

Burlington County Times

Cinnaminson snuffs out smoking at parks, municipal properties

By Todd McHale Staff writer | August 24, 2015

CINNAMINSON — Smokers soon will need to keep their butts out of local parks and every other property the municipality owns or operates.

A smoking ban will go into effect in a matter of days following approval of an ordinance last week by the Township Committee to make the practice illegal on township property.

Violators of the smoking ban would be subject to a \$250 fine for a first offense, \$500 for a second time and \$1,000 for anyone caught a third time within a year.

Township Administrator Michael King said the committee decided to take this action due to concerns of secondhand smoke from people smoking outside the municipal building and the amount of litter.

“We spend a lot of time cleaning up cigarette butts, especially on court days,” King said.

The ban, which also includes electronic smoking devices, will cover all the municipality’s parks and passive recreation areas as well as the parking lot. In addition, smoking would be prohibited at all structures and property owned, leased, rented and or operated by the township or occupied by employees and used for official business, including the municipal building, library, police station, Public Works facility and war memorial.

Township resident Cindy Pierson, president of the Watchdogs of the Watersheds, who has committed countless hours over the years to cleaning up areas along the Pompeston Creek, believes the committee made the right decision for a variety of reasons.

“As a smoker who is trying to be a former smoker, I’m all for this (ban),” Pierson said, “not just because of the secondhand smoke, but also for the litter. When we do park cleanups, we pick up cigarette butts more than anything.”

The ban officially goes into effect 20 days after publication of the measure to change the code in a local newspaper.

http://m.burlingtoncountytimes.com/news/local/cinnaminson-snuffs-out-smoking-at-parks-municipal-properties/article_0d3d669e-4dab-5f6d-baa2-5092eaa4f452.html?mode=jqm