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Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute Opens New, State-Of-The-Art Office

Story by Ron Bukley ■ Photos by Abner Pedraza

Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute has moved its Wellington office into a new, custom building three times larger than its previous office to accommodate the growing number of patients who require the specialized eye treatments it offers.

The new office, located at 2575 State Road 7, is just south of the Mall at Wellington Green, next to Diagnostic Centers of America. The 7,500-square-foot building has three waiting rooms, 14 exam rooms and eight testing/treatment rooms. It opened on June 23.

Florida Eye's previous office on the campus of Wellington Regional Medical Center was only 1,500 square feet and supported only one physician at a time. The new office can support two of the company's four physicians, who also rotate among the practice's three other offices. Doctors Jason Gorscak, Randy Katz, Lee Friedman and Barry Schechter each have ophthalmic subspecialties.

"We've been anticipating opening the doors to our new location for months, and it is both exciting and gratifying to see all of the planning and hard work come to fruition," Gorscak

said. "We look forward to welcoming our patients in our new home."

Gorscak focuses on comprehensive eye care at Florida Eye, including diagnosing and treating cataract conditions, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. He also specializes in diagnosing and removing both benign and malignant tumors of the eyelids.

Katz specializes in the treatment of macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachments, and other diseases of the retina and vitreous. He participates and is enrolling patients in numerous national clinical trials using breakthrough treatments for these retinal procedures.

Friedman specializes in pediatric ophthalmology, retinopathy of premature babies, and pediatric and adult strabismus. He has been diagnosing, treating and operating on children and adults for more than two decades.

Schechter specializes in refractive cataract surgery, corneal transplantation, ocular surface diseases and glaucoma.

The new office will enable two of the physicians to see patients simultaneously.

"We've needed to expand our space to accommodate the growing needs in the western communities for quite a while," Florida Eye Administrator Jason Feuer said. "We looked years for the right spot, and finally came across this property, which allowed us to purchase the land and build our own building, but also be in an accessible, easy-to-find space here within the mall complex."

Florida Eye also has offices in Boynton Beach, Boca Raton and Juno Beach.

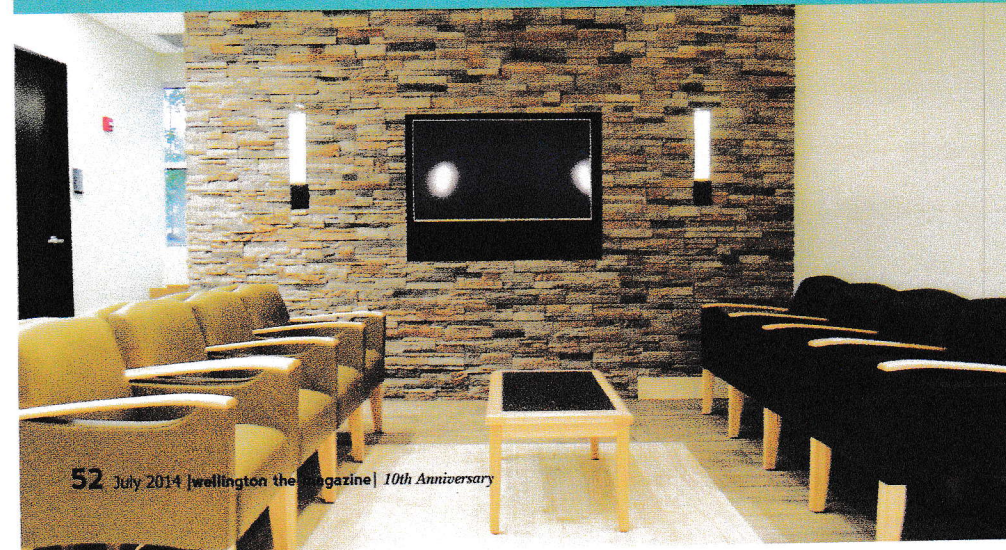
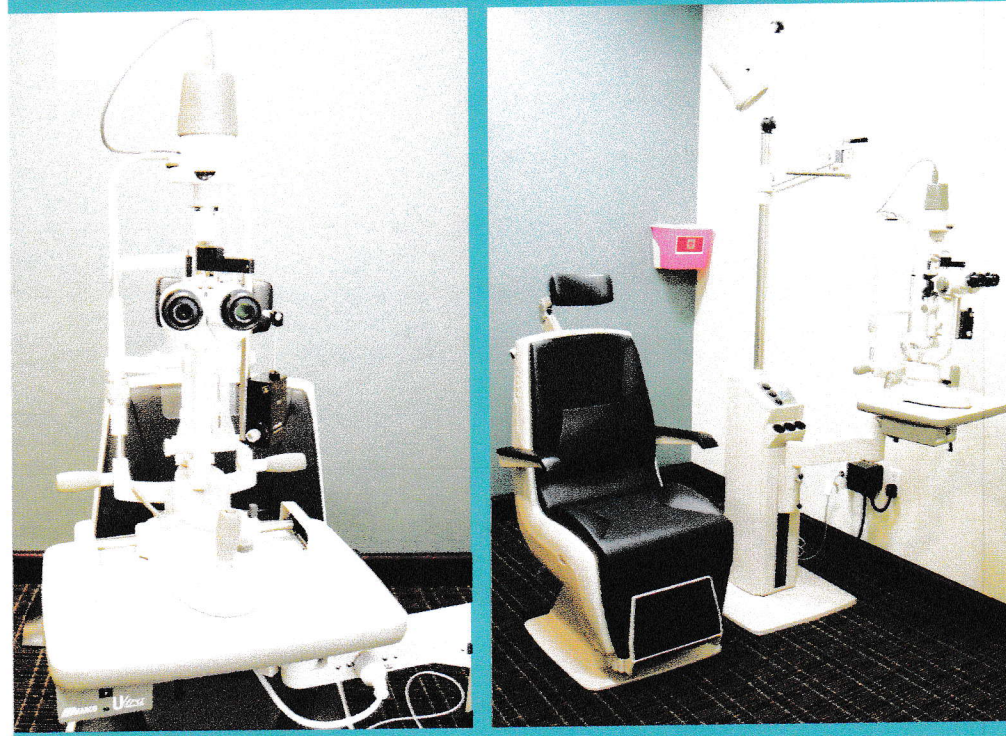
The new Wellington office is equipped to do complete examinations, as well as many treatments such as laser surgery, in-house. ►



