

May 29, 2009

A letter to the Editor:

"National Men's Health Week" (June 8-14th) – The purpose of Men's Health Week is to increase awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men.

As a nurse, wife and mother, I am urging all men age 50 & older to get screened for colon cancer. Colorectal cancer screenings are important for both men and women. A colorectal screening includes using a simple at home kit called Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT). This test requires no dietary or medicinal restrictions. Colorectal cancer if found and treated early, can be cured.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. "According to the American Cancer Society, in 2008, nearly 150,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and 50,000 will die from this disease. Due to the progress made in screening and treatment, the number of colon cancer deaths could be cut by 30,000 – 44,000 if every American over the age of 50 were screened for this disease."

Take Control-Act Early. Just as a car needs to be taken to the garage for an oil change, men need to visit their doctor to make sure everything is running smoothly. Call your doctor. Make an appointment to get screened. No insurance? – NO PROBLEM! Fulton and Montgomery Counties Cancer Services Program Partnership provide free screenings for eligible men & women. Call them today (518) 770-7516. Remember... there are many people in your life who are depending on you.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Voght
Fulton and Montgomery Counties
Cancer Services Program Partnership member