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All About Algonkian



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Algonkian District Supervisor



Briskman Sponsors Proclamation Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month Following Cancer Diagnosis

Dear Neighbors,

As Breast Cancer Awareness Month approaches, I announced yesterday that I have been diagnosed with stage one breast cancer and am undergoing treatment. I have an excellent prognosis, which I credit to early detection and excellent medical care that I have received.

After a questionable mammogram in May of 2023, I followed up with a biopsy that came back positive for cancer in June. I underwent a lumpectomy in early August where my surgeon removed a small mass and milk duct from my left breast, along with one lymph node for analysis.

Unexpectedly, the lymph node also tested positive for cancer, which resulted in a more intense radiation treatment plan than my breast MRI originally indicated may be needed. I will be receiving full-spectrum radiation every day four weeks and hormone therapy to block estrogen production.

While I spent much of the Board's August recess recovering from surgery, I continue to fully perform all of my official duties as a member of the Board of Supervisor during treatment.

I have received excellent care at Inova Loudoun Hospital and the LMG Comprehensive Breast Center. I want to encourage all women to attend to their regular mammograms and self-exams. The mass in my breast was identified in my normal annual mammogram and had not shown up the year before. Meaning it appeared in just 14 months.

To promote awareness of the importance of breast cancer screening and treatment, I will present the [Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation](#) at the Board of Supervisors Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. The meetings are held at the Loudon County Government Center, 1 Harrison St., SE in Leesburg and live streamed at loudoun.gov/meetings. I invite any interested in attending to join me in wearing pink in support of the [National Breast Cancer Foundation](#) and local organizations that support those diagnosed with the disease.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), the five-year survival rate for localized breast cancer is 90% and for regional, it is 86%. The type of cancer that I have is regional because microscopic amounts were detected in her lymph node. However, the good news is that the oncotype indicates a 99% survival rate after treatment.

Despite this good news, breast cancer still is the most common cancer diagnosis for women and the second leading cause of death, according to the ACS. And a 2021 study reported by the Susan G. Komen Foundation indicated that only 50 percent of women ages 45-54 had received a mammogram in the past year. Of course, disparities in screenings increase risk for people of color and those who are uninsured. Early detection includes doing monthly breast self-exams and scheduling regular clinical breast exams and mammograms. Society recommendations can be found [here](#).

- Juli

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We want to hear from you! Share your concerns, questions, or events that you would like to see featured in upcoming newsletters.
[Email Ethan Gardner](mailto:ethan.gardner@loudoun.gov)

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