Jason L. Gorscak,
Florida Eye

Randy S. Katz, M.D.
Florida Eye

Dr. Jason Gorscak and Dr. Randy Katz of Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute.



“In ophthalmology, there are certain procedures we can do here in the office in a normal examining room, like lasers for glaucoma and lasers for retina issues, whether it’s a retinal tear or diabetic needs,” Feuer said. “All those can be done in-house. We also do lasers for after cataracts. Some patients have cataract surgery on the artificial lens that we put in. Some will grow a film over it, and it’s a quick laser to zap that off. That’s a routine, normal process.”

The center takes patient referrals, but it also caters to the optometric community for referrals.

“We have a network of more than 100 optometrists in Palm Beach County who refer to us,” Feuer said. “The patients come to the optometrist thinking they need a new pair of glasses. They do a basic eye exam and discover something else is going on, something more medical, and they send the patient to us.”

The center does testing for eye issues in preparation for patients who will require surgery, whether in-patient or outpatient.

“That’s how cataract surgery is done, as well as retinal surgery, muscle surgery and corneal transplant surgery,” Feuer said.

Florida Eye’s Boynton Beach office is equipped with a full surgery center.

“We also have our own building in Boynton Beach,” he said. “It’s 15,000 square feet on Woolbright just west of I-95, and that office has a certified and accredited ambulatory surgery center. We have two operating rooms, and we can do all eye surgery there. Actually, our license allows for any type of surgery, but we choose to limit it to eye surgery at this point.”

The office does 50 to 75 cataract procedures, about 10 retina and several corneal operations, including transplants, every week at that office.

“Our two senior physicians, Dr. Randy Katz and Dr. Lee Friedman, have been serving the community since 1990, so they have been serving the

community for 24 years," Feuer noted.

Friedman is one of the few pediatric ophthalmologists in the county, and one of the busiest.

"He starts his day in the hospitals," Feuer said. "He sees most of the preemies born in the hospitals. He has to monitor them, and he serves five hospitals. Then he goes to his practice. It may be here in Wellington, or one of the other offices, and then he sees many kids during the day before being back in the hospitals in the evenings. He's extremely busy, but there is a huge need, and there aren't that many people doing what he does. He's one of the best there is."

Florida Eye is dedicated to serving the needs of the western communities, and patient care is its utmost priority, Feuer said.

"For us, it's not a 9-to-5 job. If we're here until 7 o'clock, it's because patients need us until 7 o'clock, and everyone I hire understands that," he said. "The patients greet the staff by name. There's hugs and kisses often. We're here to take care of our patients, and they become part of our family. That's the environment that we strive to create."

As challenging as the practice of medicine has become is the modern era, Florida Eye still holds to a standard of personalized patient care.

"You can't afford to operate a business like this, you can't afford to have modern equipment, if you are going to see five patients an hour in medicine anymore," Feuer said, explaining that a modern, well-equipped office must see 15 patients an hour in order to provide the level of care that is today's standard. "Even though we have to keep a pace, we do it in such a way that the patients feel that they are well cared for, and I have enough staff to make sure that happens."

Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute is located at 2575 State Road 7 in Wellington. Call (561) 737-5500 to make an appointment or visit www.fleyedocs.com for more information. □



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