



TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

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NISKAYUNA TOWN BOARD BANS SMOKING AT TOWN PARKS

Playgrounds, Town Pool and Recreational Areas Are Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces

Niskayuna, N.Y., June 12, 2008 -- The Niskayuna Town Board today approved a measure prohibiting smoking in all Town Parks, which includes the town pool, the hike and bike trail, the playgrounds and the baseball, softball, lacrosse, football and soccer fields.

“This law will help to protect our children from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke whether they are on the playground, the ball fields, or riding their bike,” said Councilwoman Julie McDonnell, who is sponsoring this local law. “Even outside, secondhand smoke is dangerous and tobacco litter on playgrounds can be a hazard to young children who handle cigarette butts they find on the ground. We need to set the right example for our kids today so that we can prevent a new generation of smokers tomorrow,” said Councilwoman McDonnell.

“This local law encourages a healthy lifestyle for our children. Our parks are designed for healthy activities such as walking, running, bicycling, or participating in sporting events, and they should be tobacco-free,” stated Supervisor Joe Landry. “This local law will promote an environment free from the hazards of “second-hand” smoke,” continued Supervisor Landry.

“As a former elementary school teacher, I am pleased that this Town Board is approving a law that will protect the health of our children,” stated Councilwoman Liz Orzel Kasper.

According to the 2007 Community Tobacco Survey provided by the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition:

- 78.3% of Schenectady County residents favor smoke-free playgrounds;
- 78.7% of Schenectady County residents favor smoke-free municipal pools;
- 80.1% of Schenectady County residents are bothered by exposure to second-hand smoke
- 83.9% of adults in Schenectady County do not smoke;
- 80.4% of Schenectady County residents do not allow smoking in their home;
- 83.6% of Schenectady County residents do not allow smoking in their car.