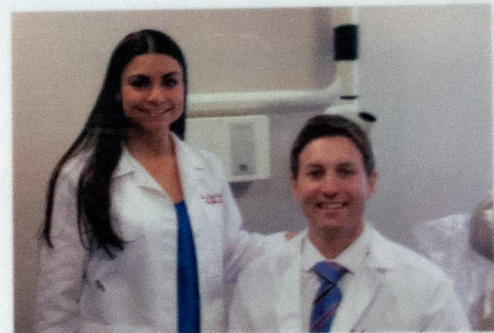
"Many of the tools hanging on the walls of the waiting room were once used on the farm; from a corn husker to horseshoes, you will see it all," Dr. Indelicato said, adding that the couple's new Red Barn Dental is a dream come true. The pair now resides in Eatontown. Their ren-



ovations have focused on creating comfort for patients by updating treatment rooms. They installed two new state-of-the-art dental chairs and brought the practice "up to speed" with new technology, including a new x-ray machine, new autoclave to sterilize instruments, new instruments, and more. They also renovated the restroom, making it handicapped accessible. Plans are to re-do two more treatment rooms and convert the hayloft/former dental lab into a staff lounge. The office is also going digital, moving toward electronic health records and eliminating paper charts and film x-rays.

"Chris and I will continue to take care of all patients that come to the barn, old and new," Dr. Indelicato said. "We are a team, dedicated to providing quality dental care to families. Our staff is also part of our family. We treat everyone with respect and compassion and want the very best for our patients."

Dr. Armento grew up in North Caldwell and is from a family of dental professionals. He



received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Delaware and his Doctor of Dental Medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where he earned Dean's List Honors. He continued his training by completing a general practice residency at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick and is now the assistant director of that program.

Dr. Indelicato is originally from Staten Island and began working in a dental office by age 15. She graduated from Binghamton University in New York, where she completed a pre-dental curriculum and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychobiology. Dr. Indelicato received her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where she also earned Dean's List Honors. After graduation, she continued her training by completing a general practice residency program at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch.

Both dentists are active members of the Monmouth Ocean County Dental Society, the Academy of General Dentistry, the New Jersey Dental Association, and the American Dental Association. They are committed to providing patients with the latest techniques and technology to ensure optimal oral health.

Red Barn Dental is located at 361 Kings Highway East in Middletown. Visit their website at www.redbarndental.com or call (732) 671-1110.