



# Spirits Lifted

## Business owner's spirits lifted by cataract surgery using new technology for faster, more precise procedures

Carl Wolff hadn't noticed just how poor his vision had become until he started getting up from the couch to stand close to the television to read the sports ticker. At Gateway Liquors, his family business, he had also begun holding bottles close to his face to read them. Since he had worn glasses from a young age, Carl had assumed his ability to see would worsen through his life, causing him to adjust the way he read, worked, and even drove. But he had not anticipated that part of his inability to see was caused by cataracts.

"My optometrist was performing an exam on my eyes when she asked me if my cataract was bothering me yet. I said 'What?' I had no idea. But she told me not to worry because we have the best ophthalmologist in the area," Carl recalled.

His optometrist recommended that he see Ophthalmologist Ryan Pine, MD, who told him that his problems could be fixed with two short surgeries.

"Dr. Pine really makes the time to fully explain your eye problems and the surgical solutions. I was nervous, especially since the procedure involved my eyes. But his confidence in his abilities and explanation of how the surgery would go calmed me down," Carl said.

During the initial visit with Dr. Pine, Carl learned that he had cataracts in both eyes and that each cataract would be surgically removed one week apart using new equipment at Sarah Bush Lincoln. The SBL Surgery Center now has LenSx® technology through which a laser is used to break up the cataract and to create incisions in the cornea as part of a cataract surgery. The lens fragments are then gently removed from the eye using suction.

After the cataract and natural lens are removed, an artificial, intraocular lens is inserted into the eye. The ORA System™ is used to precisely place the lens by conducting analysis of the eye during the operation, once the cataract is removed but before the intraocular lens is inserted. These real-time measurements provide even better outcomes than previous procedures. Both the ORA System™ and LenSx® increase the precision, safety and speed at which ophthalmologists can perform cataract surgeries.

Shelly, Carl's wife, remarked on how quickly Carl returned from surgery.

"I was able to get breakfast and go into work after driving him home," Shelly remarked. "The nurses and other Sarah Bush Lincoln staff have the process completely streamlined."

At 62 years old, Carl no longer needs glasses, and he feels that the "cloud covering his eyes" before surgery floated away.

"When I walked out of the Surgery Center, everything was so bright. Dr. Pine told me to invest in a good pair of sunglasses," Carl added.

The Charleston native owns and manages Gateway Liquors on Lincoln Avenue in Charleston. Carl's father, Fred, started the business in the 1960s. Carl enjoys working with college students and feels as though he can "stay current" with them around. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he collaborated with his employees to move products online and to initiate curbside service while the store was closed

to customers. As businesses opened back up, Carl said he was glad that the store could return to normal. He feels a strong duty to maintain the store, something that was evident when he returned to work the day after his cataract surgery.

"I enjoy what I do. I get to see people in the community every day, which makes me happy. And now I can see their faces when they walk into the store, instead of relying on their voices to know who it is," Carl revealed.

Carl loves to golf and to spend time with his family. In their garden, Carl and Shelly grow purple watermelons for their grandchildren. He feels freer in his daily life without contact lens, glasses or cloudy vision.

"I am quite tickled with my results. Dr. Pine is a great doctor. I tell people not to hesitate when considering him for cataract surgery. It's probably one of the best things I have ever done," Carl emphasized.



For more information about cataract surgery or to make an appointment with Dr. Pine at Advanced Ophthalmology, call **217 348-0221**. His office is located at 1605 Reynolds Dr., Charleston.