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Hair today, gone tomorrow

*Newton resident
shaves head for
kids with cancer*

By Steve Anear
STAFF WRITER

Andrea Wasik made sure her hair looked perfect before she set out for her high school reunion in Bolton.

"It's all dazzled up for this weekend," she said, with a slight chuckle. "One last shot at vanity."

The Newtonville resident hoped to make a good impression on her former classmates — before she shaved off all of her long, blonde hair for charity.

On June 12, Wasik will take part in One Mission's Kid's Cancer Buzz-Off. The event encourages participants to shave their heads and help raise funds in honor of a child fighting cancer.

HAIR, page 7



STAFF PHOTO BY KEITH E. JACOBSON

Andrea Wasik, a breast cancer survivor, is shaving her head as part of a pediatric cancer research funding effort. The One Mission's Kid's Cancer Buzz-off will be held on Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Best Western Inn at the Longwood Medical Center. Donations can be made at www.firstgiving.com/andreawasik.

Cancer survivor ready to sacrifice hair

HAIR, from page 1

"Hair is something people can be vain about, myself included," she said. "It's a good way to bring home the fact that it isn't that important when it comes to kids with cancer."

A breast cancer survivor, Wasik said when she was diagnosed, she was nervous to lose her hair to chemotherapy.

But when she learned she wouldn't need the treatment, she was relieved. Doctors were able to remove the cancer by performing a mastectomy.

"I was relieved about the hair, but now it's not about me, it's about try-

ing to help kids," she said. "I am nervous. I am definitely nervous. But I can get through it. This is a chance for me to be able to say 'you know what — I didn't do it when cancer could have made me do it, but now I am in charge so I am going to do it.'"

Having raised three children of her own, two of whom are disabled, Wasik said she "understands what it's like to have a sick kid," which makes her reasons for participating in the fundraiser two-fold.

"I have been through the whole Children's Hospital thing many times," she said. "I would rather be sick myself then see my children

If you go
What: One Mission Kid's Cancer Buzz-Off
When: June 12
Where: Best Western Inn, Longwood Medical, Boston
What time: 9 a.m.-noon
How to donate: <http://www.firstgiving.com/andreawasik>

sick."

It's been a year-and-a-half since she was diagnosed with cancer,

and in that time Wasik has started her own business and moved forward with her life.

"I'm feeling good. I am happy to be alive; that's the main thing," said Wasik.

She has even started picking out wigs for after the event.

"I am going to get a short spiky blonde wig and maybe a black wig. Everyone wants the hair color they don't have," she said. "Maybe I'll even get a spiky blue one and have fun with it. Why not? You only live once."

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