

Vape shops banned from residential areas

BY JOE NIKIC

The North Hempstead Town Board approved regulations Tuesday prohibiting indoor smoking establishments, such as vape shops and hookah bars, from being located near residential neighborhoods and areas where large numbers of children are found.

Town Councilwoman Dina De Giorgio, who spearheaded the effort to regulate vape shops, said the legislation was aimed at protecting children from exposure to tobacco products.

"The purpose of this zoning amendment is to regulate where indoor smoking establishments are located and to make sure that they're located in places that are not near where children congregate and not in residential neighborhoods," De Giorgio said.

The law requires indoor smoking businesses to be located at least 500 feet from a residential property or home.

It also requires the businesses to be at least 1,000 feet from any school, place of worship, park, playground or playing field, library or hospital.

The legislation, which was introduced at the July 12 board meeting, was reviewed by the Nassau County Planning Commission at its July 28 meeting.

De Giorgio said the planning commission advised the town that it could make its own "local determination." The board unanimously approved it.

Planning Commissioner Michael Levine said that the distance restrictions cross municipality lines, so if a school is located in the Town of Hempstead and a proposed vape shop or hookah lounge is less than 1,000 feet away, it would not be permitted.

In order for an existing indoor smoking establishment to be "grandfathered"



Photo: Vaping360.com/Flickr

The North Hempstead Town Board approved regulations keeping indoor smoking establishments away from residences and children.

into the new regulations, Levine said, it would need to have all necessary permits and conform to town code.

"If the operation is fully permitted, prior to the enactment of the law, they get to keep what they have," he said. "But if their operation does not have the proper permits, then they're not entitled to grandfathered in protection."

Levine said if someone reports a non-conforming indoor smoking establish-

ment, the building department would review the business' file and look at what it is permitted to have prior to the law's enactment.

Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth and De Giorgio said the legislation was a joint effort between the town attorney's office, building department and public safety department.

The town is also looking at limiting what type of signs would be permitted

outside smoking establishments.

On July 12, the board set a public hearing for its Sept. 13 meeting on proposed legislation that would establish regulations on advertising for electronic cigarettes and other tobacco products on the outside of smoking businesses.

The next board meeting is on Aug. 23.

Gatsby's Landing merges old, new

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percent owners, and that it's in my backyard," Falcone said. "I can close shop at midnight and be home five after 12."

Falcone and his wife, Danai, had their eye on Roslyn for a few years, waiting for a location to open up, he said.

The restaurant was previously Bar Citron, which operated for 10 years. Management changed the name to Pomodoro not long before it closed.

Danai worked closely with the design consultant Salt Design Group from New York City to achieve the restaurant's sleek look.

"I think they did a marvelous job for us," Falcone said. "We love the fact that we're right on the pond."

Since the location is situated by Ro-

slyn Pond, readers of the novel can be treated to their own waterfront view, like Gatsby's mansion, Falcone said.

He said he's even considering placing a green light out by the water to mimic the one featured in the story.

Falcone said he aims to create a welcoming space for patrons, not just for Roslyn residents but all the neighboring Long Island communities.

He said Gatsby's Landing isn't "a restaurant" but "their restaurant."

"We expect them to feel they just walked into a place that made them feel like they were at home — open arms and everyone saying hello," he said.

Falcone said he hopes to build a good rapport with the community, and become a Long Island staple.

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