



Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

JANUARY 2020 Vol 36 Number 1



ANSR staff photo

Golden Valley became the 13th community in Minnesota to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products and 51st to pass Tobacco 21.

Golden Valley raises tobacco sales age to 21, restricts sale of flavored tobacco

With the youth of Minnesota in the midst of a vaping epidemic and severe lung damage a hot topic across the country, the Golden Valley City Council let the tobacco industry know where it stands in the fight to protect youth from the harms of tobacco. The City Council voted unanimously Oct. 15 on a number of measures aimed at protecting youth, including raising the tobacco sales age to 21, prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, setting a minimum price for previously cheap, flavored cigars and barring Golden Valley pharmacies from holding tobacco licenses.

Menthol-, candy- and fruit-flavored tobacco products are attractive to youth, and the tobacco industry uses these flavors to hook a new generation of users, resulting in addiction, disease and death. Eighty percent of youth tobacco users use flavored tobacco.

“We all struggle with the impact on businesses, but this is a public health crisis,” Golden Valley council member Gillian Rosenquist said. “Gov. (Tim) Walz called on the Legislature to take on these actions. This is truly a need. We are not outliers in this.”

Golden Valley is the 51st

community in Minnesota to raise the tobacco sales age to 21, with Saint James and Scandia also passing Tobacco 21 on Oct. 15. West Saint Paul raised the age to 21 the previous night. New student data survey results released earlier in October show an alarming jump in the rate of teens vaping in Minnesota. According to the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey, one in four Minnesota 11th graders reported using an e-cigarette in the past 30 days. That is a 54 percent increase from the 2016 survey. Overall youth tobacco use had already taken an upward swing in

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

2017 for the first time in 17 years because of e-cigarette and flavored cigar use.

“What Golden Valley has done may very well be the new gold standard in local tobacco control efforts,” Emily Anderson, Program Manager, at the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota, said. “The city has decided

to address the human and economic costs of tobacco head on by restricting how and where tobacco is sold in their community. There’s no doubt that the changes they’ve made will save lives.”

Council members thanked fellow member Larry Fonnest for bringing the measures to their attention.

“I didn’t know about all the vaping,” council member Joanie Clausen said. “I went from one end of the spectrum to the other. I support this whole ball of wax.”

Fonnest said, “Thank you to everyone. This is a topic I’ve felt passionate about for many years. In October of 2004, Golden Valley passed one of the

most stringent clean indoor air ordinances, now here we are about to make history.

“I’m proud of all of us. Thanks to all the organizations who came out.”

Golden Valley is the 13th Minnesota community to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco and the 10th to also restrict the sale of menthol.

Saint Anthony Villages passes T21



ANSR staff photo

Saint Anthony Village resident Julie Philbrook, who is a nurse, spoke to the City Council about the need to raise the tobacco sales age to 21 to prevent youth access to tobacco products.

Saint Anthony Village, Minn. – Communities in Minnesota continue to work to protect youth from the harms of tobacco, and particularly vaping, by raising the tobacco sales age to 21. Saint Anthony Village took this step on Oct. 8 as the City Council voted unanimously in favor of Tobacco 21, making it the 47th community in Minnesota to do so.

Youth e-cigarette use continues to climb.

“We’ve had people in the community asking for this,” council member Randy Stille said. “It’s been evident this is something our residents would like to see. If we can be leaders in helping combat this epidemic, we’re glad to do so.”

Several Saint Anthony Village residents spoke during the three-meeting process. Julie Philbrook, a nurse and resident, talked about

losing her father and sister-in-law to smoking-related illnesses. She has a teenage daughter and does not want to see her daughter or any other youth from Saint Anthony Village become addicted to tobacco or nicotine.

“With the addition of vaping, now people can inhale these chemicals with little detection by teachers and parents,” Philbrook said. “The tell-tale smell of tobacco or marijuana smoke has been replaced with bubble gum and fruit scents.”

Ann Trench was one of the residents who first spoke out about the issue, bringing it to the attention of council member Thomas Randle.

“I’m very happy to see the city council agreed to raise the tobacco sales age to 21,” Trench said. “I’m especially grateful for Tom Randle’s support. He listened when I brought this to him.”

The ANSR Bulletin is published quarterly.

For more information, contact ANSR at:

2395 University Ave. West, Ste. 310, St. Paul, MN 55114 or at (651) 646-3005.
Permission to reprint articles with credit to ANSR granted. For an online version of the newsletter, go to ANSR’s website at www.ansrmn.org.





