

Ballwin Clean Air Ordinance Fact Sheet

enacted a 100% smoke-free policy on January 2, 2006

Ballwin City Planner's statement on the smoke-free law's impact:

As quoted in a St. Louis Post-Dispatch Suburban Journal news article on June 28, 2007, "Tom Aiken said life after the ban has remained status quo. After reviewing business license fees, which are based on gross receipts, two years prior to and one year following the ban, there was no dramatic difference in any business' numbers, Aiken said.

Aiken said that while some residents attributed the closing of several businesses to the ban, those restaurants' sales histories showed a decline in business several years prior to the legislation. He said restaurant sales throughout the city had both decreased and increased with the ban, but the difference in percentage points was so little that it was impossible to conclude whether either was a result of the no-smoking ordinance." Staff has recently reviewed numbers to date and this trend...or lack thereof...continues.

Myth vs. Fact on Restaurant Closures

French Quarter Bar : When Ballwin was considering their ordinance, the owner of the bar said he would be shut down by it in three months. Today, three years later, it is still a thriving business with live music offered often. Suburban Journal news on June 8, 2008, "But Ashley Daniels, general manager of the French Quarter Bar and Grill in Ballwin, said her business is booming. We are absolutely more successful now than we were before the smoking ban," Daniels said.

Red Lobster, Lone Star and O'Charleys: These chain restaurants have relocated to Chesterfield Valley and operate there as a 100% smoke free restaurant voluntarily. There has been much discussion by the cities located in the Manchester Road corridor of the negative effect the booming Chesterfield Valley development is having on all retail and restaurant business along Manchester.

Chili's, Krieger's Pub and All Stars: Often cited as establishments that closed because of Ballwin's law but Chili's was located in Manchester, Krieger's was in Ellisville and All Stars in Chesterfield. The postal address "Ballwin" includes over 90,000 residents while Ballwin's population is 32,000 and represents a much smaller land area. The Ballwin postal area extends from Des Peres on the east to Wildwood on the West...far beyond Ballwin's city limits. When one uses "Ballwin" as a location, it doesn't necessarily mean within the city limits.

Existing, New and Expanding Business in Ballwin

Mi Lupita, a Mexican restaurant in Ballwin, saw a 10% increase in sales after the ordinance went into effect, said the restaurant's assistant manager Raul Haro. They increased their space as well.

Sky Music Lounge, a live music bar in Ballwin located in the Barn at Lucerne opened post-ordinance and is currently expanding. The owner embraced the idea of smoke-free air and patrons come from all over to hear live music in a smoke-free atmosphere.

Lone Wolf Coffee Company just opened in Ballwin in late 2008 also near the Barn at Lucerne.

Senor Pique, a Mexican restaurant that began in Manchester and has recently moved to Ballwin in the vacated O'Charley's space. Manchester does not have a smoke-free ordinance. The restaurant is very busy as a now smoke-free place in Ballwin.

Candicci's just received the green light (April '09) to operate in Ballwin.

Applebee's has retained their Ballwin location but closed its restaurants in Wildwood and Chesterfield.

No tickets written for violations of Ballwin's Clean Air Ordinance

Ballwin's CAO has been in full effect for over three years and their police have written no ordinance violations.