

# Letters to the editor

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Woodridge Reporter

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## People have 'right' to breathe smoke-free air

Hundreds of people who support the smoking ban in Woodridge have not been heard. Although the village hearing on March 1 was well attended by smoking ban opponents, the remarks of the over 200 people who left messages on the public comment line were not reflected in your article "Public speaks out against smoking ban" on March 22.

Woodridge businesses who are concerned that business revenue would decrease need to know that there are plenty of patrons that would come back to your establishments if the smoking ban is approved. Restaurants would be frequented more often by people who cannot currently dine out due to the fact that cigarette smoke does not read the nonsmoking signs. Although it was a noble effort by a few local restaurants to voluntarily try to accommodate both smoking and nonsmoking patrons, it was not met with much success. This is due to the nonuniform hours for the different groups and also from non-enforcement of the voluntary smoking ban when it is in place. Residents need to know that their health is not at risk when they go out in public. Currently, Woodridge residents have to travel to other towns to be able to dine out in a smoke-free facility where restaurants are always smoke-free. These Woodridge residents would prefer to be spending money in Woodridge rather than in other communities and that will happen once the smoking ban becomes effective on July 1 → UPDATE - The Woodridge Smoking Ban was indefinitely postponed.

Children have the right to grow up in a place where they can go out in public and not have their health at risk due to the hazards of second-hand cigarette smoke and its 60-some known carcinogens. We all have that right.

**Sandra Knight**  
Woodridge