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More of the Best of the Valley

July 20, 2018

## Ansonia dentist's daughter looks forward to continuing family tradition

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Southern Connecticut Dental Group has been filling a need in the Valley community for 65 years.

Dr. Jay Dworkin owns the practice, where he has worked since 1982.

His father, the late Dr. Joseph Dworkin, started the business in 1953 on East Main Street.

In 1968, when the practice had grown, he moved into a new building at 497 Main St. where the office remains today.

Dworkin said in an interview Thursday he's thrilled his daughter, Olivia, will carry on the family tradition.

Olivia, 25, is about to enter her third year at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston. She expects to graduate in 2020.

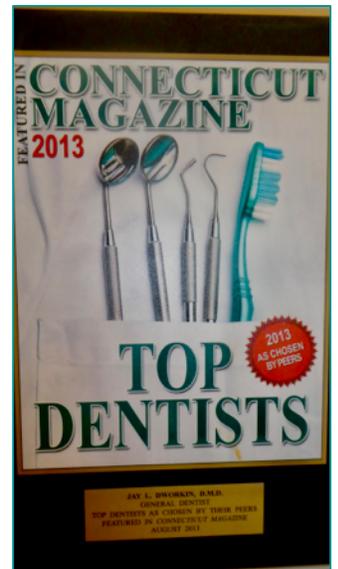
"He has always said to me 'no pressure'," Olivia said with a smile. "But this is what I want to do."



She said she enjoyed working alongside her father as a dental assistant during the summers in high school and college, and was shadowing him Thursday.

"Shadowing Dad helps a lot," Olivia said. "He explains things in easy terms."

Olivia said she and her siblings - an older sister and a younger brother - spent a lot of time when they growing up at the office, such as when they had a day off from school.



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"I feel very comfortable here," she said.

Dale Symonds, operations manager, said plans are in the works to remodel the Ansonia office. The practice also has a Southbury location that has undergone a facelift, Symonds said.

He also said the practice has gotten involved in Ansonia's newly-created Adopt-A-Spot program. It will maintain a traffic island on Elm Street that features a "Welcome to Ansonia" sign.

For the third year the practice has been named top dentist by Connecticut Magazine.

Learn more at: <https://www.southernctdental.com/>

## Better Packages in Ansonia expands, celebrates centennial

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Better Packages, a manufacturer with Valley roots, has wrapped up its 100th year in operation with continued business growth.

That is the word from CEO Phil White, who said it has been "a busy - and gratifying - time to be in business in Ansonia."

Last week Mayor David S. Casseti congratulated White and presented him with the key to the city.

"You have continued to make Ansonia a better place and we're so proud you made your home in Ansonia," Casseti said.



Better Packages moved from Shelton to 4 Hershey Drive in 2014.

This year its parent company, IPG, relocated its Tampa, Fla. operations to Ansonia.

White said the company is about to launch a machine that makes air-filled pillows that cushion products in boxes during the shipping process.

This year the business added 50 percent more space to its facility, increased full-time employees by more than 25 percent, and created a National Training Center.

The center showcases the product line for prospective customers and serves as a training facility for sales and distributor partners.

See more about the company at: <https://betterpackages.com/>