ANSR staff photo

Saint Paul passed Tobacco 21 in October, becoming one of just 10 Minnesota cities with T21 that also restricts flavored tobacco products.

Saint Paul increases tobacco sales age to 21

Saint Paul – A longtime leader in protecting youth from the harms of tobacco, Saint Paul now is one of just 10 cities in Minnesota that restricts all flavored tobacco will raise the tobacco sales age to 21.

The Saint Paul City Council voted unanimously on Oct. 16 in favor of Tobacco 21, making it the 53rd community in Minnesota to do so.

“Saint Paul has been a longtime leader in youth tobacco prevention, and we appreciate the leadership

shown by the council tonight in becoming the 53rd community in Minnesota to raise the tobacco age to 21,” said Kristen Ackert, Policy and Research Manager at the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota.

With e-cigarette use among youth continuing to rise, communities in Minnesota are working to combat what the U.S. Surgeon General has called an “epidemic.”

Council member Chris Tolbert pointed to the green shirts of the

Tobacco 21 supporters, which quotes the stat “Approximately 95% of adult smokers started before they were 21. If youth don’t start before 21, they likely never will,” and said that was why he supported the measure.

Saint Paul joins a small club that has restricted all flavored tobacco and raised the tobacco sales age to 21. It includes Minneapolis, Duluth, Mendota Heights, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, Lilydale, Arden Hills, Golden Valley and Hennepin County.

FDA takes federal action on tobacco products

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took action to further regulate tobacco products in the U.S. in response to the e-cigarette epidemic the nation is facing. The FDA took two action steps: It increased the age to purchase to 21 years old, and it restricted the sale of many flavored, non-refillable cartridges used in e-cigarettes.

It is now illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 years old. However, enforcement is not scheduled to begin until September 2020.

Beginning Feb. 6, 2020, no flavored tobacco products in non-refillable pods should be sold. Unfortunately, these restrictions do not include menthol/mint pods, which are appealing to youth and have had a devastating impact on the African American and LGBTQ communities. It was aimed at JUUL, but knockoff brands filled the void and are readily available. Suorin and Smok, two popular “Pod Mods” that can be refilled with flavored e-juice, will still be legal.

ANSR receives funding

This past fall, ANSR was one of 15 organizations that received funding from the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Health POWER (People Organizing and Working for Equitable Results) program.

With this funding, ANSR will continue to promote the Don't Discount My Life (www.DontDiscountMyLife.org) campaign along with other tobacco prevention policy strategies in Saint Paul and Ramsey County.

This is a three-year funding initiative that started November 1, 2019. The ANSR team looks forward to collaborating and networking with fellow organizations through the cohort model. See the formal award at <http://bit.ly/BCBSaward>

Give to the Max Day 2019
 Thanks to everyone who made this another fabulous day. Your generous contributions totaled \$16,460, making it one of ANSR's best Give to the Max Days yet!
 If you missed it, don't worry, you can give to ANSR any day of the year by visiting us at: www.ansrmn.org and clicking on the donate button.



MPRC staff photo

Professionals in substance misuse prevention fields and community coalitions attend the 45th annual Prevention Program Sharing conference held in Duluth in October.

More than 200 professionals attend Program Sharing

The Minnesota Prevention Resource Center (MPRC) hosted its 45th Prevention Program Sharing Conference, gathering more than 200 Minnesotans working in substance misuse prevention, prevention-related fields, and community coalitions.

Held Oct. 23–24 in Duluth, the 2019 conference opened with keynote Anne Phibbs exploring how to engage authentically across difference, before breaking out into sessions on a range of topics: substance-specific MN research, building community coalitions, using data and technology to refine prevention efforts, engaging youth, rural, and marginalized communities, and many more.

Day 2 keynote Josh Dye explored leveraging failure to innovate and lead, with breakout sessions following

to close out the conference.

Evaluative data showed an overwhelmingly positive response to the session content, the location shift to Duluth, and the overall conference experience.

MPRC is thrilled with these results, having accomplished it with just three staff (two of them new hires) and a handful of volunteers (thanks ANSR)! The next conference, Oct. 22–23, 2020, will see a return to St. Cloud, and the call for session abstracts is already open. Do you have prevention work to share—research, tactics, or a successful project that could inform other prevention professionals and community coalitions?

Apply to be a breakout presenter by Feb. 28! Conference registration opens May/June 2020.

Live Smoke Free staff attend Texas conference

Live Smoke Free attended the NAHRO National Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, Texas, on Oct. 10-11, as part of Clean Air for All: The Smoke-Free Public Housing Project. Clean Air for All had a strong presence at the conference, including a breakout session and an exhibition booth.

