

## NEWS

### Union County Approves Smoking Ban for Parks, Recreational Facilities

The new policy will apply to Briant Park.

By **Kristin Thorne** June 16, 2010

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If you ever lit up a cigarette at a county-owned pool, ball field or playground you won't be able to anymore.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has amended a no smoking policy in county-owned buildings to include all county-owned recreational areas and facilities. The facilities include ice-skating rinks, playgrounds, running tracks, swimming pools, snack bars, ball fields, tennis courts, boating areas (docks structures) and rest rooms which are located in any county-owned recreational areas.



"Recreational areas are used by families with children and our priority is to protect children from the effects of second-hand smoke," said Vice Chairman Deborah Scanlon.

The new policy will apply to Briant Park. It will also apply to several nearby parks which Summit residents use including Phil Rizzuto Park in Union, Echo Lake Park in Mountainside and Lenape Park in Cranford. The policy will also be enforced at Watchung Stables and Trailside Gardens in Mountainside.

Those using nearby pools will also have to be aware of the new policy. It will be enforced at Walter E. Ulrich Memorial Pool in Rahway and John Russell Wheeler Memorial Pool in Linden.

Appropriate signs will be posted in the areas. Violators are subject to a fine of \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

Under the new policy, the county may also prohibit smoking at county-sponsored events, such as concerts, fairs, festivals, movies and other events at the discretion of the County Manager and with the approval of the Board of Freeholders. Appropriate signs would be displayed at such events.

"The bottom line is that exposure to second hand smoke should be a serious health concern for everyone. New Jersey has successfully enacted anti-smoking laws in the recent past and the end result is that we are healthier for it," Scanlon said.



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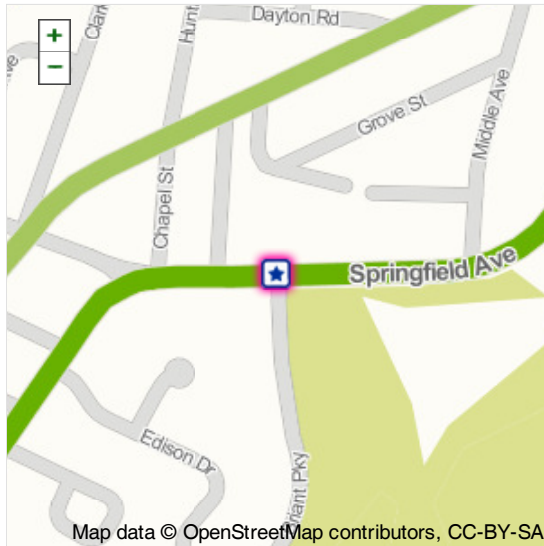
**qaz668**

6:28pm on Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Smoke without bothering others, even legally in areas tobacco is not allowed! If you are interested in "smoking" without the tar, carbon monoxide, or thousands of chemicals in cigarette smoke, you might want to think about switching to an electronic cigarette. It does not burn like a traditional cigarette. Instead, the nicotine is vaporized into steam by an atomizer which allows the user to inhale a vapor that looks and feels just like smoke.

It comes in a variety of strengths so you can step down if you want to with descending levels of nicotine, from 16 mg all the way down to 0 mg. I am confident that you are avoiding tobacco cigarettes which produce over 4000 chemicals in their smoke.

My mother has had a great experience with her electronic cigarette from <http://www.CleanGreenNicotine.com>.



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