



CHCHD News

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2011 Riverbend Festival Expands Designated No Smoking Zones

Chattanooga, TN-Friends of the Festival, along with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, Regional Health Council, Memorial Health Care System, and the Smoke Free Chattanooga Coalition announce expanded no smoking areas at the 2011 Riverbend Festival.

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease and death in the United States. Smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipes also have deadly consequences including lung, larynx, esophageal, and oral cancers; but the harmful effects of smoking do not end with the smoker.

About 88 million nonsmoking Americans, including children, are exposed to secondhand smoke, according to the CDC. Secondhand smoke can be dangerous because nonsmokers inhale many of the same poisons as smokers.

"Friends of the Festival is proud to partner with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department to create more designated no smoking areas for festival-goers to enjoy," said Chip Baker, executive director of Friends of the Festival. "Although we are an outdoor festival, we are happy to team up with the Health Department in a way that is responsible to all of our event attendees," he said.

The expanded no smoking areas will be located throughout the festival and will help reduce individual exposure to secondhand smoke. Expanding no smoking areas at Riverbend is a positive step because 78 percent of residents in Hamilton County and Tennessee are nonsmokers, according to data from the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

"This is why we are so excited that Friends of the Festival has decided to help promote and improve the health of the residents in Hamilton County and everyone who visits the Riverbend Festival," said Becky Barnes, administrator at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department.

2011 Riverbend Festival No Smoking Zones include:

- All VIP areas, box seating, star seating, and handicapped areas in front of the Coca-Cola Stage
- Tennessee Valley Amphitheater – all seating
- Unum Stage – all fixed and folding chair areas
- Children's Area – west, near the Olgiati Bridge

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