



Forsyth County
Department of Public Health

C. Timothy Monroe, M.D.
Health Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Forsyth County Department of Public Health

Phone: 336-703-3260

Date: 12/28/09

Residents Celebrate Cleaner Air with “Tasty Tuesdays”
Smoke-Free Bars and Restaurants Law Takes Effect January 2nd

Winston Salem – Ever wish you could enjoy that entrée without the odor of cigarette smoke? At midnight on January 2, the remaining restaurants, bars and other businesses that serve food and drink in Forsyth County will become smoke-free, to the delight of health advocates and the many local residents who are looking forward to healthier nights out. This will happen as a result of a new law that prohibits smoking in all restaurants and bars across North Carolina.

“The new smoke-free law will help protect workers and customers from the known health hazards of secondhand smoke, and may encourage many folks to eat out more than ever, now that doing so will be safer,” said C. Timothy Monroe, Health Director.

Many communities around the state are hosting local events to celebrate the new law, passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Beverly Perdue in May. The Forsyth County TRU Youth Advisory Council, a group of teen advocates, will celebrate the new law during a dinner celebration in January at a local restaurant. Event planning is underway.

The Healthy Community Coalition has been diligently working to develop toolkits for the local restaurants and bars with additional materials to help in compliance with the new law. The toolkits will include coasters, table tents, window stickers, and 1-page handouts about the law that restaurant and bar managers can use during this great transition.

“We are encouraging everyone to participate in ‘Tasty Tuesdays’ by eating out each Tuesday in January to support the new smoke-free restaurants and bars law and to express appreciation to restaurants and bars doing their part to create a healthier North Carolina,” said Yalonda Miller, Youth Tobacco Prevention Coordinator. “You don’t need a coupon or any special equipment to participate in Tasty Tuesdays – just head out to eat on Tuesday nights in January.”

"Going Smoke-Free is the best thing we could have done for Vincenzo's. It has helped increase business and we should have done it years ago," said Richard Patella, Manager of Vincenzo's Italian Restaurant that went smoke-free on September 1, 2008.

For more information about the law or to report a violation, visit www.smokefree.nc.gov or call the CARE-LINE at 1-800-662-7030. Information is also available by calling the Forsyth County Health Department at 336-703-3260 or by visiting www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth.

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