



## News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder Director - Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Deputy Director  
Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder - Mark Caliguire, Freeholder - Brian D. Levine, Freeholder

---

October 7, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Breast Cancer Awareness Month Kickoff Stresses Importance of Early Detection**

**SOMERVILLE** – Somerset County Freeholder Director Patricia L. Walsh recently joined Zufall Health in Somerville and the Regional Chronic Disease Coalition of Somerset and Morris Counties (RCDC) in kicking off the 13th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The public showed solidarity by wearing pink clothing and accessories in recognition of people affected by breast cancer.

Zufall Health Chief Operating Officer Frances Palm officiated. Freeholder Walsh presented a proclamation recognizing October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and offered brief remarks.

“The goal of Breast Cancer Awareness Month is to stress the importance of early detection and screenings and to inform the public about the many resources and services available to residents of Somerset County,” said Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh.

“We cannot take our health for granted. Breast cancer is an equal opportunity predator. It makes no difference whether you are rich or poor, young or old, male or female,” she said.

Dr. Kathleen Toomey, a board certified hematologist and oncologist, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset spoke about the importance of early detection and the latest improvements in treatment.

Breast cancer survivor Laura Gray of Bernardsville talked about her experience with breast cancer. She thanked and praised Zufall Health for the services they provided.

The RCDC of Somerset and Morris counties, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset, The Cancer Support Community of Central New Jersey, Susan G. Komen Foundation and Zufall Health were on hand to talk with participants and provide literature and valuable resources.

-more-

“On the national level, the number of deaths attributed to breast cancer continues to decrease. However, in Somerset County, the incidence rate for female breast cancer is higher than on the national level,” said Freeholder Walsh.

“We all probably know of someone who has had breast cancer and most likely will know someone in the future. That is why we need to spread the word that early detection saves lives and that resources are available despite insurance status or ability to pay,” she said. “No family should suffer the loss of a loved one because they waited too long to be screened.”

An information table will be in the lobby of the county administration building, located at 20 Grove St. in Somerville, throughout October.

The 2016 breast cancer awareness event was sponsored by Zufall Health, the New Jersey Cancer Education & Early Detection (NJCEED) program, the RCDC of Somerset and Morris Counties and its partners.

The RCDC and NJCEED programs are made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Cancer Control and Prevention to the Somerset County Department of Health and Zufall Health, respectively.

For more information and a listing of programs throughout the counties, to join the Coalition or learn more about available educational and screening resources, contact RCDC Public Health Consultant Lucille Y-Talbot at (908) 203-6077 or [ytalbot@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:ytalbot@co.somerset.nj.us).

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for free email alerts at [www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

# # #