LAKE FOREST DENTAL.

MEET YOUR DENTIST · SLIGHTLY OVERDUE

Hi — I'm Dr. Hetal Patel.

"Better late than never" is what I tell patients who turn up two years after their six-month cleaning. So it's only fair I take my own advice: I've been your dentist for about eleven months now, and this is the first you're hearing from me directly.

Let's fix that.



DR. HETAL PATEL, DDS · OUR HALLWAY

A quiet handoff

Dr. Dean Tealthorst retired on September 30, 2025, and I hope he's enjoying every minute of it. He spent his career looking after this community, and the trust he built here is the reason a lot of you are reading this at all. A practice like that doesn't happen by accident — it gets built one patient at a time, over a career's worth of them. He earned every bit of this retirement.

I took over the next morning. There have been some updates around the office since then, and there will be more — but the standard of care hasn't moved. Same familiar faces at the front desk, same answer when you call. Mostly what changed is the name on the door.

About the wall behind me

It Was All A Dream. I grew up in north St. Louis and saw firsthand what a community can be up against — and how much harder that makes the ordinary things, like keeping up with your health. My parents came here from India so their kids could have an education and an opportunity. Practicing in Clayton was the dream sitting at the end of all that. The mural is there so I don't forget where it started.



DR. HETAL PATEL · DR. DEAN TEALTHORST

WHAT WE DO

General Dentistry · Invisalign
Cosmetic Dentistry · Implants · Whitening

A routine cleaning or a full smile rebuild — it all happens under one roof.

The part I care about most

Someday I want to spend my time traveling and providing free dental care to people who need it. That's the long game. In the meantime, we do that work here at home.

Dental care is usually the first thing people let go of when life gets hard, and one of the hardest things to get back. A missing front tooth follows someone into every job interview and every introduction — it changes how they're treated before they've said a word.

So we set aside chair time for people who've fallen out of care: veterans, and women rebuilding their lives in recovery. Cleanings, fillings, extractions, front teeth put back — at no cost to them, with the same materials and the same lab we use for everyone else.

$50,000+

IN FREE DENTAL CARE THIS YEAR

That number isn't mine to take credit for. It exists because our team gives up production time to make room for it, and because our patients keep choosing us and keep sending their friends. Thank you. We're nowhere near done.



THE TEAM THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

FOLLOW ALONG

We're on Instagram and Facebook.

We post before-and-afters, oral health tips you can actually use, and deals we don't run anywhere else. Office closures and schedule changes go up there first, too.

Search "Lake Forest Dental" on either one.