

Community Discusses Emotionally Charged Issue During Town Hall Meeting

WHAT: Morgan County residents will be meeting to discuss what is next for a smoke-free air policy in Morgan County, since the Indiana General Assembly's failure to pass a statewide bill. Many health advocates believe Morgan County should move forward to protect residents from secondhand smoke, even though a statewide bill failed in the senate.

WHO: **Speakers:** Beverly G. Smith RRT/CPFT, Coordinator of Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services, St. Francis Hospital; Kim Williams, American Cancer Society; Harry C. Genovely, M.D., St. Francis Medical Group Indiana Heart Physicians; Susanna L.K. Aldridge, DVM, Veterinarian, Tender Loving Care Animal Hospital; Darin L. Wolfe, M.D., Pathologist, Morgan Hospital & Medical Center; Paul Broderick, MD, Morgan County Health Department; Alice Curry, lung cancer survivor

Moderator: Brian Culp, Managing Editor, Reporter-Times

WHEN: **Thursday, May 12**
6:30 PM

WHERE: Morgan County Administration Building
180 South Main St.
Martinsville, IN

WHY: The majority of Hoosiers want all workplaces to be smoke-free, and Morgan County residents are no different. Local and state representatives should take responsibility for supporting a smoke-free air law protecting all Hoosiers, including Morgan County residents. This town hall meeting is being held to give the public an opportunity to send a clear message to their representatives on where they stand on this issue.

BACKGROUND: Secondhand smoke exposure is a leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing approximately 50,000 Americans each year. In Indiana secondhand smoke kills over 1,200 people each year and costs Indiana approximately 390 million dollars in excess medical expenses.

While 76 percent of white-collar workers are protected from secondhand smoke exposure, only 43 percent of hospitality workers have the same level of protection.

It's time to protect all Hoosier workers from on-the-job exposure to secondhand smoke. Nobody should have to choose between a paycheck and their health. Everyone deserves smoke-free air!

CONTACT: Healthier Morgan County Initiative

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