

# Times-Herald

## Vallejo dentist hopes to brush away cost fears

Times-Herald staff report

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In an effort to fight the recession, Vallejo's Galvan Dental Care at 2809 Redwood Parkway holds its first open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, a company spokeswoman said.

"This event is aimed at drawing more patients," spokeswoman Kristine Garcia said. "We've been here since 2006, and bought the practice from Dr. Lutz, who was in the same location for 15 years. Yet, we found out that lots of people aren't aware we're here."

Galvan also will be the first Solano or Napa county dental practice to be featured in Groupon.com, "a new online resource to get discounts on anything from food to spa treatments, horseback riding lessons and window repairs," Garcia said.

Saturday's event will feature information on new-patient specials, free dental-related giveaways like toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste, as well as a raffle for a free Sonicare toothbrush, a teeth-whitening kit and other prizes, she said.

Light refreshments will be served inside, where participants will have a chance to meet the dentist and staff.

"This recession is forcing us to think outside the box for ideas that would hopefully be beneficial to both our business and our patients or potential patients," dentist Philip Galvan said. "We are getting an influx of patients in dire need dental treatment, but who postpone making appointments due to financial reasons."

To address this issue, which often winds up creating an even more expensive dental

situation, Galvan said his office

has cut by half its usual fees for those without dental insurance.

A free exam and x-rays are also offered to make patients "aware of their oral health, whether good or bad," Galvan said. "In return, our office gets new clients who may possibly refer (us) to (others)."

For information, call (707) 643-2273.