



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Symphony Under the Stars: Tobacco Free and Family Friendly!

**HELENA** -- For many Montanans, the annual *Symphony Under the Stars* presented by the Helena Symphony, Carroll College, and new partner, ExplorationWorks, has become a summer tradition for the entire family.

This year's concert which is scheduled for **Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m. on the lawn at Carroll College** will present "out of this world" music and will offer activities highlighting space science and music for the whole family. Activities will include a musical instrument "petting zoo" sponsored by the Helena Music Teachers Association, a "planet walk" & hands-on lunar telescope viewing at the concert site, and earlier in the day, a book-signing by astronaut Buzz Aldrin at ExplorationWorks.

And, as if this weren't enough incentive for residents to attend the event, the symphony will also be tobacco free! Tobacco-free environments promote positive community role modeling and protect the health, safety, and welfare of community members.

Secondhand smoke is a human carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure. Exposure to secondhand smoke has immediate health consequences such as asthma attacks and other respiratory diseases. Even in outdoor settings secondhand smoke levels can reach levels as high as those found in indoor facilities where smoking is permitted. And tobacco free environments eliminate litter of toxic cigarette butts or spittle where children and families congregate.

"I always work to set up the stage at Symphony Under the Stars, but this year, I am so excited that it is going to be smoke free, said Helena High School Sophomore, Olivia Holter, "Not only is it modeling healthy behaviors for younger kids, it will mean that the only breathtaking part of the night will be from the music and fireworks and not the secondhand smoke!"

Working together with Carroll College and the Helena Symphony to promote this year's *Symphony Under the Stars* as **Tobacco Free and Family Friendly**, the Lewis and Clark County Tobacco Use Prevention Program will provide signage, education and volunteer support to remind concert-goers about the power of positive, tobacco free role-modeling and the importance of providing healthy, safe tobacco free environments for everyone.

So come out to support this fabulous concert and support healthy, tobacco free public events. Look for Tobacco Use Prevention staff and local teen advocates who will be onsite to provide information and education! We hope to see you there!

*The mission of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents.*

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