

Middletown center sponsors mobile mammography unit

By BILL DALEY
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MIDDLETOWN — As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Community Health Center in Middletown is sponsoring a mobile mammography van at its 635 Main St. office Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Health center Vice President Margaret Flinter said that mammography is a

way to detect cancerous lesions early. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was created in 1985 to educate women about early detection of and education about breast cancer.

"The two biggest impediments [to getting a mammography] are money and fear," Flinter said.

The health center charges on a sliding-scale basis, meaning that in some cases the fees may be waived. Center staffers combat fear by bringing up the

importance of a mammogram during patient checkups. Most van users come to the health center for medical treatment. Having the van parked at the center means the service is made available in familiar surroundings, she said.

Annual mammograms are recommended beginning at age 40 for women who don't have a family history of breast cancer and beginning at age 35 for women whose families have a strong history of breast cancer.

The Community Health Center has been sponsoring a mobile mammography van for a number of years.

This year, the service is offered by the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center Mobile Mammography Unit.

Flinter said there are a number of openings for mammograms on Thursday. For appointment information, please contact the Community Health Center at (860) 347-6971.

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