

Northern Valley Suburbanite www.northjersey.com

Tenaflly officials aim to put out cigarettes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

BY STEPHANIE SIMONE, STAFF WRITER, NORTHERN VALLEY SUBURBANITE

TENAFLY - The governing body introduced an ordinance banning smoking in borough buildings, parks, and athletic courts on Oct 22. - See more at:

Tenaflly is following the footsteps of other North Jersey municipalities that have considered the idea or passed similar measures restricting the act of "lighting up" in public places.

The proposal for the ordinance came after Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin discovered that Tenaflly lacked such a policy for its buildings. The Department of Public Works was interested in posting signage warning smokers to stay away from public buildings, but after further investigation, Thompson-Chin and the DPW found the borough did not have a policy in place.

After discussing the proposal on Sept. 24, officials decided to include parks and athletic courts in the ordinance. "I wouldn't want to be in Froggy Park and have several people smoking in an area full of children," Councilwoman Nadia LaMastra said.

According to Councilwoman Martha Kerge, the move is a very important one and if someone needs to smoke, they can do it in their cars.

Consensus from the council is to move forward with the plans, which solidifies the school district's enforcement of its own rules restricting smoking. Extending the ordinance to cover the district was a question Councilman Barry Honig raised during previous discussions. "The district already has a rule prohibiting smoking on all its facilities and properties," Mayor Peter Rustin said.

As per the ordinance, smoking will be prohibited in every room, chamber, lobby, hallway, restroom, plaza, and other common areas in any public building; any entrance or exit areas of any public buildings where smoke may enter the air people breathe through such as entrances, exits, windows or ventilation systems; any vehicles owned and/or leased, in part or entirely, by the Borough of Tenaflly; on any public property including parks, recreations area playgrounds, and swimming pools. This prohibition on smoking does not extend to individuals in privately owned vehicles, provided that all debris is retained within the vehicle.

The ordinance continues to state: "Smoking and/or the carrying of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other combustible substance, in any manner or any form, including vapor from an electronic smoking device, shall be prohibited at all times, in all borough parks, playgrounds, playing fields, recreation facilities, and recreational areas. This includes all public areas adjacent to such parks and facilities, including but not limited to the seating areas, parking areas, paths, walkways, driveways, or drive aisles."

http://www.northjersey.com/news/230936131_Tenaflly_officials_aim_to_put_out_cigarettes.html