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## Countdown to smoke-free Illinois

### Patrons revel in last days of comfy puffing

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By Sarah Koci Staff writer

Tuesday is the first day of the Illinois statewide smoking ban. But there are a few final celebrations before the smoke clears.

Smokers at Sullivan's Steakhouse in Naperville had one last party Friday, when all cigars were discounted.

"It's one final go at the liberty of smoking a cigar after dinner and being able to enjoy one indoors," said Troy Smith, general manager. "It's for all the cigar lovers out there who do occasionally enjoy a cigar after dinner or at the bar."

Other Sullivan's locations across the country have thrown similar parties before similar smoking bans have taken effect, Smith said.

As a precursor to the law, 95.9 The River will play Boston's 1976 song "Smokin'" for 24 hours, then never play the song again.

The announcement of the smoking ban resulted in "a lot of unhappy people," said Nick Zombolas, sales assistant for The River. It will be less convenient for smokers when they have to go further outside buildings to smoke and cannot smoke in bars or restaurants.

### Smoker 'solidarity'

The 24-hour song schedule is partially an act of solidarity with smokers - if they have to quit, the station will quit "Smokin,'" too. But the schedule also is designed to get listeners thinking about quitting smoking all together.

The commercial schedule will remain the same, Zombolas said, but many public service announcements will air, including suggestions on how to quit smoking.

"For those who are thinking more seriously about smoking, now that it is a bigger inconvenience to smoke, we'll give them tips throughout the day," Zombolas said.

In addition to the smoking ban, smokers may be encouraged to quit by family members or by New Year's resolutions, Zombolas said.

"Our personal hope is that even if we help one or two people quit smoking because they listen to our station, that would be great."

Danielle Tufano, The River's traffic director and morning show producer, has been smoking for seven or eight years.

She said the smoking ban is an added incentive to quit, since smoking will no longer be convenient, and it is still as unhealthy as ever, she said.

Tufano said the station's special broadcast will show listeners that quitting smoking isn't easy, but there are ways to do it.

"By us quitting "Smokin,'" we're showing a little bit of sympathy for everyone," Tufano said.

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