

Letter to the Editor

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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October will again see the country observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, many of the organizations and agencies that provide breast cancer screening, education, information and support offer expanded services and special programs. Locally, Fulton and Montgomery County Cancer Services Program Partnership offers men and women who are uninsured or underinsured the opportunity to get a free breast, cervical, and/or colorectal cancer screening.

“This is an excellent time for women to learn about their risk and get screened for breast cancer”, said Myra Gonzalez, Partnership member.

“A mammogram along with a clinical breast exam is an effective tool to detect breast cancer in its early stage and has been successful in reducing overall cancer and mortality," she said.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death among women in New York State. Each year, nearly 14,000 New York women are diagnosed with breast cancer and about 3,000 die from the disease, according to the Department of Health website.

“We encourage women to be vigilant, to learn about personal risk and get screened for breast cancer,” said Gonzalez.

There are many programs that offer support to women with breast cancer and their families, offering a wide variety of services, such as counseling, education, outreach, and support services. If you are uninsured or underinsured and would like to see if you are eligible for a free screening, please call the Fulton and Montgomery Counties Cancer Services Program Partnership, Suzanne Hagadorn, Program Coordinator at (518) 770-7516.

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