

Culinary Chronicles

Spring 2010

A brief newsletter for food establishments
in Thurston County



or



?

Service Animal or Pet?

Pets are an important part of many families and some owners take them everywhere. However, food establishments and grocery stores are not appropriate places for pets. Food regulations prohibit pets or “companion animals” in food establishments. However, a *service animal*, defined as an animal trained to provide assistance to someone, is allowed to be in areas accessible to customers. The key term in that definition is “trained.” If you have doubts you can ask a customer what assistance the service animal is trained to provide. It is not legal to ask a customer to describe or provide details about their disability. A trained and equipped guide dog is welcome with its owner; a toy poodle without specific training to assist its owner can be very cute, but is still a pet and not welcome in a food establishment. If you have questions about this issue, please contact us.

Certified Food Managers’ Renewal Class

This class is required for new and renewing managers of food establishments that wish to participate in Thurston County’s Management Certification Program. This program allows for the reduction of their food establishment permit fee by 25% in exchange for monthly self-inspections. Certified managers need to renew their certificate every five years. New managers that have completed and passed a food manager course (like ServSafe) must attend this class in order for their facility to qualify for the program.

March 24th, 2010 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

**Room 107, Thurston County Public Health Department Building,
(412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia, WA, 98506)**

Cost is \$35.00

Another class will be offered in October 2010.

For more information & to register call Dawn or Heather at (360) 867-2667.

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THURSTON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FOOD & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTION

412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia WA 98506

360.867-2667 (TDD 360.867-2603)

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehfood

We are working on a new fee structure and would like your help!

Currently food permits are based on a category, like espresso, tavern, or food processor. Then the size of the establishment, in units of 1000 square feet, is used as a multiplier of that base fee. This year's fee increases have highlighted some concerns with this system; a 1,200 sq ft establishment is charged twice the fee of a 1,000 sq ft establishment, a diner that only heats and serves is charged the same fee as a from-scratch restaurant with complex food preparation. We are currently developing a risk-based approach which places the majority of a fee determination on the cooking processes used in a facility: espresso drink making, heat and serve, or cook-cool-process-reheat-serve. We expect to have a draft available for review by late spring and are looking for interested people to provide us with feedback on the proposal; does it make sense, is it easy to use, is it fair? Please contact Sammy Berg, (360)867-2568, bergs@co.thurston.wa.us, if you are interested in helping craft the new fee structure.

Reminder to wash your hands. Put quality ingredients in your customers' food—not germs!

Employees must wash their hands:



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- Before working with food
- After going to the restroom
- After handling raw meat
- After handling dirty dishes, chemicals or garbage
- After taking breaks, eating, or smoking
- After getting hands dirty

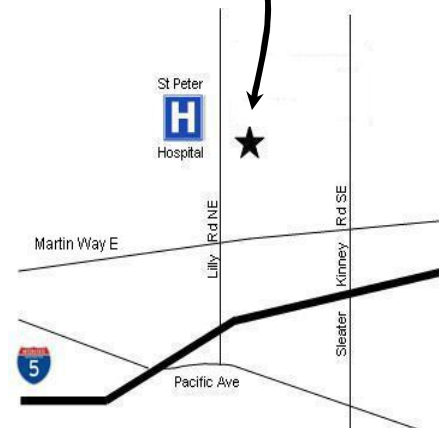
We Have Moved

The Food and Environmental Services Section has moved to the Public Health building, located at 412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia, WA 98506-5132 (across from St. Peter Hospital).



The food worker classes will remain at the Courthouse;
--same times and locations (call (360) 867-2665 for recorded message of times and locations).

All food, pool, and school permit applications, plans, and temporary food applications **must** be taken to the Lilly Road location. Replacement food worker cards can also be obtained at this location.



We have new phone and fax numbers:

new phone number: (360) 867-2667

new fax number: (360) 867-2600

new office hours: 8:00–4:00, M-F