

ShopRite to stop selling tobacco products

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for The Central Record**

ShopRite of Medford and Lawnside will stop selling cigarettes and electronic cigarettes at both stores as of Jan. 1.

The announcement comes on the heels of a wellness program at ShopRite that stresses a team approach of dietitians and pharmacists. Counseling sessions and resources are offered to help customers and employees make the decision to quit smoking or help them with behavioral modifications needed to be successful with quitting.

“With smoking being the number-one cause of preventable death and disease in our country, it is important for us to focus on the health and well-being of our customers and employees,” says Renee Zallie, who with her husband David own both stores.

“We are happy to join other retailers in becoming part of the public health solution – making the next generation tobacco-free,” says Renee whose educational background is in public health.

Both stores have a combined \$500,000 a year in cigarette sales.

The statistics on tobacco, of course, are startling. Tobacco use is said to be the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the U.S. Just under 1 in every 5 adults smoke. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. for both men and women, according to the American Cancer Society.

Smoking also has a dramatic effect on economic costs. Between 2009 and 2012 smoking attributable economic costs were between \$289 and \$332.5 billion each year in the United States, including \$132.5 to \$175.9 billion for direct medical care of adults according to the US Surgeon General Report 2014.

Research suggests that people who smoke are also harming others who are near. Each year about 3,400 non-smoking adults die of lung cancer as a result of breathing second-hand smoke. Each year second-hand smoke also causes about 42,000 deaths from heart disease in people who are not current smokers. (Cancer Facts & Figures 2014)

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