

Tobacco-free Township Property

Sylvania Township trustees have passed a policy which expands prohibitions against smoking to make all township property tobacco-free.

Smoking has not been allowed in township buildings for years, but under the new restrictions there will be no more areas designated for smoking outside the buildings or anywhere on township property.

The policy is for all fire stations, police headquarters and sub-stations as well as the township hall and the public works facilities on that site.

Susan Wood, assistant township administrator and human resources director, said the policy is not only for employees, but for visitors to township property as well.

The policy states that "due to the acknowledged hazards arising from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, increased medical costs and safety factors," the township will provide a tobacco-free environment.

The policy includes "spit" tobacco and any form of smokeless tobacco.

It is to take effect Nov. 1.

Ms. Wood said the township will provide smoking cessation classes, and products meant to aid in smoking cessation under the township's health care program.

The policy also states that the township will not offer employment to tobacco users.

New employees on or after Nov. 1 will be subject to testing for the presence of nicotine during their probationary period. Refusal to take the test or a positive result will subject the employee to termination.