

Talk of the Town

The Times Argus, Oct. 5, 2017

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Pretty in pink

BARRE— Signature structures, from the Empire State Building to the Eiffel Tower, are now sporting pink lights to commemorate the fact that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and a couple of buildings in Barre will soon follow suit.

Councilor Sue Higby said Tuesday she's already ordered pink bulbs to display in one of the front windows at Studio Place Arts and, at the suggestion of City Clerk Carol Dawes, has doubled down so that the entrance to City Hall can be similarly lit.

As is the case with so many, this one hits close to home for Higby. She just returned from Michigan where she took her kid sister to the hospital for a double mastectomy, and says one of the SPA artists recently had surgery for a less invasive breast cancer.

Higby says that's why she decided to add the pink lights to the classroom window at SPA, where she works as executive director, and why she reached out to sculptor Heather Ritchie in hopes of adding to that display. Ritchie carved several pairs of marble breasts that are now on display at SPA's annual stone show and has blessed Higby's plan to incorporate some of them in what will be a timely and topical monthlong display.

It's also why Higby went out of her way Tuesday night to note that one in eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer in their lifetimes and beat the drum for regular mammograms and self-exams. She also spoke of the importance of healthy diets and exercise and the value of knowing your family history.

Higby's advice will soon be underscored by a visual reminder when the pink lights go on at SPA and City Hall later this week.