

THE ANSR

Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

APRIL 2019 Vol 35 Number 2



ANSR staff photo

Advocates celebrate after Arden Hills restricts the sale of flavored tobacco products and raises the tobacco sales age to 21.

Arden Hills restricts flavors, becomes latest T21 city

Arden Hills took aim at the tobacco industry when the City Council voted unanimously to raise the tobacco sales age to 21 and ban the sale of flavored tobacco on March 25.

Caitlin Young, a nursing student at Bethel University said, "I have directly seen the impacts of smoking in ways that many young people have not. I want to stand up for both my peers and future generations to help end tobacco use and advocate for healthier

communities."

In addition to joining the Tobacco 21 movement, Arden Hills voted to ban all flavored tobacco products from the city. 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.

Continued on Page 2

It's plant & garage sale time!

Are you ready to get your thrifting on? It's that time of year again. We're getting ready for our 36th Annual ANSR Plant & Garage Sale.

The sale will be on May 17-18, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day at 1647 Laurel Ave., Saint Paul. Mark your calendars and get ready to join us and shop. As always, we need your stuff. Best for us are small items, such as housewares, jewelry, tools, books, CDs/DVDs, collectibles and decorator items. We no longer take clothing, TVs, exercise equipment or large furniture.

Do you have time to help? We always need help collecting saleable items before the sale, organizing and pricing things the day before the sale and working the sale itself. We would love your assistance. Please call Jeanne at (651-) 646-3005 to volunteer or talk about other ways you can help.

Continued from Page 1

Arden Hills is the 29th community in Minnesota to raise the tobacco sales age to 21, with the vote coming just hours behind Albert Lea, which became the 28th city earlier in the evening.

Edina, Saint Louis Park, Bloomington, Plymouth, North Mankato, Falcon Heights, Shoreview, Minneapolis, Saint Peter, Richfield, Roseville, Minnetonka, Excelsior, Lauderdale, Hermantown, Brooklyn Center, Mendota Heights, Otter Tail, Pope, Beltrami and Isanti Counties, Eden

Prairie, Waseca, Duluth, North Oaks, Bemidji, Robbinsdale and Albert Lea have taken this step.

“Maybe in passing this, we’ll send a message to our legislators to get on board,” Arden Hills Mayor David Grant said.

Youth e-cigarette use has increased nearly 50 percent in the past three years, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Nearly one in five Minnesota High School students currently uses e-cigarettes, according to the 2017 Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey.

“Arden Hills should

be commended for taking these life-saving measures,” Kristen Ackert, Policy and Research Manager at ANSR, said. “The city has shown its commitment to the health of its residents by taking on bold public health policy initiatives aimed at helping young people never to start the deadly habit of tobacco use in the first place.”

Council member Steve Scott thanked the youth who attended the hearing and other meetings.

“I appreciate you for taking an issue and standing up for it,” he said. “You’re seeing your friends

being afflicted by this chemical addiction.”

Arden Hills is the 10th Minnesota City to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco and the seventh to restrict the sale of menthol.

Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Saint Louis Park, Shoreview, Lauderdale, Duluth, Mendota Heights, Robbinsdale and Falcon Heights have also restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products. Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Duluth, Mendota Heights, Lauderdale and Falcon Heights also restrict the sale of menthol tobacco products.

North Oaks takes big step

The community of North Oaks might be small, but it came up big when it comes to protecting its youth. North Oaks unanimously voted to raise the tobacco sales age to 21 on Thursday night.

“We’re a small community, but our neighboring communities, like Shoreview, started passing Tobacco 21, so we thought we’d make it illegal for kids here,” Mayor Gregg

Nelson said. “It was easy to see vaping was designed to get kids and young adults involved.”

North Oaks is the 24th community in Minnesota to raise the tobacco sales age to 21.

“It is great that North Oaks is putting the health of their kids first,” said Katie Engman, program director at the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota. “North Oaks is joining

23 other Minnesota communities in protecting its residents from the harms of tobacco, including e-cigarettes. This is a great step, and we hope many other cities and the state will follow.”

Approximately 95 percent of current adult smokers started before they turned 21. If youth don’t start smoking before the age of 21, they likely never will.

“It was easy to see vaping was designed to get kids and young adults involved.”

North Oaks Mayor Gregg Nelson



The ANSR Bulletin is published quarterly.

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ANSR staff photo

Advocates in Robbinsdale give a thumbs up after the city voted to restrict the sale of e-cigarettes and join the Tobacco 21 movement.

Robbinsdale restricts e-cigs sales, raises tobacco sales age to 21

More than a year ago, the community of Robbinsdale wasn't quite ready to enact Tobacco 21, but its leaders made a commitment to take another look at it. On March 19, the City Council upheld that commitment and passed Tobacco 21 with a 4-1 vote.

"At that time, we weren't ready to move on T21, but seeing all the other communities around us do it gave us momentum again," council member Dan Rogan said. "It will really protect our young Robbinsdaliens. We hope this is one more city that will help push the state to T21."

