

# Smoking ban at least six months away

By Don Grigas

Staff writer

Even if Woodridge adopts a smoking ban as early as May, village officials say smokers and businesses still will have until Sunday, July 1, to prepare for enforcement of a smoke-free ordinance.

During a Dec. 7 Woodridge Village Board meeting, Mayor William Murphy outlined a timetable for potential adoption of a villagewide smoking ban. He also said an awareness campaign likely would happen prior to the implementation of a smoke-free ordinance to give residents and businesses time to prepare for such legislation.

"We could have a draft ordinance on the table by March and could vote on it by May, but there needs to be some time to educate the public," Murphy said.

Another reason for waiting until July 1 is to coincide with other municipalities that could be enacting the same ordinance, Murphy said.

The village has considered a smoking ban for several months but wanted to wait until DuPage County or other neighboring communities enacted their own ordinances.

According to a suggested timeline provided in the booklet titled "Smoke Free DuPage/Targeting a tobacco free future," the village could create a draft ordinance in January or February and conduct public hearings on the issue in April. The Village Board could vote on an ordinance in May, then conduct a public awareness campaign over the following two months before an ordinance goes into effect July 1.