

BAN

Continued from Page A1

said she is looking forward to going into places she hadn't before — like a pizza place with an attached bar.

She said it's important to show tavern and restaurant owners that the ban won't zap their business.

"I feel a responsibility to patronize places that did have smoking," Kraus said.

Winifred Workun of Fond du Lac, who is fighting lung cancer, said she is relieved about the ban.

"I am absolutely delighted," she said. "This means I can get out and live like a normal human being. I can eat where I choose and go into places that I maybe would not normally go."

Workun, who uses oxygen as needed, said she never smoked. Members of her family did and she believes secondhand smoke caused her illness.

"The ordinance is trying to protect ourselves and children," she said. "After fighting for my life, I can appreciate it. Down the road, I hope they (those opposed) feel like I do."

At Foxhole Bar and Hall, 500 Fond du Lac Ave., the switch to smoke-free happened Jan. 6.

"We wanted to do some remodeling," said manager Tom Wilhelms. "I told the executive board that as soon as we start painting, we're going smoke-free."

Though housed in the James "Maggie" Megellas Fond du Lac County Veteran Memorial Building, the Foxhole Bar and Hall is open to the public seven days a week.

"The smoke-free (matter) — I thought I was going to have an issue," he said. "I have lost, I think, one customer over this. I know, for a fact, I've picked up a lot more."

There's no haze as customers view new paint, drywall, light fixtures and wainscoting.

"We've brightened it up," Wilhelms said. "It's been just an immense turnaround."

Clientele at Foxhole is older than typical downtown taverns. Most of the customers are in their 30s and up. People are coming in, Wilhelms said, who haven't been at the Foxhole before.

No one knows for sure how the smoking ban will impact individual businesses.

"It worked here," Wilhelms said. "And people who come in here are happy."

Fond du Lac County health officials point to medical experts who say secondhand smoke can cause serious health issues, including increasing the risk of asthma attacks and the likelihood of blocked or clogged arteries in otherwise healthy individuals after just 30 minutes of exposure.

In addition, hundreds of studies and dozens of scientific and medical organizations have concluded that secondhand smoke causes lung cancer, heart disease and serious respiratory illness in nonsmokers.

"This is a major public health issue," said Sandy Bernier, tobacco control program coordinator for the Fond du Lac County Health Department. "It's the most preventable cause of disease and death. There is no safe level of exposure."

Bernier said the intent

STATISTICS

Smokers

Fond du Lac County

- Total number of smokers: 17,140
- Adult smokers: 15,540 (20 percent)
- High school smokers: 1,250 (21 percent)
- Middle school smokers: 350 (8 percent)
- Smoked during pregnancy: 195 (17 percent)

Statewide

- Total number of smokers: 1,005,000
- Adult smokers: 920,000 (22 percent)
- High school smokers: 66,000 (21 percent)
- Middle school smokers: 19,000 (8 percent)
- Smoked during pregnancy: 10,000 (14 percent)

Lung cancer deaths

Fond du Lac County

- Number of average annual lung cancer deaths: 51
- Due to smoking: 40 (79 percent)

Statewide

- Number of average annual lung cancer deaths: 2,760
- Due to smoking: 2,208 (80 percent)

Statistics from "The Burden of Tobacco in Fond du Lac County" — a collaborative report of the University of Wisconsin Tobacco Surveillance and Evaluation Program, the American Cancer Society and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

of the smoking ban is to protect everyone equally, "whether they make \$120,000 a year or \$20,000 a year."

Persons who bus tables, tend bar, work in an automotive garage, a hospital or a mental health facility all deserve protection, said Bernier, adding that the ban will evoke social change.

bacco Research and Intervention and is funded by the State of Wisconsin.

In addition, many Wisconsin residents with health insurance have coverage for at least one quit-smoking medication.

Medicaid, Medicare, BadgerCare Plus and SeniorCare also cover prescription quit-smoking medications.

Smokers are advised to check their health insurance plans for coverage and to see their doctor for prescriptions.

QUIT

Continued from Page A1

bacco and also offers free medications — a stop-smoking patch, lozenges or gum. The services are offered regardless of insurance coverage. Quit Line callers are four times more successful than smokers who try to quit "cold turkey" (without coaching or medication), according to an independent survey.

The Quit Line is avail-

able from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week by calling 1-800 QUIT-NOW (784-8669). Interpreters are available for several languages.

The service has helped more than 123,000 callers since 2001. About 70 calls from Fond du Lac County were fielded in 2007, and the number increased to about 500 in 2008 after a \$1 per pack tobacco tax increase took effect in Wisconsin.

The Quit Line is managed by the University of Wisconsin Center for To-