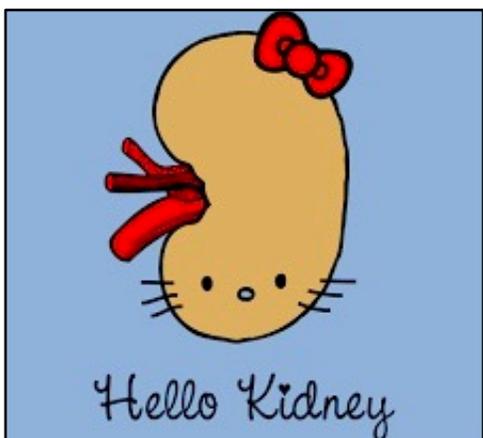


The Waiting is the hardest part



Sometimes it seems life is all about waiting for something to happen - be it tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year.

I'm not alone in that feeling, I'm pretty sure.

Mothers wait for their babies to be born (as do fathers!); we wait for our children to go to kindergarten; and before we know it we wait with them to find out if they were accepted into the college of their choice.

For me the biggest wait of my life - getting a new kidney - is almost over.

Now that it's April 17 I can say I'm having my transplant in three weeks; May 9, to be exact.

The last time I waited for something to happen in May was 31 years ago, when I was looking forward to our May 10 wedding day. Looking back it feels like a lifetime ago.

My husband, Ralph, has been waiting for me to write about this upcoming surgery. I couldn't figure out how to do so, but I guess what I just wrote is a start.

I've written in what I hope was a humorous way on my blog about my kidney issue, including this [post](#) from October 2015.

Whoever came up with the idea for Hello Kidney is pretty clever, I'd say!

At the time I wrote that post I had no idea that two of Ralph's sisters would offer to give me a kidney.

One of them was not a matching blood type, but Ralph's younger sister was, and she stepped forward to donate a kidney to me.

I couldn't thank her enough. What do I give her for Christmas this year? A spleen?

As it turned out, her stepping forward and getting tested and approved for donation put into motion a chain of events in which someone else will receive her kidney and I will receive a bigger one from someone else. Ralph's sister is petite, and I'm not.

I do hope we will get a chance to meet our other donor and recipient ... that would complete the circle.

Do You Know PKD?

Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is one of the most common, life-threatening genetic diseases.

In PKD, fluid-filled cysts develop and enlarge in **both kidneys**, eventually leading to kidney failure.

The average size of a healthy kidney is a **human fist**. Polycystic kidneys can get as large as a **football**, and weigh up to **30lbs** each.

Parents have a **50%** chance of passing PKD to **each** of their children. Unlike some genetic diseases, it does not skip a generation.

1 in 20,000 Children are affected with ARPKD. Autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease is a rare form of PKD.

PKD is the **4th** Leading cause of kidney failure

PKD equally affects people of all races, genders, nationalities, geographic locations and income levels.

The PKD Foundation is the only organization in the U.S. solely dedicated to finding treatments and a cure for polycystic kidney disease.

PKD FOUNDATION
Polycystic Kidney Disease

pkdcure.org/aware

See more at the Valley-Voice Blog

Last July, Patti wrote a blog post about my consultation at the Yale New Haven Transplantation Center regarding a possible kidney transplant, and you can read it here:

<http://thevalley-voicect.blogspot.com/2016/07/kidney-disease-runs-in-family-i-wish-i.html>

Learn more about Polycystic Kidney Disease - and watch the video:

<http://thevalley-voicect.blogspot.com/2017/03/raising-awareness-of-kidney-disease.html>



The E-Street Gallery

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The Easter Bunny hops down the bunny trail to Ansonia

ANSONIA - Several hundred children and their parents Saturday enjoyed the city's Easter Egg Hunt inside the Ansonia Armory.

The family-oriented event featured lots of candy and fun for all.

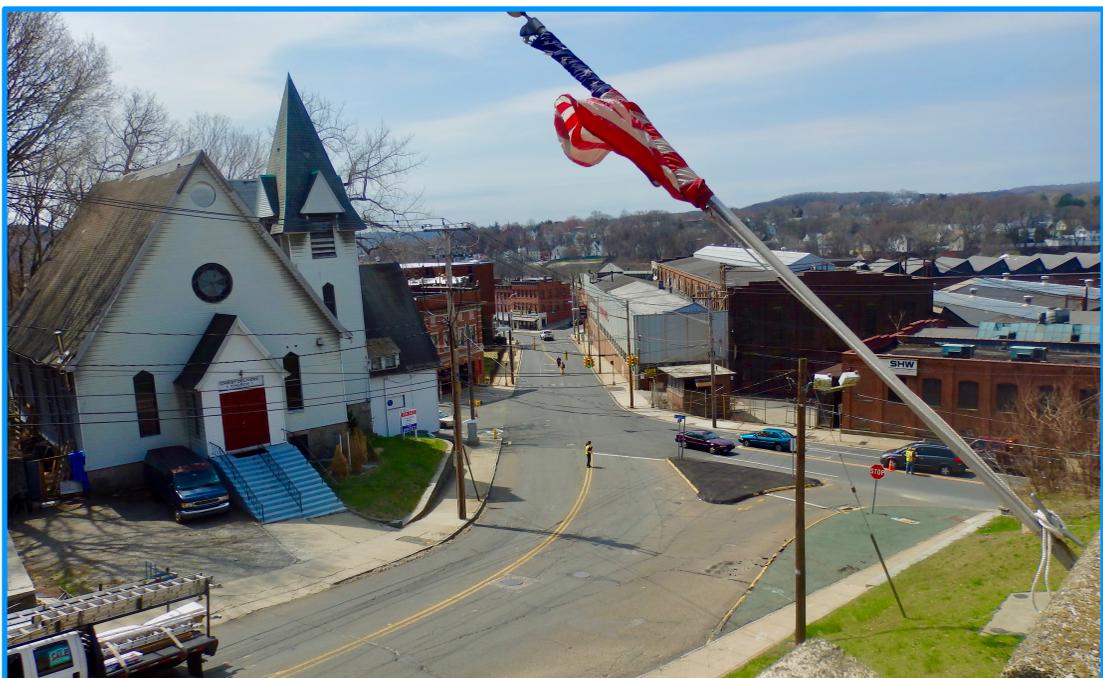
The Easter Bunny even made an appearance to add to the festivities. He hopped around and posed for photos.

Mayor David S. Cassetti welcomed all to the city's first egg hunt. The kids who found the three golden eggs took home extra-large chocolate rabbits as their prizes.

Kudos go to city officials for hosting a great event for the youngest residents of Ansonia to enjoy.



The view downtown



Here's a unique view of downtown seen from the upper floor of the Ansonia Armory facing State Street.

Photo by Patricia Villers

The Valley-Voice CT Publications

Blog: www.thevalley-voicect.blogspot.net Newsletter/Web: www.thevalley-voicect.net

For story Ideas and advertising rates, contact:

Patti at pmcv394@gmail.com or (803) 893-8623 Ralph at thevalley.voicect@gmail.com or (475) 228-1221

The ValleyVoice CT Newsletter Is published by Alcam Writing & Admin LLC, Derby, CT

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