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Little Ferry plans to ban smoking in public parks

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2013 THE RECORD

LITTLE FERRY — The borough may join a growing list of municipalities to ban smoking in public parks and recreation areas.

The council introduced an ordinance this month that will prohibit smoking at all times on all public properties, borough-owned buildings, parks and lands.

Smoking is already banned in municipal buildings and in vehicles registered to the borough.

If the ordinance is adopted after a July 9 public hearing, the borough will be among the 186 counties and municipalities statewide to enact outdoor smoking bans in parks and recreational areas, including playgrounds, ball fields and swimming pools.

In Bergen County, those localities include River Vale, Carlstadt, Paramus and River Edge, according to New Jersey Global Advisors on Smoke Free Policy, or GASP, an advocacy group that champions smoke-free public places.

After River Edge started exploring banning smoking in parks, which it did last month, Councilman Thomas Sarlo, who serves as River Edge's borough attorney, proposed that Little Ferry do the same.

In Little Ferry, anyone found smoking in an outdoor area where smoking is prohibited faces a fine of at least \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense, and \$250 for the third offense and subsequent offences, according to the proposed ordinance.

- Denisa R. Superville

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