

September 2008



Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition  
E-Newsletter

# Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

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## Internet Tobacco Control and Health Resource Links

### Regional

Clean Air Kansas City

Clean Air Lawrence

Clean Air Manhattan

Reno County Tobacco Free

Central Kansas Foundation (Salina)

Tobacco Free Wichita

### State

KDHE Tobacco Use Prevention

TASK

Cancer Kansas

It's Everybody's Business

Kansas Association of Local Health  
Departments

Kansas Public Health Association

Kansas Health Institute

### National

CDC Tobacco & Health

Tobacco.Org

Americans for Non-Smokers Rights

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Tobacco Control Network

American Cancer Society

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

National Cancer Institute

## Don't forget the Tobacco Summit

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition's *2008 Kansas Tobacco Control Summit: Creating A Tobacco-Free Future* will be held October 13 and 14 at the Marriott in Overland Park. Featured speakers include Dr. Michael Burke with the Mayo Clinic, Rear Admiral John Babb, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services in Region 7, and Dana Shelton with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Office on Smoking and Health.

The Youth Track will be offered on Monday, October 13 only. Go to <http://www.tobaccofreekansas.org/home/> under Upcoming Events for specific breakout sessions and registration information. Registrations are due to TFKC by October 6. The block room rate at the Marriott cut-off date is September 22.

## Youth tobacco prevention trainings set this month

Manhattan, Chanute and Garden City are the sites for three youth tobacco prevention trainings being planned by Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition and TASK, the Kansas youth movement. The trainings, targeted to specific counties in north central, southeast and southwest Kansas are funded in part through an American Legacy Foundation grant with matching funds from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Building on the Legacy Foundations "truth" campaign, the truth® or Consequences grant to TFKC provides for introduction to what tobacco is, how tobacco companies target youth, and what response youth can take to tobacco use. The trainings will be followed by opportunities for mini-grants to youth groups for media projects they can design to educate their peers and their communities on the impact of tobacco in our society.

Go to [www.kstask.org](http://www.kstask.org) for more information. Dates are September 20 for Manhattan and Chanute and September 27 in Garden City. Pre-registration is required—but registration will not be closed until three days before the events.

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*The mission of Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among Kansans, particularly among children and youth, to improve health and to avoid the negative economic impact of tobacco use.*

## E-Newsletter

### Clean Air efforts heat up

#### Kansas City, KS

Legal staff for Wyandotte County's Unified Government has presented three no-smoking proposals to elected officials, including one that would ban indoor smoking at restaurants and bars in Kansas City, KS. But the discussion that followed did not focus as much on those venues as it did on the casino the city hopes to land.

Mayor Joe Reardon made it clear that he would want to tread carefully before banning smoking in casinos, when cities with competing casinos in Missouri have not enacted such a ban. Kansas City, KS, is the largest city in the metropolitan area that does not have some kind of smoking ban.

#### Manhattan

On a three to two vote, the Manhattan City Commission decided that the smoke free petition presented by Clean Air Manhattan will be on the November 4 ballot. The Commission had the choice of adopting the petition ordinance devised by CAM or of placing the issue on the ballot for voters to decide. Clean Air Manhattan members are now working on campaign issues to ensure a successful vote to adopt a comprehensive smoke free policy for their city.

#### Dodge City

The Dodge City Commission is considering a later implementation date for the limited smokefree resolution passed earlier with a September 1 implementation date. The current version allows for smoking in establishments that meet ventilation and construction

#### Winfield

Advocates in Winfield are hopeful that a comprehensive clean air ordinance will be passed in that community by the first of October, to be implemented at the beginning of the year.

#### Derby

Businesses places have been given an extension to December 31 to complete construction of outside smoking patios.

#### Emporia

Clean Air Emporia is still battling about the smokefree issue through letters to the editor, feature stories and comments posted to the on-line sections of the *Emporia Gazette*. A clean air proposal was made to Emporia city commission on September 9 with proponents asking that a smoke free ordinance be adopted in order to protect everyone from exposure to secondhand smoke in public places. A public hearing will be held on September 29 where both sides of this important health issue will be presented.

### Tobacco monopoly in U.S.?

Altria Group, formerly known as Philip Morris, has reached an agreement to buy UST, the maker of Skoal and Copenhagen smokeless tobacco, for about \$10.4 billion. The deal is Altria's first major acquisition since it spun off its international tobacco business in March, and it may prompt more consolidation in the tobacco industry.

Cigarette sales have been declining for decades. Altria said in July that it expected shipments to fall 3.5 percent this year, more than it had initially projected. Rising cigarette prices and higher federal excise taxes are expected to contribute to that drop, analysts say. But smokeless tobacco has grown about 7 percent annually over the last four years.

Acquiring UST, formerly the U.S. Tobacco Company, would significantly strengthen Altria's presence in the smokeless tobacco business. To date, Altria's only major competitor to Copenhagen and Skoal has been Marlboro-branded moist smokeless tobacco and snuff, which have not been popular in the United States.

Altria's marketing and distribution muscle may also lift UST's fortunes, as the smaller company faces increased competition on the lower end of the smokeless tobacco market. With consumer spending falling, many analysts and industry executives expect that buyers will spend less on premium products and switch to lower-end smokeless tobacco.

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### **Monopoly, continued**

In a way, Altria is playing catch-up with its biggest competitor, Reynolds American. In 2006, Reynolds bought Conwood, the second-largest maker of smokeless tobacco after UST, for \$3.5 billion. Analysts speculated that Altria's deal might prompt Reynolds American to respond by making a bid for Lorillard, the other major American tobacco company.

### **Smoking is Poison—and so is secondhand smoke**

Kansas Health Foundation launched its interactive "Smoke Is Poisonous" Web site, including fact sheets and other materials about smoking. The Web site complements several secondhand smoke media campaigns going on in some Kansas communities.

The chemicals in tobacco smoke and how they influence the air we all breathe are explained. Did you know that tobacco smoke releases more than 250 toxic chemicals into the air, more than 50 of which can cause cancer?

See the site at <http://www.smokeispoisonous.com>.