



NEWS

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Commissioner of Health

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For Immediate Release
November 15, 2011

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Great American Smokeout is Thursday, November 17

Goshen -The Orange County Department of Health in conjunction with Orange/Ulster BOCES is hosting their annual "Great American Smokeout" (GASO) art contest. The Great American Smokeout is an annual event initiated by the American Cancer Society to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking, to provide counter-marketing information, as well as to provide tobacco cessation information. "Tobacco is the single largest cause of preventable death," states Dr. Jean Hudson, Orange County Commissioner of Health. Tobacco causes more deaths each year than alcohol, illicit drugs, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fire, and AIDS combined.

Quitting smoking takes a lot of hard work. Each year, millions of people choose the third Thursday in November as their quit date. The Great American Smokeout event offers public support and a sense of connection with others who are giving up smoking for the day.

Each year, the County commemorates the day with a student art contest held at Orange/Ulster BOCES Career and Technical Education Center. Art contest entries are original artwork submitted by students at the CTEC Center. On Thursday, November 17 students, staff, and community members will gather to unveil original posters created by the Visual Arts Academy students based on the theme "If Tobacco Ads told the Truth." The theme is intended to encourage consumers to be aware of how tobacco ads do not tell the entire story. Actual advertisements may not include all the risks involved with using their product. The contest's goal is to help students' combat tobacco advertising through the creation of unique artwork.

The poster contest is sponsored by the Orange County Department of Health and POW'R Against Tobacco. Representatives from the Orange County Health

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Department, POW'R Against Tobacco, and the County Executive's office will be on hand to recognize the students who created the posters and congratulate the top three winners.

For those interested in signing up for free quit smoking programs, Healthy Orange will also be hosting information tables in the community. Please call 568-5226 for more information.

"If you're thinking about giving up smoking, you're not alone" says Edward A. Diana, Orange County Executive. "The Great American Smokeout offers encouragement and support for people who have finally made the decision to quit. It's a great way to not go it alone and make a positive health change for yourself."

On November 17, 2011, millions of Americans will participate in the Great American Smokeout. To start living a tobacco free life or for more information about free quit smoking programs, please call the Orange County Department of Health's Healthy Orange program at 845-568-5226.

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