

Great American Smoke Out

Fort Myers, FL—Tobacco users interested in quitting and the general public are invited to toss their tobacco into a coffin at Centennial Park and jointly say their final goodbyes to the unhealthy habit Thursday, November 17, 2011, during the 36th Annual Great American Smoke Out. Its slogan is, “If you can quit for a day you can quit for good.”

The Lee County program, created by the Tobacco Free Lee Coalition and Students Working Against Tobacco, includes a mock funeral procession, humorous final goodbyes and tobacco toss into the coffin to “bury tobacco before it buries you.”

Anyone interested should meet at 5 p.m. outside Art of the Olympians, 1300 Hendry Street, to walk with the procession to the pavilion in Centennial Park. At 5:30 p.m. a satirical farce, hosted by the Rev. Ken Hill, begins in the Pavilion including an opportunity for former tobacco users and new quitters to dispose of their tobacco in the coffin and say farewell to poor health.

Tobacco is known to cause cancer, heart disease, lung disease and premature aging, yet its addictive factors are so great people struggle to let go of it, said Brendan Donohue, tobacco program specialist for the Lee County Health Department. “We will have all types of quitting aids available for anyone looking for help.”

Bring friends, family and tobacco products for disposal. For more information contact Donohue at 332-9651.

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