

The Main Street Community Foundation 'turns the town teal' to raise awareness for ovarian cancer

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BRISTOL - As September draws near, resident Judie Lodovico and volunteers from the Main Street Community Foundation have been decorating Bristol for 'Turn the Town Teal', a national campaign that raises awareness for ovarian cancer.

Lodovico, who has spearheaded this awareness campaign, is a 16-year, two-time survivor of ovarian cancer. This is her ninth year turning Bristol teal and raising awareness about the subtle risk factors.

"The symptoms of ovarian cancer can include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, fatigue, back pain, weight gain or loss or feeling nauseous," explained volunteer Samantha Rajotte.

Rajotte also stated that ovarian cancer symptoms in women are often similar to those of symptoms during the menstrual cycle.

Kate Kerchaert, another volunteer who's been helping with the campaign for three years, has been passing out symptom cards to businesses.

"We ask the businesses for permission to hang the bows and we give them symptom cards to help spread awareness. We've already had about half a dozen people ask us what the bows are for and that's good because that means we're getting people to think and talk about it. It's good that the teal catches people's eye," said Kerchaert.

"I think what's special and unique about what we're doing today is that it's all community led," said Rajotte, referring to Lodovico and President of the Main Street Community Foundation Susan Sadecki. "There's something special about Bristol. This city is so open to public support. All of the businesses have been so supportive with this national campaign."

If you want to see the teal bows, you can see them on Hope Street, Federal Hill, Main Street, Riverside Avenue and the Boulevard. Bows were provided by the Artificial Flower shop.



8/29/2019 Mike Orazzi | Staff Main Street Community Foundation's Dawn Nelson and Julie Matthews place teal ribbons on Hope Street in downtown Bristol while preparing for September which is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

To learn more about how to donate or to get involved with 'Turn the Towns Teal', visit their website at www.turnthetownteal.com.