

## No butts about it: Little Ferry bans smoking in parks

WEDNESDAY JULY 10, 2013, 3:45 PM

BY MARK KRULISH

STAFF WRITER

LITTLE FERRY LOCAL

**LITTLE FERRY** - Smoking in all public parks in [Little Ferry](#) is now banned under the new ordinance that was passed at the July 9 Mayor and Council meeting.

[Little Ferry](#) now officially joins 24 other municipalities in [Bergen County](#) that restrict outdoor smoking by an ordinance or resolution. Nineteen municipalities require parks to be 100 percent smoke free.

"It is a trend that is growing throughout the state," said Councilman Sarlo. "State parks and county parks have banned smoking and now many municipalities are, too. It was already banned in our municipal buildings, so I thought we should take it one step further."

Sarlo has been the driving force behind getting passage of the ordinance since he first proposed it several months ago.

"I thought it was time for this municipality to take a hard look at our parks and to protect our children from the dangers of smoking as much as we can," he said.

The ordinance gained a lot of support including that of Mayor Mauro Raguseo and Council President Ron Anzalone, both of whom have stated that the ordinance would reinforce the message to both children and adults that smoking, include second-hand smoke, has many health risks.

"It sends a strong message to the children in the park that it is not okay to smoke and that there are dangers in smoking," Sarlo said.

Sarlo also credited the borough's eighth grade students that served in the student government program and heard a presentation made by Global Advisors for Smokefree Policy at the Mayor for a Day meeting back in May. Their enthusiastic response to the idea helped.

"I give the students a lot of credit," said Sarlo. "When we did student government day here, they really took the initiative when the presentation was made and asked them a lot of questions that needed to be asked. So I give them a lot of credit in helping this pass."

The Little Ferry Mayor and Council were presented metal signs at no cost to the borough by Alan Kantz, a representative from Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (GASP). The signs will be posted in all parks and recreational areas in the borough. GASP will also provide Little Ferry with waterproof stickers that contain the ordinance number to be stuck on the bottom of the sign.

"I want to say thank you to Councilman Sarlo, I know he has been working hard to make sure this ordinance comes to pass," said Kantz. "I'm very happy to see the Council consider this. It's a good addition to any community and it's an exciting thing to see happen across the state."

The ordinance was passed unanimously by the council.

Krulish@northjersey.com

- See more at:

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/214954931\\_No\\_butts\\_about\\_it\\_\\_Little\\_Ferry\\_bans\\_smoking\\_in\\_parks.html?page=all#sthash.zRORONbx.dpuf](http://www.northjersey.com/news/214954931_No_butts_about_it__Little_Ferry_bans_smoking_in_parks.html?page=all#sthash.zRORONbx.dpuf)