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59 Area Eating Establishments Recognized for Food Safety

Public-health officials recognized 59 area eating establishments Thursday for their consistent and diligent efforts to serve safe food to the public.

Jim Benish, chair of the City-County Board of Health, presented the Gold and Silver Fork Awards at a ceremony following the board’s regular monthly meeting. Lewis and Clark Public Health has offered the awards since 2011 to restaurants and other public eating facilities, like school cafeterias and nursing homes.

Benish handed out a record 22 Gold Fork Awards to facilities that routinely use effective food safety systems to manage the risk of foodborne illness. He presented 37 Silver Fork Awards to facilities that are making progress toward using an effective system. The winning establishments are listed below.

“If a facility has a food-safety system in place and uses it consistently, the risk of a foodborne illness is significantly reduced,” said Laurel Riek, supervisor of the food-facility inspection program at Lewis and Clark Public Health.

Nine facilities are first-time award winners this year, and four former Silver Fork Award winners moved up to Gold Fork Awards, she noted.

“The number of Gold Fork Award winners just keeps growing every year,” Riek said. “This was the vision of these awards. It certainly demonstrates that these operators are dedicated to food safety and preventing foodborne illness.”

To be eligible for an award, a food establishment must offer sit-down dining and have been open for at least a year. This year, 210 of 407 licensed retail food facilities in the county met the award criteria and were eligible for consideration.

The awards are based on the results of unannounced inspections conducted in 2018 and documentation reviews and discussion of food-safety systems with environmental health specialists from the health department.

For more information, contact the health department at 457-8900 or publichealth@lccountymt.gov
Gold Fork Award Winners (*indicates first-time winners)

- Augusta Public Schools
- Burger King (on North Sanders)
- Café 406*
- Capital High School Cafeteria
- Capital High Sodexo
- Costco
- C.R. Anderson Middle School Cafeteria
- East Valley Middle School Cafeteria
- Eastgate School Cafeteria
- Four Georgians School Cafeteria
- Hawthorne School Cafeteria
- Helena Dinner Club (at Neighborhood Center)
- Helena Middle School Cafeteria
- Kessler School Cafeteria
- Lincoln School Cafeteria
- McDonald’s (both locations)
- Radley School Cafeteria
- Ray Bjork Cafeteria
- Rossiter School Cafeteria
- Warren School Cafeteria
- Wendy’s

Silver Fork Award Winners (*indicates first-time winners)

- Apple Rehab Cooney Nursing Home
- Applebee’s Neighborhood Grill
- Bad Betty’s Barbecue*
- Benny’s Bistro*
- Big Sky Care Center*
- Broadwater School Cafeteria
- Bryant School Cafeteria
- Burger King (on Prospect)
- C Bar N Mission
- Carroll College Food Service
- Dairy Queen (on Prospect)
- Fireside Coffee*
- Hardee’s (both locations)
- Helena High School Cafeteria
- La Pa Grill*
- Lewis and Clark Tap Room*
- Lincoln Dinner Club
- Lincoln School District 38
- Lucca’s
- Masonic Home of Montana
- Moose Junction
- No Sweat Café
- Panda Express
- Qdoba Mexican Grill
- Real Food Market & Deli
- Scenic Brew*
- Shodair Residential Treatment Center
- Smith School Cafeteria
- Starbucks (on Prospect)
- Taco del Sol
- Taco John’s
- Taqueria El Vaquero
- Lincoln Pit Stop
- Touchmark Senior Living
- Windbag Saloon*
- Wolf Creek School Lunch Program