

Bristol turns teal, raises awareness for ovarian cancer

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BRISTOL – Bristol is turning teal to raise awareness for ovarian cancer, as the annual “Turn the Towns Teal” event turns 10.

Resident and organizer Judie Lodovico, herself a two-time ovarian cancer survivor, was out Friday morning with her daughter, Jennifer Lodovico-Gorack and her neighbor, Laurie Amara, hanging teal ribbons. They were placing them on light posts along North Main Street, Memorial Boulevard and Federal Hill as well as the fire station and city hall. At the same time, Susan Sadecki and members of the Main Street Community Foundation hung ribbons along Main Street and Hope Street.



Brian Johnson Staff (Left to right) Laurie Amara, Judie Lodovico, Chris Boyle and Jennifer Lodovico-Gorack holding up a "Turn the Towns Teal" banner on Main Street in Bristol which will be displayed on Bristol Health's Medical Care Center

Lodovico started the campaign 10 years ago with the hope that it would make people aware of symptoms that can be warning signs of ovarian cancer. Warning signs, she said, include bloating or feeling of fullness, general abdominal discomfort or pain, nausea, diarrhea or frequent urination, unexpected weight loss or gain, loss of appetite or unusual fatigue. However, Lodovico said that she did not show any warning signs before she was diagnosed. She encourages women to get themselves examined as a precaution so that if they do have ovarian cancer it can hopefully be caught early.

Amara said that Lodovico has shared several “success stories” with her where people saw the teal ribbons and got themselves tested and diagnosed.

Lodovico also established the “Bristol Talks Teal Fund” at the Main Street Community Foundation in 2013. The fund helps those who need assistance with medical care costs for detection and treatment of ovarian cancer.

“In the big picture of life, it’s very enriching to be a part of something like this,” she said. “Judie is my next door neighbor and a good friend since childhood. It’s incredible to see how, after her diagnosis, she was able to create something like this to hopefully reach more people.”

Lodovico-Gorack said that she is “very proud” of her mother’s efforts over the years.

Lodovico and Sadecki have also reached out to Bristol Health to see if they could hang the banner that was there at Bristol Health’s Medical Care Center. Chris Boyle, spokesperson for Bristol Health, said that the hospital has been a long-time supporter of the awareness campaign and was glad to oblige them.

“We are glad to give any support that we can provide to promote ovarian cancer awareness,” said Boyle. “We will also be making posts on social media about ovarian cancer and it will be featured in our wellness

column in The Bristol Press.”

Lodovico said that it is “amazing” to have Bristol Health as a partner in their awareness campaign.

“We all appreciate the support,” she said. “I never doubted that Bristol would help to make this campaign so successful. This is a very generous community.”

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