

Your Health Matters

MAMMOGRAMS SAVE LIVES

I want to congratulate People Savings Bank for going pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I went by the bank recently to say "Happy Birthday" to Vickie Parker. While there, I noticed all the pink decorations in the bank. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast cancer impacts us all. It's a journey we all take together. Right now, your journey could be:

- I have breast cancer; or
- I have had breast cancer; or
- Someone I care about has breast cancer.

While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages and encourage others to do the same. Screening mammograms are one of the best tools for early detection of breast cancer.

Why do you need a mammogram?

- 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.
- When breast cancer is detected early, the 5-year survival rate is 98%.

The Montgomery County Health Department has a partnership with the Ellis Fischel Mammography Van, or as we loving call it, the "Mamm Van." The 44-foot long van is a fully inclusive clinic on wheels, featuring an examination room and mammography suite, and it is handicap accessible.

The "Mamm Van" provides mammograms right here at the Montgomery County Health Department. The service is available to any woman who lives in Montgomery County. You can have a mammogram, clinical breast exam and breast health education. Most appointments take less than thirty minutes. The certified radiology tech and nurses provide the same level of care offered at a free-standing mammography facility, but instead of you traveling to them, they travel to you. Women over 50 years old may also be eligible for a sliding fee scale, if they meet certain financial guidelines.

Here are some Patient Testimonials

- "Fast, convenient, painless, and informative."
- "If a mammogram can be pleasant, this was. Staff was excellent."
- "Staff on the unit was super. Arrived at my scheduled time and was out in half an hour. GREAT."
- "It almost made a mammogram enjoyable. No wait time....very professional and very nice people to deal with."
- You deliver a very valuable cancer screening – I don't know how many would get their testing done if it were not for the convenience of the van."

The Ellis Fischel Mammography Van is scheduled to be at the Montgomery County Health Department on Thursday, November 19th. You can schedule your mammogram at the Montgomery County Health Department by calling 573-564-2495.

So remind the women you care about to schedule a mammogram. Mammograms save lives! ■

