

# The Record

## Wayne passes ordinance to ban smoking in all parks

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2012, 6:25 PM

BY [DEBRA WINTERS](#)

STAFF WRITER

WAYNE TODAY

**WAYNE** - Soon [Wayne](#) Township will be joining area municipalities by putting forth a ban on smoking within its municipal parks, swimming pools, lakes, and parking areas. The ordinance passed last week unanimously by the town council.

The new law goes into effect Sept. 27, and also bans electronic cigarettes, which are becoming widely popular with those attempting to quit smoking.

According to Mayor Chris Vergano, the township had banned smoking in certain facilities such as Waks Park or Barbour Pond Park and town run swimming facilities however this ordinance will ban smoking in all parks including pocket parks where parents take their children to play.

"This really tightens up our ordinance we currently have and improves upon it. [Wayne](#) will join other communities that are going to have healthier parks for our kids," Vergano said.

The New Jersey chapter of Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (GASP) has been following [Wayne](#)'s movement towards passing the ban. A representative at the meeting applauded the township's efforts.

"I'm excited to see one more municipality join the ranks of being smoke free," said Alan Katz, a NJGASP program manager.

The Center for Prevention and Counseling in Newton also commended the council.

"It's important for the children to see that people are exercising and not smoking," stated Cindy Meakem, a center representative.

Councilman Al Sadowski noted that there was an editorial that day in The Record about smoking ban in another town.

"A Gallup Poll last year found 59 percent of respondents support a ban on smoking in all public places, the first time the number has tipped into the majority since the polling organization first asked the question in 2001," he said. "The most succinct part of this editorial - 'slowly, the nation's attitude toward smoking is changing for the better. If a person wants to smoke, fine. But endangering the lives of others in the process is not fine.'"

Other towns that already have similar bans in place include [Clifton](#), [Pequannock](#), [Paramus](#), [Paterson](#), and [Passaic](#).

"It's important to especially protect children from second-hand smoke when we're enjoying our parks and recreational facilities," said Council President Joseph Scuralli.

According to NJGASP, only 15 percent of the adult population smokes and 85 percent do not. Over 100 government entities across the state have enacted smoke-free air bans to protect health, control litter, reduce fires, guard infants and animals from ingesting harmful tobacco waste, and reduce environmental toxicity.

"It's good that we've come this far and our children won't be exposed to what was the 'norm.' Hopefully someday we'll have no one smoking," said Councilman Alan Purcell.