The breakout session included a panel of experts who discussed hot topics in smoke-free housing, such as e-cigarettes and marijuana, how to detect smoking violations, and connecting with resources for cessation services and support.

Panelists included representatives from the American Cancer Society, Live Smoke Free, Lonoke County Housing Authority, NAHRO, and the Public Health Law Center. The presentation ended with a lively Q&A session. Seventy-five public housing agency staff attended the session and received a Compliance and Enforcement Toolkit from Clean Air for All. The toolkit contains educational resources, sample forms,

and communications materials to help public housing agencies maintain their smoke-free policies.

The Clean Air for All booth in the conference exhibition hall provided numerous resources for conference-goers, including implementation materials, cessation information, referrals to local support, and Compliance and Enforcement Toolkits. More than 100 conference-goers signed up for Clean Air for All's e-newsletter to receive smoke-free housing news, events, resources, and tips.

Clean Air for All: The Smoke-Free Public Housing Project is a collaboration of Live Smoke Free and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

It provides training and technical assistance to public housing agencies, resident services staff, and public housing residents impacted by HUD's smoke-free public housing rule. Clean Air for All is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



Submitted photo

Live Smoke Free's Jackie Siewert and partner Alison Freeman, formerly of the EPA and national expert in tobacco and secondhand smoke, exhibit at the conference.

ANSR Membership Form

Already a member? Not your renewal date? Pass this form along to someone you think might be interested. Share your newsletter.



I want to help ANSR's ongoing work:

- Guarantor ___\$100 ___ \$200 ___ Other
- Sustaining member ___\$50 ___ \$75
- Contributing member ___\$30 ___ \$40
- Regular member ___ \$25
- Associate member ___\$15 ___ \$10

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zipcode _____

H (____) _____ (W) _____

Home/Work Telephone _____

Email address _____

ANSR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Anyone wishing to donate to ANSR or renew their membership online may do so at www.ansrmn.org/donate

Please mail this form with your check to:
Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota
 2395 University Ave. W., Suite 310
 St. Paul, MN 55114-1512



Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota
2395 University Ave. W., Suite 310
St. Paul, MN 55114-1512

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No.
2985

*Thank you for all you
do for ANSR. Please
consider sharing this
newsletter with a friend!*



ANSR Bulletin

www.ansrmn.org

'19 compliance numbers up

The North Suburban Tobacco Compliance Project (NSTCP) completed two underage tobacco sales checks in each of 13 participating cities. The overall compliance rate was 95.4%. This is higher than 2018, when the compliance rate was 92.5%.

Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Shoreview, and White Bear Township had 100 percent compliance on both checks.

There were 15 new students in the program, bringing the total to 30 participants. Several of the students are able to conduct Tobacco 21 checks.

Vendors in participating cities are notified about the free online vendor training, Stop Sales to Minors, which is available at www.stopsalestominors.org. This format allows vendors to complete the training at their convenience.

NSTCP also conducted one in-person vendor training in 2019. NSTCP offers law enforcement, decision makers, vendors, and communities a proven and comprehensive method to ensure youth don't have access to tobacco.

Funding issues on horizon

The tobacco industry does not stop. We can't either.

ANSR is facing a dramatic change in our funding. For the past 20 years ANSR has received grants from ClearWay-MN that have sustained our policy work at the state and local level. ClearWay's money came from the tobacco lawsuit settlement with a requirement to spend it on prevention and treatment programs within 25 years.

The time has flown, and ClearWay issued its last round of funding a year ago. It is now closing its programs, including the free tobacco quit line. ClearWay's funding for ANSR is slated to end June 2020. This leaves a huge hole in our budget. Your regular membership contribution to ANSR is a valuable part of our support, but we hope some of our loyal members will be able to do even more. Do you know

someone who might be willing to donate \$1,000 or more? If you do, please call Jeanne Weigum at 651-646-3005, so we can discuss how they can be a part of our solution.

If you are of an age when you are required to take an annual withdrawal from your IRA, which you then need to pay taxes on, you might be in a position to help us in a way that helps both of us. Taxpayers can assign part of their annual IRA minimum distribution to a nonprofit and neither the taxpayer nor ANSR pays taxes on that distribution. If that sounds like something you would like to do or want more information about, call Jeanne or our Finance Director, Tony Bangasser, for more information.

As a faithful member you have been a valuable part of ANSR for many years. Together we can continue to reduce the harms of tobacco.