

Friday, February 17, 2006

All public areas should be smoke free

I request the Woodridge Village Board take whatever steps needed to make our public areas smoke free. With less than 18 percent of DuPage County smoking, it would follow that we have a clear majority on "no smoking" as the priority of the people you represent.

A few additional thoughts:

- Why should this decision be left in the hands of the businesses when there is a clear conflict of interest? We know it would be an unknown risk for any one restaurant/bar/business to choose to become a non-smoking environment while their competition does not. For that reason the leaders need to take charge.

- Why should businesses get to decide for all involved (i.e. workers and patrons) on such a known and serious health risk? Do we let corporations decide if they dump toxins into the air and waters? I think that Woodridge officials should treat this like a "how do we transition to non-smoking" rather than be followers waiting for someone else to make the call.

- Going non-smoking sends fair and important message to all smokers: "You can slowly kill yourself smoking if you choose, but you do not have the right to slowly kill me or my family."

I look forward to the day where I can bowl, eat out or go to the park and not have to worry about getting up and leaving because of smoking. Please fully support no smoking in public places.

Mary McIlvain
Woodridge