

Thomaston sex assault reminder that 'it can happen here'

A sexual assault on the street in Thomaston Sunday was an awakening for residents that their town is not immune from crimes of this nature.

"It can happen anywhere," said Donna Palomba, founder of Jane Doe No More, an organization dedicated to publicizing the prevalence of sexual assaults and helping victims heal. "There is no such thing as 'Not in our neighborhood.'"

Palomba said it is a shock

to a community when residents learn that a sexual assault occurred near their home. "It puts people in paralysis," she said.

On Oct. 27, a jogger in West Hartford was sexually assaulted and afterward joggers were scared. The community rose up and with the help of Jane Doe No More held a self-defense

clinic on Nov. 20. Palomba said 430 women learned basic karate moves to fight off an attacker. In West Hart-

ford's case, a suspect has been charged.

Palomba, a victim of a sexual assault, said people need to be vigilant, because most sex offenders repeat their crime.

"If the community is vigilant we could hopefully help police" catch the man. Palomba offered to help organize a similar event to the one in West Hartford, should anyone in Thomaston or Waretown want her group's support.

For information, visit jane-doenomore.org or call (203) 592-2009.

— *Republican-American*



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Palomba