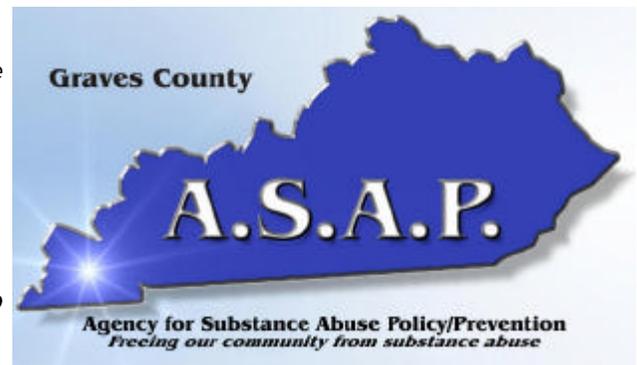


Our Vision - Freeing our community from substance abuse

Our Mission - The Graves County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy board will help our community be free of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) by helping change the culture that approves of and supports ATOD. This will be accomplished by working with concerned community partners to educate, treat, and prevent ATOD use.

www.gcasap.org



PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Joseph A. Williams, LCSW, BCPC
Coordinator of the Graves County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy/Prevention Coalition
joseph@williamscc.org
www.gcasap.org

June 19, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We need to focus on the real problem that causes our community to need the Mayfield smoking ordinance. Also how the ordinance relates to new jobs, children, and Applebees.

We need to focus on the real problem. It is not the smokers, it is not the restaurant owners, it is not the Mayor, or the Mayfield City Council. The real problem is that second hand smoke(SHS) has been scientifically proven to cause non-smokers to lose their health. Non-smokers exposed to SHS increase their risk of lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent. There are 70 cancer causing chemicals in SHS. SHS also causes alterations in DNA which make an individual more susceptible to cancer development. SHS causes immediate changes to heart and blood vessels, which can lead to a sudden heart attack or stroke. There is no safe level of SHS. The Mayfield smoking ordinance is a public health and safety issue, not a rights issue. We all have the right (freedom) in this country to legally put a substance in our bodies that has scientifically been proven to harm, but those rights end whenever our legal substance use harms another person. Smoke free laws only limit smokers in public, they do not take away anyone's right to smoke.

As a result of lack of knowledge, many people are being exposed to the health hazards of SHS. After reading the scientific studies and learning how harmful SHS is, we can no longer sit by and let our friends and families unknowingly lose their health due to exposure to SHS. Once you have knowledge, if you choose to ignore that knowledge you are living in denial. An ordinance for the health and safety of friends, family, and ourselves is not governmental overreach into private businesses.

All workers should have the right and freedom to make a living without putting their health at risk due to repeated exposure to SHS. Many Mayfield and Graves County workers have limited job opportunities and may not have dependable transportation to neighboring communities to find a smoke free workplace.

This issue also relates to bringing new jobs to Mayfield. Potential employers need healthy employees who are able to contribute to the productivity of their business. Smoking in our restaurants can give the impression that we are not a health conscious community and a potential employer may decide to locate their business in a community that appears healthier than ours. Continuing to permit

smoking in restaurants has the potential to prevent us from gaining new jobs. You have probably heard the saying, "If we keep on doing what we have always done, we are going to keep on getting what we have always gotten." We want a better future for Mayfield.

We should realize that this issue relates to promoting healthy habits to children. It is very important for our children to observe adults making healthy choices within their own lives as well as having a genuine concern for the health of others. Promoting a healthy atmosphere is a giant step in promoting a healthy lifestyle for children who will someday be our leaders.

Max Edwards, owner of Kountry Kastle in Paducah was strongly against the smoking ban in Paducah. He has never been a smoker, but was concerned it would take away from his business. After the smoking ban went into effect, he likes the change and states he would never go back to smoking. He has gained new customers, especially business people, who never came in before and many of his smoking customers have remained loyal patrons. Max built an enclosed addition to his business to cater to the smokers, but he has found many of his smoking customers also prefer the new smoke free environment as well. It has been a positive change and one he is very happy about now.

Regarding the soon to be Applebee's restaurant in Mayfield. The owner is Mr. Andy Patel who owns more than 50 restaurants, of which Mayfield will be his newest. In his restaurants there is absolutely no smoking allowed. Interestingly, effective July 1, 2013, Mr. Patel is banning employee smoking anywhere on the premises of his restaurants. He told Mayor Teresa Cantrell that she can assure the public that the Mayfield smoking ban is very well received by them.

Contact the Mayfield City Council and encourage them to support the ordinance on July 8th as a way to help Mayfield have a healthy, prosperous, and wonderful future for all of its citizens. Council contact information can be found at - www.cityofmayfield.org/contact.html
There are two noted changes on the council contact page. Councilman Barry McDonald's email listed is incorrect. It should be - barrymac@billadamsconstruction.com
Also Johnny Jackson's email does not appear to be going through so it would be best to give him a phone call at 970-3073.

Click the following website address to view our Graves County ASAP coalition press release page to better educate yourself on the smoke free issue. www.gcasap.org/press.htm