



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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REALITY ILLINOIS EVENT SCHEDULED FOR JACKHAMMERS GAME

JOLIET – The Will County Health Department looks to hit a tobacco prevention home run June 18, when the Joliet JackHammers host Winnipeg in a Northern League baseball game at Silver Cross Field.

Fans attending the 7:10 p.m. game will be eligible for free giveaways with a youth tobacco prevention theme. Free batting helmets will be given to the first 1,000 fans younger than 18 years of age. There will also be a special prize wheel available for fans who can answer tobacco-related questions. Special displays and presentations are planned; all focusing on tobacco prevention and the Health Department's increasingly popular Reality Illinois program.

Reality Illinois is a youth empowerment initiative which encourages teens to take a stand against tobacco use. Program participants work to educate their peers and communities about adverse tobacco-related health effects, and deceptive marketing practices utilized by tobacco companies.

Students from Joliet Central and Peotone high schools are active in Reality Illinois. They work to make their communities tobacco-free and communicate with decision makers on issues relating to tobacco control and prevention.

The evening's ceremonial first pitch will be delivered by Derek Malone. A student at Three Rivers School in Channahon, Malone won the Health Department's 2010 Tar Wars Poster Contest. Grade school students from across Will County participate in the annual Tar Wars event, which helps children to recognize the importance of not using tobacco.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the U.S. Chronic tobacco use is strongly linked to lung disease, heart disease, stroke, and cancers of the lung, larynx, esophagus, mouth and bladder. More than 60,000 Illinois teens become new daily smokers annually.

The gates open at 6:10 p.m. for a special night of tobacco prevention awareness and baseball. A 3-D Fireworks display will cap the evening.

For more information about the June 18 game at Silver Cross field, contact the Joliet JackHammers at 815-726-2255, or visit www.jackhammersbaseball.com. To learn more about Reality Illinois, phone 815-774-7312, or visit the Tobacco Control and Prevention page at www.willcountyhealth.org.



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