



Clarkson Eyecare

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May is Healthy Vision Month

May 5, 2008, St. Louis, MO... According to www.ameyehealthy.com, there are currently 119 million baby boomers in the United States. The aging baby boomers will double the current number of blind and visually impaired Americans over the next 30 years. During Healthy Vision Month, Clarkson Eyecare is joining the American Academy of Ophthalmology to encourage Americans to take care of their eyes and the eyes of family members.

Although eye problems are often associated with aging, many problems actually start earlier and vision loss can be prevented if the problem is detected sooner. "People of all ages need to get their eyes examined regularly," said Dr. James Wachter of Clarkson Eyecare. "I cannot stress this enough. Frequently, an eye exam will catch early stages of a potential problem, even before symptoms occur. However, too often appointments are neglected and an unfortunate result could be vision loss."

Infants and toddlers should be tested for common childhood eye problems, such as strabismus (crossed eyes) and amblyopia (lazy eye). A few warning signs that a child may have vision problems include wandering or crossed eyes, a family history of childhood vision problems, redness, discharge, a disinterest in reading or viewing distant objects, and squinting or turning the head in an unusual manner while watching TV.

Young adults and middle-aged groups may also be at risk for eye problems. People between the ages of 40 and 65 should be examined at least every 2 to 4 years, although Clarkson Eyecare recommends yearly eye exams at all ages. The 65 and older group should be examined every year. Those at an increased risk for eye disease include African-Americans over age 40 (glaucoma), people with diabetes (diabetic retinopathy), those over age 60 (macular degeneration and cataracts) and those with a family history of eye problems. Those included in the mentioned groups, should contact their eye doctor for more information about getting a comprehensive eye exams every year.

Protecting eyes from accidents and the early detection and treatment of eye problems are the best ways to care for vision throughout life.

Founded in 1979 by Dr. Lawrence Jehling, Clarkson Eyecare currently offers comprehensive medical eye care services at 37 metro St. Louis locations: 79 Crossing-St. Peters, 141 and Olive, Arnold, Ballwin, Brentwood, Chesterfield, Chesterfield Valley, Creve Coeur, Ellisville, Eureka, Fenton, Festus, Florissant, Harvester, High Ridge, House Springs, Kirkwood, Maplewood, Mid Rivers, O'Fallon-North, O'Fallon-South, Pacific, Rock Hill, South County, Town & Country, Troy, Union, Warrenton, Washington, Webster Groves, Wentzville, Wildwood, MO, Belleville, Columbia, Edwardsville, Fairview Heights and Shiloh, IL, and LASIK Surgery Center in Chesterfield Valley and Fairview Heights. Go to www.ClarksonEyecare.com or call 888-EYECARE for more information.

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