Additionally, Robbinsdale voted to restrict the sale of electronic cigarettes to adult-only tobacco.

Robbinsdale is the 26th T21 community and the first to restrict e-cigarettes in this manner.

Robbinsdale resident and physician Dr. Emily Bannister previously testified in favor of all the proposed changes to the tobacco ordinance.

Bannister said, "The policies you are considering are far more effective at reducing the harms of than anything we can do from within our clinic walls. 18-to-21 year-olds only make up 2 percent of tobacco sales, but are one of the primary suppliers of tobacco to underage youth. Raising the tobacco sales age to 21 and restrict e-cigarettes to adult-only tobacco stores will help eliminate the pipeline of tobacco into our high

schools."

Youth e-cigarette use has increased nearly 50 percent in the past three years, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. Nearly one in five Minnesota High School students currently uses e-cigarettes, according to the 2017 Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey.

"Robbinsdale should be commended for taking these life-saving measures," ANSR program director Emily Anderson said. "The city has shown its commitment to the health of its residents over the past year by taking on bold public health policy initiatives aimed at helping young people never to start the deadly habit of tobacco use in the first place."

"The city has shown its commitment to the health of its residents ..."

ANSR program director Emily Anderson



DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2019

Clockwise from the top left, Girl Scouts Troop 56861 out of Harambee Elementary meets with Rep. Leon Lillie; John Glenn Middle School's SOS group meets with Rep. Peter Fischer; Sen. Jeff Hayden speaks during a rally in the Capitol Rotunda; Joe Davis performs the spoken word version of his poem Beautiful Lie Ugly Truth; youth from Henry Sibley High's ALMAS and Visitation School meet with Rep. Matt Klein; We Win youth meet with Rep. Hodan Hassan; youth attendees Meghan McFarling and Carmel San Juan pose with ANSR staff at the Capitol; sisters Yong Cha and Kheme Yang meet with Rep. Melissa Hortman.



ROUNDUP

LSF's Skahen participates in national S-F meetings

Live Smoke Free program director Kara Skahen joined a conversation on April 1 in Washington DC with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health. The participants discussed the ongoing implementation and enforcement of HUD's Smoke-Free rule. Some of the issues covered included how housing authorities are accommodating people with disabilities and seniors, penalties for violations, eviction prevention, and graduated enforcement procedures. Skahen also presented to participants on policy compliance and enforcement best practices.

Technical assistance for Isanti County: The ANSR Technical Assistance team funded by the Minnesota Department of Health played a role in Isanti County passing a Tobacco 21 policy in March. TA coordinator Esha Seth spent ore



ANSR staff photo

ANSR technical assistance coordinator Esha Seth, second from left, spent ore than a year assisting a coalition working in Isanti County as it passed a Tobacco 21 policy.

than a year working with the existing coalition to get them ready to assist the county commissioners in passing the policy.

This included attending coalition meetings over the course of more than a year, providing existing fact sheets and other documents, as well as general guidance during the process.

Media and program specialist Chris Turner helped MDH put together a video documenting the experience. They provided video clips from a coalition meeting and from a county commissioner who was on the coalition. Turner also assisted during the public hearing by taking photographs.

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ANSR Bulletin

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Late-night amendment leads to inclusion of tobacco issue on bill

ANSR and other members of the Minnesotans for a Smoke Free Generation Coalition are advocating for legislation this year that will include e-cigarettes in the clean indoor air act, make the age for purchasing tobacco 21 (T21), fund tobacco cessation after ClearWay Minnesota ceases operation, and dedicate some tobacco settlement payments to tobacco use prevention.

As we enter the last weeks of session, we are hopeful that at least two of these initiatives will become state law.

With three weeks to go in the session, two of our initiatives are included in bills that have passed on the floor of the House and the Senate and are included in the large omnibus Health and Human Services bills.

Cessation funding made it through committees in the Senate and was

originally in the omnibus bill, while including e-cigarettes in the Clean Indoor Air Act was added via a late amendment on the floor that passed 53-13.

The provisions still go to conference committee because there are differences between the Senate and House versions of the large bill.

Because cessation funding and including e-cigarettes in the clean indoor air act are in both bills, it is a safe bet they will make it into the final bill and will become law.

Less clear is the future of the other two proposals. While T21 has strong bipartisan support and 31 communities in Minnesota have adopted ordinances to make the age 21, at this point there is not majority support for the bill in the Senate.

That means the chance of T21

becoming state law is less than 50-50.

Dedicating some tobacco settlement funding for tobacco got a good hearing in the House where there was strong support, but the bill was never heard in the Senate, so this proposal will need to be revisited.

One of the biggest priorities for this legislative session was funding tobacco cessation beyond this year, since ClearWay Minnesota is a life-limited organization that will end by 2022, with QUITPLAN Services closing down in March of 2020.

Only 50 percent of Minnesotans are currently protected from e-cigarettes in indoor public places by local policies.

Research shows that aerosol from e-cigarettes is not safe and threatens the state's clean indoor air. According to a recent poll, 81 percent of Minnesotans support this policy.