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This year's Chili Cook-Off is smoke free

From Journal Staff Reports

ITHACA — Organizers of Ithaca's Chili Cook-Off downtown today hope the smoke will only be from spice, and not from tobacco.

This year's Downtown Ithaca Great Chili Cook-Off and Winterfest will be a T-Free Zone, a designation that asks visitors, vendors and participants to voluntarily refrain from smoking and tobacco use when visiting the event area.

The T-Free Zone designation for the Chili Cook-Off site is being coordinated in partnership with Tobacco Free Tompkins, a program of the Tompkins County Health Department.

“We are asking visitors to refrain from smoking while at the Cook-Off on a voluntary basis,” said Vicki Taylor, events coordinator for the Ithaca Downtown Partnership.

“As a festival based on food and tasting, we believe that asking visitors to make this a tobacco free event will only enhance the experience for everyone,” Taylor added.

Signs requesting that there be no smoking will be posted for the event on The Commons. The signs will show the familiar “T-Free Zone” emblem with the text, “Please keep this area smoke free and tobacco free.”

Since the program began in July 2006, T-Free Zone stickers have been posted at entrances of dozens of business and public buildings throughout Tompkins County.
