When as long as he lives, Steve Smersky, 53, will never forget what his gastroenterologist, Robert J. Pagano, M.D. told him following his colonoscopy.

“In his exact words — and they’ll probably ring in my head forever — was that if we waited one more year, we’d be having a different conversation,” says Steve, a salesman with Smart Office Services in Bridgeville, a local independent office products dealer.

“I would have had a different outcome if I had delayed the colonoscopy any longer.”

Wildly perverse were discovered during Steve’s colonoscopy.

Dr. Pagano was able to stop and remove them — one had cancer. It was patients like Steve who inspired the impetus for the St. Clair Hospital physician to create an online video at www.stclin.org to urge men and women to undergo colonoscopies to detect colon cancer at its earliest, most treatable stages.

“I see a tremendous need for people to be educated and to learn about colon cancer,” says Dr. Pagano of Upper St. Clair.

“It’s so prevalent in this country and it’s so sad to see some people come in a few years ago after they should have had a screening. Sometimes, you think back to what ifs when it’s too early that would have been a bengh little plop that I could have taken out, and they wouldn’t have had colon cancer.”

With this video, Dr. Pagano says that just to make people aware is something that this is a very prevalent disease in our country and a concept could detect pancellular growths before they become colon cancer.

“When patients have a good experience with their colonoscopy, I want them to have the confidence to encourage other people to have this done,” he says.

“When you have a bad experience, you are going to tell a thousand people.

“We want to go through the preparation,” she says.

She works with Dr. Pagano and understands why many people are hesitant to undergo the procedure.

“An electrolyte-balanced solution to cleanse their bowels. According to Dr. Pagano, several studies have shown that a “split prep” — taking half an hour, the colonoscopy will take longer; and you will need to return sooner for a repeat exam to make sure nothing was missed,” he says.

Besides the prep, Eileen notes that some patients are also afraid of the tool that is inserted through the rectum.

“What is most important to understand is that with a good prep, patients can be including the subtle flat polyps which have a high risk for rapid conversion to colon cancer; the colonoscopy will take longer; and you will need to return sooner for a repeat exam to make sure nothing was missed,” he says.

“Many of the patients in the video also have high praise for Dr. Pagano. Dolores adds, “It can save lives. My son just turned 50 and I’m on a mission to encourage my husband, who is a local independent office products dealer, to have the test that would save his life.”