



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **FOOD SERVICE OPERATORS TO BE RECOGNIZED**

**Galveston County and Cities** – As part of the Galveston County Health District's observance of *National Public Health Week*, 46 food service establishments will be recognized for quality food safety practices. "Gold Ribbon" awards will be presented by the District during a ceremony to be held April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wayne Johnson Community Center in La Marque beginning at 6:30 p.m. Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough and County Health Authority, Dr. Mark Guidry will be on hand to congratulate the 2008 recipients, while Health District staff distribute the awards. The awards were initiated 12 years ago to identify food service establishments that show exemplary compliance with the Texas Food Establishment Rules.

Eight Health District sanitarians inspect more than 1,500 licensed food service operations in Galveston County to assure food safety and protect the health of consumers. Award criteria includes: establishment must actually prepare food, maintain a record of satisfactory food temperatures, must have no confirmed foodborne illness complaints, must have at least one certified food service manager employed, must have no significant number of demerits, must have a good cleaning and maintenance program, have evidence of staff discussions or training, and show special effort to comply with the rules by the use of food safety aids.

After going through an approval process, environmental management staff will examine the nominated establishment's file and sanitation history. They then visit the nominee for an on-site evaluation of the operation.

"We take this opportunity every year to let people know there are food service operators in the community that do a great job," say Martin Entringer the District's manager of Consumer Health Services. "Community feedback tells us that people like to know which restaurants and food service providers have safe and exemplary practices. This good news is shared annually through Gold Ribbon Awards."

2008 Gold Ribbon recipients by community are:

**Bacliff:** Big D's Texas Style BBQ, K.E. Little Elementary School

**Crystal Beach:** Crenshaw Elementary

**Dickinson:** Bay Colony Elementary, Children's Choice Child Care, Dickinson BBQ Co., Dunbar Middle School, Silbernagel Elementary School

**Friendswood:** For Children Only Day School, Windsong Intermediate School, Zue Bales Intermediate

**Galveston:** Bouldin's Bundle of Bears, Galveston County Senior Citizen Center, Ziegler Head Start, Alamo Elementary School, Central Middle School, Charles B. Scott Elementary, David G. Burnett Elementary, Gladnieo Parker Elementary, L.A. Morgan Elementary, Rosenberg Elementary, Weis Middle school, Koala Kare Day Care Center, Moody Gardens Aquarium Food Court, Starbucks Coffee #10412, Tide Way Lodge

**Hitchcock:** Harborwalk Yacht Club Restaurant

**La Marque:** Building Blocks Academy #2, Early Childhood Learning Center, Galveston County Department of Parks and Senior Services, Primo Pizzeria, Star Kids Education and Care Center

**League City:** Baywind Village Care Center, Clear Creek High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Bauerschlag Elementary, Denny's Restaurant, Gilmore Elementary, H.E.B. Bakery and Deli, League City Elementary School, League City Intermediate School, Ludwig's Catering, Panda Express #1244, Victory Lakes Intermediate School

**Texas City:** Ashton Parke Care Center, Simms Elementary

