

Burlington County Times

Evesham proposes outdoor smoking ban

Posted: Tuesday, May 7, 2013 8:30 am | Updated: 10:04 am, Tue May 7, 2013.

By **Todd McHale** Staff writer

EVESHAM — Yet another Burlington County community is ready to make lighting up in a park illegal.

A proposed smoking ban in all the municipality's parks and recreation areas will be up for consideration by the Township Council on Tuesday night.

Citing studies that show exposure to secondhand smoke as a "significant hazard for children, the elderly and individuals affected by cardiovascular disease, impaired respiratory function and asthma," the council introduced an ordinance last month to amend the municipal code and prohibit smoking in its parks.

Mayor Randy Brown said he brought the measure to the council after a fourth-grader wrote a letter to him stating her disappointment with adults smoking in the park. Given the health concerns, Brown and the other council members proposed the ban. "I think it's a step in the right direction," Brown said. "If you're a smoker, you shouldn't be smoking around kids. I think it's common sense."

Before a vote on adoption of the ban, the council will hold a public hearing at its meeting, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the municipal building on Tuckerton Road. The ban would go into effect 20 days after a legal notice of the adopted ordinance is publicized in a local newspaper.

The measure would make it illegal to smoke cigars, cigarettes or pipes at any of the town's 25 parks and recreational areas. Violators would be subject to a fine of up to \$2,000. Township Manager William Cromie said the fine would be determined by the municipal court judge.

The township is following the lead of numerous other communities. To date, more than 160 municipalities across the state have implemented outdoor smoking bans, according to Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (GASP). Six Burlington County towns — Beverly, Burlington Township, Delran, Edgewater Park, Mansfield and Palmyra — have approved restrictions on smoking in their parks and/or on municipal-owned properties. Mount Holly recently began discussions about imposing a smoking ban in its parks.

Todd McHale: 609-871-8163;
email: tmchale@phillyburbs.com; Twitter: @toddmchale

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/burlington_county_times_news/evesham-proposes-outdoor-smoking-ban/article_55620f9f-6ca7-5a4e-9029-bfce324ec727.html