



Tobacco Free Times

The Voice of the Tobacco Free Florida - Volusia County Partnership

Promoting healthy lifestyles through tobacco free living.

September 2014

SWAT Students Working Against Tobacco

Volusia youth to attend Regional SWAT Meeting

Two SWAT teens from Volusia County will be attending the Region 2 SWAT Meeting in Orange Park, FL on Saturday, September 13th. The purpose of the regional meeting is to give SWAT youth a structured forum to exchange ideas, troubleshoot barriers and share strategies for success. For example, the teens from counties in Northeastern Florida may want to discuss how e-cigarettes have impacted the way teens think about smoking and come up with ways to educate peers and decision makers and ultimately change policy. Each county Tobacco Prevention Program is required to send 2 SWAT youth to the regional meetings with adult supervision. Volusia is sending 2 Tobacco Program staff members to chaperone the teens who are members of the SWAT Chapter at **Basilica School of St. Paul**. Volusia also has 7 other SWAT Chapters: **Campbell Middle School, Creekside Middle School, New Life Ministries, New Smyrna Beach Middle School, Silver Sands Middle School, Southwestern Middle School, and Word & Praise Christian Learning Center.**

Employers save \$ and lives as employees quit smoking

Most employers care about their employees' health and wellbeing but when it comes to their bottom line, money talks. An employer loses an average of \$3,400 per year per employee who smokes. That amounts to \$19.6 billion lost in Florida annually due to workplace productivity losses. Add in health insurance surcharges for employees who use tobacco, and the total is much higher. This topic was covered at the August 25 Partnership meeting, along with information on how employers can win an award from the **Florida Tobacco Cessation Alliance** for their efforts in helping employees quit tobacco.

Goal to improve Volusia Tobacco-Free School Policy

In June 2011, Gov. Rick Scott signed a law amending the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act to give school boards the authority to designate all district property as tobacco-free. Since then the Volusia County School Board has done an excellent job adopting the necessary components to achieve a Model Comprehensive Tobacco-Free School Policy. There is only one component left to adopt before Volusia can join the many Florida counties who have met all 12. The remaining component focuses on prohibiting tobacco advertising and acceptance of gifts, including curriculum, from tobacco companies. A request has been sent to the School Board and Superintendent.



Cigarette butts at Smyrna Dunes Park

Partnership tackles cigarette butt problem on local beaches

If you go to the beach, you probably see the ugly sight of cigarette butts littering the sand and shoreline. The Tobacco Free Florida – Volusia County Partnership is participating in the **International Coastal Cleanup** at a local coastal park to pick up litter and debris. The Partnership aims to raise awareness about cigarette butts that plague all coastline areas. According to the Ocean Conservancy which organizes the worldwide cleanup event, cigarette butts are the #1 culprit in the list of items collected during the annual event. During the 2013 cleanup volunteers picked up 199,063 cigarette butts from Florida coastlines. The butts are fatal to sea turtles, birds and other wildlife who mistake them for food.

Saturday, September 20, 2014

8:00 am – 12:00 noon

Smyrna Dunes Park, New Smyrna Beach

Call (386) 274-0603

Partner Highlight

Stuart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare

The Partnership celebrates the activities and accomplishments of all the Partners. This month we recognize **Stuart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare** for their tobacco/smoke-free policy. No smoking or use of any tobacco-related product is permitted anywhere on SMA property. In addition, employees must be tobacco-free during work hours and third-hand smoke (residual toxins from cigarette smoke that adhere to clothing, hair, surfaces) is not tolerated. SMA has 13 locations throughout Volusia County, with several more in Flagler, St. Johns and Putnam Counties. **Chet Bell**, SMA's CEO, notes that "we are only doing what's right to protect the health and wellbeing of our employees. In addition, our policy sends a message to our clients that tobacco use is inconsistent with recovery from addiction and other behavioral health disorders."

Join Us!

Please join us for our next Tobacco Free Florida – Volusia County Partnership meeting on Monday, Sept. 22, 2014. Meetings begin at 4 p.m. at the Health Department on 1845 Holsonback Road, Daytona Beach. For more information or to be added to the email list, please contact Kristen Mialki at 386-274-0601 or Kristen.Mialki@FLHealth.gov.