

Downtown businesses join forces against smoking

Some already have a **smoke-free** policy, while others plan to follow



Bryon S. Houlgrave/Freeman Staff

Diners eat Saturday night at Ray's on South in downtown Waukesha. The restaurant is one of several downtown eateries joining efforts to declare they have gone **smoke free** or plan to do so in the near future.

By Rasmieyh Abdelnabi
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA - Fourteen downtown restaurants have formally come together and announced their intentions of going **smoke free**.

"I am excited that 14, seven of which are new, establishments have decided to be **smoke free** and voluntarily offer consumers another option for enjoying downtown Waukesha in a comfortable and healthy environment," said Karen Richards, the executive director of the Waukesha Business Improvement District, in a news release.

A few of the businesses have already been **smoke free** for quite some time.

Kerry Mackay of The Steaming Cup on Main Street said his coffeehouse has been **smoke free** for years.

"**Smoke free** is the healthiest way to go," he said.

In four and half years, Mackay has received one complaint regarding the no-smoking rule

At a glance

Downtown Waukesha restaurants planning to go **smoke free** or that have already established such a policy.

- The Black Trumpet, 314 W. Main St.
- Chill, Fine Wine and Martinis, inside Daddy-Oh's Restaurant, 250 W. Broadway
- Clarke Bar, 314 W. Main St.
- Daddy-Oh's Restaurant, 250 W. Broadway
- Divino Gelato Cafe, 227 W. Main St.

- Generations at the Five Points, 294 W. Main St.
- House of Guinness, 354 W. Main St.
- Ray's on South, 225 South St.
- Rochester Deli, 143 W. Broadway
- Taylor's People's Park, 337 W. Main St.
- Sakura Japanese Sushi and Grill, 332 W. Broadway
- Springhouse Tea Room, 913 Clinton St.
- Sprizzo Gallery Caffe', 363 W. Main St.
- The Steaming Cup, 340 W. Main St.

Source: Waukesha Business Improvement District

at the coffeehouse.

Karla Harper, owner of Sprizzo Gallery Caffe' on Main Street, echoed Mackay's health reasons for going **smoke free**.

A cancer survivor, Harper wanted to make sure she, her employees and patrons are able to be in a healthy environment.

"It is a tribute to the business owners that they are on the forefront of what seems to be a trend. This progressive mindset has increased the concentration of quality establishments within walking distance of

each other in historic downtown Waukesha," Richards said in the statement.

Sprizzo has been **smoke free** since 2003, when it started operating under new management. The restaurant had its grand reopening at its new location, 363 W. Main St., on Saturday.

Harper said she has received a great deal of positive feedback in regards to being **smoke free**.

"If you are a nonsmoker, you want to be healthy," she said.

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