

Friday, February 17, 2006

Now is time to make Woodridge smoke-free

Back in September, I proposed that Woodridge go 100 percent smoke-free.

The majority of the Village Board did not want to be the first municipality in the area to enact a smoking ban, fearing economic losses for our restaurants and bars because smokers could simply go to the next town over to eat and drink.

The official position of the Village Board was to "wait and see" what other communities were going to do. The wait is over.

The Illinois General Assembly is considering a statewide smoking ban (House Bill 4338). This would provide a level economic playing field for all Illinois communities because smoking customers could no longer take their business to a restaurant or bar in a neighboring town that allowed smoking.

If the statewide smoking ban fails, I will move forward with a separate smoking ban for Woodridge and will work together with our neighboring communities to coordinate a regional smoking ban.

Public health must take priority over private profit or tax revenue.

Please contact your state legislators and urge them to support HB 4338 to make "Illinois Smoke-Free." You can find your legislators at www.ilga.gov, and can access more information about HB 4338 and Smoke-Free Woodridge at www.robert-brandt.org.

Robert Brandt

Trustee, village of Woodridge