



CLEAN AIR AT LAST

Maryland Smoking Ban Goes Into Effect

February 1, 2008 was a landmark day for health in our state. The Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007 has gone into effect, banning smoking in all indoor locations, including bars & restaurants in our state. Maryland has now joined more than 20 other states and numerous countries world-wide.

Since 78% of Carroll County adults are non-smokers, a significant percentage of our adult population now no longer encounters second-hand smoke exposure in those facilities and the employees there enjoy the same health protections as their counterparts in other businesses.

The Partnership recognizes the significant health improvement aspects of the Clean Indoor Air Act which prohibits smoking in virtually all indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars. The law provides for fair and consistent statewide protection from exposure to secondhand smoke in indoor settings. Effective February 1, 2008 at 12:00 a.m., smoking is prohibited in all bars, restaurants, pubs, taverns, and most other businesses with indoor areas open to the public in Maryland. For more information, visit the Maryland Clean Indoor Air web site at www.mdcleanair.org.



While we certainly champion the law, we also understand the trepidation this transition creates for some business owners. Therefore, we sent information packets and complimentary "No-Smoking" signs to the 120 businesses licensed to sell alcohol in our county.

Signage is required in the new law, which is administered in our area by the Carroll County Health Department. Contact Mr. Charles Zeleski at 410-876-1884 to ask questions or to register complaints.

More information and a celebration of this special health improvement occasion will be included in the agenda for the second annual *Smoke Free Carroll County* coalition meeting on March 7, 2008 at the Best Western Conference Center.

Please contact [Lexi Schafer](mailto:Lexi.Schafer@carrollcountymd.gov) at 410-871-7648 or visit www.healthycarroll.org for more information, or to register for this complimentary breakfast and informational event.