

Bristol is turning teal to raise awareness of ovarian cancer

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Bristol is beginning to turn teal as locals look to raise awareness in September once again to the struggles against ovarian cancer by giving out information and by putting up teal ribbons.

A little over a decade ago, Judie Lodovico and her husband Tony started putting up teal ribbons in Bristol as part of efforts to raise awareness after learning of a national campaign also looking to spread ovarian cancer awareness. Residents who encountered them were looking to donate money to such a cause and the Lodovicos were looking simply to raise awareness, having funded the campaign the first two years themselves.

“We were approached by Susan Sadecki of the Main Street Community Foundation... My husband decided to open up a Bristol Talks Teal Fund in my name,” said Judie Lodovico. “...It’s been 13 years since we started and 11 years since we’ve been doing this campaign (the Bristol Talks fund). We’ve been raising awareness. I believe this firmly that we’ve raised awareness.”

Judie said that she is a 19-year ovarian cancer survivor.

“I’m living proof that if you find it early it can be treated and you have a greater life expectancy,” said Judie. “I can’t say cured. I always look over my shoulder. I did have a recurrence almost five years into my original diagnosis.”

Thankfully, Judie said it was in her spleen and was able to be removed.

“I felt we needed to do something to give back. There must be a reason I’m here so that’s why we do it. We do it every year and it’s a lot of fun. We have amazing support from Bristol,” said Judie.

According to a letter that Judie will release on social media, “The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2021 alone, approximately 21,410 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and approximately 12,770 will succumb to the disease, ranking it fifth in cancer-related deaths among women.”

Bristol’s Turn the Towns Teal campaign as well as its Bristol Talks Teal Fund are primarily geared towards raising awareness of the dangers of ovarian cancer. The fund seeks to spread further information and also help save the lives of cancer patients through early detection. The fund’s



Dean Wright | Staff Bristol will be seeing the display of teal ribbons throughout September as part of an ovarian cancer awareness campaign.

future intends to assist individuals suffering from ovarian cancer and may help them with medical assistance or needed support.

“Since 2013, we’ve awarded just over \$3,000 in grants and those have supported the national organization as well to promote awareness of ovarian cancer and its risk factors which is why the fund was established here. That money can be raised to really promote a local campaign,” said Sudecki, Main Street Community Foundation president.

The Main Street Community Foundation has been out putting up teal ribbons on Hope Street, Riverside Ave. and all of Main Street. Volunteers have been passing out symptom cards in English and Spanish. Businesses will also be asked to place them in restrooms or easily seen locations.

“The symptoms of ovarian cancer can be misread so it’s important for us to get the word out,” said Sudecki.

The president also said raised money would be donated to local organizations and efforts fighting or treating ovarian cancer as the Bristol Talks fund further develops. For more info, visit the Main Street Foundation website.