



Smoke-Free News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 31, 2008

Tell us YOUR story!

Red Wing Meeting

Next Meeting:

February 6, 2008

Noon to 1:00 pm

(Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to Tom Wolff.)

Fairview Red Wing Professional & Community Center
1407 West 4th Street
Red Wing, MN

The old hospital building.

Kenyon Meeting

Next Meeting:

February 7, 2008

6:00 to 7:30 pm

(Dinner is provided. Please RSVP to Tom Wolff.)

Kenyon VFW
601 Second Street
Kenyon, MN

Cannon Falls Meeting

Next Meeting:

February 21, 2008

6:00 to 7:30 pm

(Dinner is provided. Please RSVP to Tom Wolff.)

Brewster's Bar & Grill
115 South 4th Street
Cannon Falls, MN

Minnesota became smoke-free on October 1, 2007. Four months later, many people can't believe smoking was ever permitted in public places and places where people work. "Why did we put up with it for so long?" is now a common question.

How has the smoke-free law benefited you and the people you know? Here are two personal stories from Goodhue County. We would like to hear your story too. (*see We want your story!*)

The change to smoke-free air has created new opportunities for local businesses. Bob and Ros Hjermstad of



Cannon Falls always thought that Applebee's in Red Wing had great food, but they were reluctant to go there because of the smoke. They ate there recently and enjoyed the smoke-free

air as well as the food. Anyone who has eaten at Applebee's has probably noticed that the employees are mainly enthusiastic young adults. What a wonderful benefit for them that they now go to work every day in a healthy environment free from secondhand smoke!

Smokers have also benefited from the change in the law. Brenda Luhman of

Goodhue reports that her brother was a smoker. When he heard that the state legislature had passed the smoke-free law, it made him realize that smoking was not only harming his health, but also the health of those around him who were breathing his smoke. This helped him make the decision to quit. The new law has also been making it easier for him to succeed in quitting. Brenda describes her brother as "a young single guy" who likes to socialize with his friends. Since October 1st, he can get together with his friends at a bar without having to watch people smoke. Many smokers who quit find it very hard to be around other people who are smoking. It triggers the urge to have a cigarette. Congratulations to Brenda's brother for quitting!



We want your story!

Show your support for smoke-free air. Help keep Minnesota smoke-free. How has the smoke-free law benefited you or someone you know? Send us your story today! (*see page 2, "How to Contact Us"*) The first person from each Commissioner District to send in their story will receive a **\$25 gift card** for the restaurant of their choice. *Please write the word "newsletter" on your story.*

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Is the smoke really gone?

It has been four months since Minnesota became smoke-free. Many of you have shared your enthusiastic stories about how much you like the change. Very few people have called to let us know that they have seen someone smoking indoors in violation of state law.

What is happening in your community? A lot of attention has been focused on bars and restaurants, but the new law applies to virtually every place where people work and to all public places. If you are aware of places in Goodhue County where indoor smoking is still occurring, you should call Tom Wolff or Susan Johnson at Goodhue County Public Health Service.

What happens if I call?

Goodhue County Public Health Service is responsible for enforcement of Minnesota's smoke-free law in our county. Here is what happens when we receive a call that someone is smoking indoors in violation of state law.

You don't have to give your name. If you do give your name, we will NOT tell the business who called us. We will ask you to describe where the indoor smoking took place, the date and time of day, and if it appeared to be a customer or someone who works there.

We will visit the business and discuss the situation. The purpose of this visit is to make sure that the person in charge understands why the smoking violates state law. We will also explain their responsibility under the law to ensure that smoking does not occur inside their establishment.

We want to emphasize that for a first report of indoor smoking, the focus is on education. There is still some confusion about the changes in the law. The vast majority of business owners and managers want to comply with state law. We will work with businesses to help them successfully implement the smoke-free law.

Smoke-free Tip of the Month

If you see a customer or employee sneaking a smoke indoors, an alternative to calling Goodhue County Public Health Service to make a complaint is for you to tell the manager or other person in charge. Under the law, they are responsible for keeping the air inside their establishment smoke-free. They may not always notice someone sneaking a smoke.