

It's No Tobacco Day around the world

By Tom O'Dare

The Herald

Thursday, May 31, 2007

People around the world will mark No Tobacco Day with ceremonies and other programs designed to inform the public about the dangers of tobacco.

Locally, BREATHE — Breathe Real Air Throughout Horry — will honor area hotels and restaurants that have adopted a “no tobacco” policy on their properties.

The local group will hold an open house this afternoon from 5 to 7 p.m. at one of the newest tobacco free hotels, the Comfort Suites on the Frontage Road near the intersection of Bypass 17 and Highway 501.

As a member of the Choice Hotel International chain, the hotel joins other chains such as Westin and Marriott who have banned tobacco anywhere on property.

Uno Chicago Grill at Broadway at the Beach announced this week that it, too, will become tobacco-free beginning tomorrow.

BREATHE official Barbara Morgan said many area hotels and restaurants are following the trend and the group felt it was important to recognize these businesses that are looking after the health of their customers and their employees.

“This year’s No Tobacco Day promotes 100 percent smoke-free environments as the only effective way to protect people from second-hand smoke,” Morgan said.

The worldwide No Tobacco Day was first observed in 1988. It is sponsored by the World Health Organization to call attention to the impact of tobacco on the health of people.

Morgan added that tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in America.