

## Ban public smoking in Somerville

May 16, 2010

Somerville had it's regular car show recently along with other activities, including the outdoor cafes and the sidewalks, which were filled with people of all ages from infants to adults.

We all had one thing in common even though we may each had different experiences. We each had to breathe at least once every 15 seconds. The weather Friday was great and the air relatively clear, which made taking a deep breath of fresh air something to appreciate as only nonsmokers can.

This was short-lived however. The smokers made sure to make their personal habit every else's, by blowing smoke at almost every bench on both sides of the street in front of every eatery where paying customers, trying to enjoy a night out, were forced to breath the dirty, stinky, carcinogen-filled, second-hand smoke blown out of strangers lungs.

The health hazards are proven and the law in New Jersey is in place to protect the public in the smoking ban law which bans smoking in public places as well as within 25 feet in front of any public facility.

Also, it is worth noting that the packs and butts in trash become toxic tea bags of more than 4,000 carcinogen-containing chemicals, including hydrogen cyanide, leaching into our environment after every heavy rainfall and affecting animals, fish or birds if ingested or used as nesting material. And it lasts for years, as the butts are not biodegradable.

This law must be enforced. The reasons are clear and smokers are not the only ones that Main Street was made for, to enjoy.

"DANGER, NO SMOKING," signs should be placed at every bench where the usuals loiter, to protect the public, and summonses can be issued as well. Smokers' personal habits should affect them only, and not the public in any negative manner.

Please call either the Somerville Board of Health, or the mayor's office if you want to breathe healthier and cleaner air in Somerville soon. Ban public

smoking in Somerville now.

EMERY FEKETE

Somerville

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**Mom Dilemma #36:**  
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

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