

Letter to the Editor

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FROM: Lauren Bibby

Tel #: 842-0990

Colorectal Cancer Not Just For Men

National Women's Health Week is currently in progress. Colorectal Cancer still remains the third leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society. The good news is that colorectal cancer is one of only a few cancers that can actually be prevented through the use of regular screening tests and early detection.

Recently, I had my colorectal cancer screening, which consisted of a colonoscopy. I tend to be one who will shy away from even the least intrusive visit to the Dr., but found this too important of a family health issue to ignore. I am fortunate enough to have health insurance, so I could not use that as an excuse or barrier to health care screening and prevention.

Unfortunately, some individuals do not have health insurance. Nearly half of all Americans are not getting the recommended screenings they need. According to the latest statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 69,398 women were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 26,224 women died from colorectal in 2005.

The Cancer Services Program of Fulton and Montgomery Counties offers free colorectal cancer screening kits to men and women age 50-64 who do not have health insurance. The screening kit is quick, simple and easy to use. It can be done in the privacy of your home, and no special diet is required. This program can help you to get the screenings you need and give you peace of mind about your health.

The Cancer Services Program also offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings, for uninsured women age 40-64.

If you would like more information on the screenings offered by the Cancer Services Program, please contact Suzanne Hagadorn, Program Coordinator at 770-7516.

Wishing you all good health,

Name: Lauren Bibby

Address: 4387 Rt. 30 A Fultonville NY 12072