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Subject: Live Smoke Free e-news

Live Smoke Free e-News

www.mnsmokefreehousing.org

Minnesota's Smoke-Free Multi-Housing Program

Winter 2008

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Dear Carissa,

Thank you for your interest in smoke-free housing! Whether you're a tenant looking for a smoke-free home, a landlord wanting to adopt a smoke-free policy, or someone who wants to learn more about the benefits of smoke-free housing, Live Smoke Free is available to help.

About Live Smoke Free

The goal of Live Smoke Free is to address the discrepancy between the number of smoke-free apartment units available and the percentage of renters that would prefer to live in them. Only about 2% of Minnesota renters enjoy a smoke-free environment, but nearly 50% of Minnesota renters would prefer to live in a smoke-free apartment building.

Live Smoke Free can assist apartment owners and managers with strategies for adopting a smoke-free policy, including free materials and smoke-free building signs. New renters and current renters having problems with secondhand smoke coming into their unit can also receive help. Policy makers and community organizations can learn more about smoke-free housing from Live Smoke Free.

Live Smoke Free is a program of the [Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota](#) that focuses on the Twin Cities metro area with grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Health.



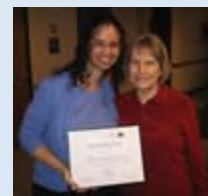
Live Smoke Free educates tenants, landlords, and other interested groups about the benefits of smoke-free multi-housing.

[Smoke-Free Multi-Housing:](#)

Smoke-Free Building Spotlight

Talheim Apartments Go Smoke Free for the Smoke Out!

In honor of the Great American Smoke Out, Talheim Apartments in Chaska went smoke free on November 17, 2007. Talheim's manager, Sheila Knox, worked with her supervisor, her tenants, and Live Smoke Free to adopt the policy. To highlight Talheim's achievement, Live Smoke Free hosted a celebration for the tenants.



WCCO TV covered the celebration and Talheim's new policy. **To see the**

Healthier Buildings,
Happier Tenants,
A Smart Investment.

National News

[Calabasas California Passes Smoke-Free Multi-Housing Ordinance](#)

[Apartment Owners Embrace Residential Smoking Ban \(Oregon\)](#)

[Prometheus Real Estate Group Trends Toward Smoke-Free Apartments](#)

Live Smoke Free Online



Have you seen the Live Smoke Free web site?

Live Smoke Free Online was launched in September 2007 and has resources for landlords, tenants, and community organizations.

The online Smoke-Free Housing Directory lists all of the smoke-free buildings in Minnesota that Live Smoke Free has identified.

If you're ready to learn more about smoke-free multi-housing, visit us at www.mnsmokefreehousing.org!

Free Resources!

Live Smoke Free offers free materials for landlords, tenants, and community organizations.

- Presentations to staff/tenants
- Sample tenant survey & notification letter
- Model smoke-free lease addendum
- Research/information about secondhand smoke and air movement
- Legal resources
- Strategies for advertising a smoke-free policy
- Free listing on Live Smoke Free's online directory

WCCO story and video, visit

<http://wcco.com/local/smoke.free.apartment.2.570413.html>

Live Smoke Free would like to thank Sheila Knox for all of her hard work and congratulate Talheim on successfully adopting a smoke-free policy to protect the health of their residents!

New Grants to Study Smoke-Free Housing

In November 2007, ClearWay Minnesota announced 11 new grants approved for research around smoking issues. "These new grant awards show our continuing commitment to innovative research that shapes our work to reduce tobacco's harm," said David Willoughby, ClearWay's Chief Executive Officer. The grants will begin in 2008.

Two of the grants awarded will study secondhand smoke in multi-housing:

- The Tobacco Law Center (www.tobaccolawcenter.org) received a grant to conduct legal research and a survey of property owners on **smoke-free options for condominiums**. To learn more, contact Warren Ortlund at the Tobacco Law Center at warren.ortland@wmitchell.edu.
- The Center for Energy and Environment (www.mncee.org) received a grant for a study on **secondhand smoke migration in apartment buildings**. The project runs June 2008-May 2011. To learn more, contact Martha Hewett at the Center for Energy and Environment at mhewett@mncee.org.

Live Smoke Free has worked closely with the Tobacco Law Center and the Center for Energy and Environment in the past few years, and we are excited to see the results of their research!



Global Coalition Meets to Discuss Smoke-Free Housing

Over 70 participants met in October 2007 during the National Conference on Tobacco or Health to discuss smoke-free multi-housing. The meeting--which was hosted by the Minnesota Department of Health and Live Smoke Free--was attended by programs that educate and promote the benefits of smoke-free housing to share their successes and strategies as a group. Speakers from California, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Oregon, Utah, and Washington educated the audience on topics such as the legalities of smoke-free policies for multi-unit housing, survey results on the experiences of tenants exposed to secondhand smoke, and many other issues. In addition to continuing to discuss smoke-free housing on an email list-serve, the group also decided to approach several major apartment listing services about including "smoke free" as a search amenity.

2007 Fall Conference Wrap-Up

Before the snow fell this year, the Live Smoke Free staff packed their cars and hit the road for the 2007 conference season. Armed with brand new materials, Live Smoke Free had exhibit booths at conferences for the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association for Housing and Redevelopment Officials and the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association's Product Show.



Both conferences were well attended by apartment managers, owners, and other

- Free building signs & window clings

To receive materials, visit our web site or call us at 651-646-3005.

staff. Live Smoke Free talked to many managers who were considering going smoke free, or who had already adopted a smoke-free policy for their building. Many people also stopped by the Live Smoke Free booth to play "Smoke-Free Apartment Trivia" for the chance to win cool smoke-free housing prizes.

Fall was also the time for conferences aimed at tobacco control advocates. Live Smoke Free presented at the Program Sharing Conference--sponsored by the Minnesota Institute for Public Health--about the benefits of smoke-free housing. Live Smoke Free also attended the National Conference on Tobacco or Health in Minneapolis to talk with other advocates about smoke-free housing and learn about other tobacco control topics.

Now that staff have had some time to catch their breath, it's time to prepare for the spring conference season!

Apartment Fire in Coon Rapids

Around 2:30am on November 1, 2007, a tenant at the Baneberry Estates in Coon Rapids awoke to see a large fire on the balcony of the apartment building. The quick-thinking tenant pulled the alarm.

Firefighters from five locations were called to the scene to put out the blaze. Twenty-two units were evacuated. One resident was treated for smoke inhalation, but thankfully no one was severely hurt. After investigation, the Coon Rapids Fire Department declared that the fire was caused by a cigarette left on a balcony.



One of the hardest parts of our job at Live Smoke Free is documenting cigarette-related fires. Tenants are often displaced, have lost thousands of dollars in personal property, or worse, have been injured. Landlords are also affected by these fires as they are concerned for their tenants' well-being and can lose millions of dollars in property damage.

The fire at Baneberry Estates is a good reminder of the damage one single cigarette can cause. It is also a good reminder that **smoke-free building policies can significantly reduce the risk of cigarette-related fires**. These policies can save money as well as lives.

Wishing you happy and smoke-free New Year,

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Do You Know of a Smoke-Free Building?

If you are aware of a multi-unit building that has a smoke-free policy, please let us know! Smoke-free buildings can receive free signs, free materials, and free advertising on our web site. Forward the link below to the owner or manager of the building and ask them to send us a form with their information.

http://www.mnsmokefreehousing.org/landlords/directory_add.html