

# The Food Scoop

Spring  
2010



## Credit and Debit Cards Now Accepted!

**C**onvenience is Key! No one can deny that we are in the electronic age. The health department is happy to offer you a new service making transactions more convenient.

We now accept credit and debit cards in addition to cash and checks. This often eliminates the need to visit our office where on-line forms, faxes, and electronic payments can be used instead.

Please consider the electronic payment option with your 2010 food service license application. Electronic payment makes it easier to send your food license fee in before the deadline eliminating additional late fees applied.

Using your credit or debit card is also handy to renew your food safety class subscription or pre-pay your certified manager class. These can be done at the same time you are making your registration.

## E-MAIL NOW AVAILABLE!

**I**n order to reduce the cost of providing food service establishments with needed information, we are implementing more cost efficient ways to provide services to you. Newsletters, licensing information, and advisories will soon be sent via e-mail.

If you have an e-mail address to begin receiving necessary information electronically, please let your inspector know or contact the Calhoun County Public Health Department at 269-969-6341.

E-mail addresses provided to Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) will only be used for Environmental Health purposes.

### Calhoun County Public Health Department

190 E. Michigan Avenue, Suite A100

Battle Creek, Michigan 49014

(269) 969-6370

Environmental Health:

Tel: 269-969-6341 • Fax: 269-969-0035

[www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth](http://www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth)



# Teaching Food Safety is No. 1

## **CERTIFIED MANAGERS BE PROUD**

Calhoun County Public Health Department provides a Certified Manager Class that meets the requirements of Michigan's Food Code for a Certified Manager in food service facilities. To gain certification, a manager must successfully complete a nationally accredited exam. The manager certification is very important and is to be looked upon as a great accomplishment.

The certified manager is responsible for protecting the public's health by reducing the risk of foodborne illness by training and supervising employees. One of the major causes of foodborne illness is the lack of knowledge by food service workers.

To ensure each facility has a certified manager and the certification is current, CCPHD requires that all certified managers display their certificates or have them available at your facility for our review. This helps us confirm you are current with certification and shows your customers the great accomplishment achieved.

**CERTIFIED MANAGERS....  
DISPLAY YOUR CERTIFICATES AND BE  
PROUD!!!**

## **SUBSCRIPTION FOR FOOD SAFETY CLASS**

A good option for many facilities is to purchase a food safety class subscription for \$150. This fee will allow an unlimited number of people from your facility to attend a regularly scheduled food safety class at no additional charge for a 12-month period. Once paid, pre-registration by calling the Health Department is all that is required. For more information, please contact us at 269-969-6341.



## **CERTIFIED MANAGER REQUIREMENT REMINDER**

Please remember that each licensed food service facility must have a certified manager available during operation. This is a requirement of Michigan's Food Law and Calhoun County's ordinance. The non-compliance fee for not having a certified manager on staff is \$108, payable at licensing time.

If your certified manager leaves your operation, you have 90 days in which to hire or train a replacement. The skills brought to food service establishments by a certified manager greatly increases food safety and operation efficiency.

The eight-hour class is from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (lunch from 12 to 1 on your own) on the third Thursday of each month. Classes are held at CCPHD located in the George W. Toeller Building, 190 E. Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek. The class fee is \$55 and is required prior to class payable via check (payable to CCPHD), correct cash, or credit/debit card. If you have questions or would like to register for a class, please contact CCPHD at 269-969-6341.

## **FOOD SAFETY CLASS**

CCPHD also offers a food safety class that provides practical information on food storage, handling, preparation, safe food temperatures, serving, leftovers, cleaning, foodborne illness, etc. This class is held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Health Department from 8 a.m. - 12 Noon. The \$25 fee is required prior to class. This class assists restaurants with orienting new employees to the principles of safe food handling. For more information or to register, please contact CCPHD at 269-969-6341.

# Fee Changes are Minimal

## FEE CHANGES

I am happy to say that there are no major fee changes again this year. Several fees were added due to changes made in the food program enforcement policies.

## LATE FEES FOR PERMANENT FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

For many years a very significant late fee was charged to those facilities paying their license fees after the due date. The amount due was double the Calhoun County portion of the license fee. To make the fee more fair, changes have been made.

The new fee is 1/3 of the county fee (this amount is indicated on this year's license application) plus \$25 for each day the payment is late. For example, if a fixed facility normally pays \$536 for its license but this year is two days late, the payment due would be \$756.

- \$536 (regular fee) + \$170 (1/3 county fee) + \$25 + \$25 = \$756 total due.

This will not penalize those facilities that are a day or two late as much as a facility that is many days late. And, as always, please remember that your license fee must be **received or postmarked by April 30, 2010.**

Even though the Calhoun County Public Health Department conducts very few administrative or enforcement actions, those that are done take considerable time to prepare. Therefore, the following fees have been added:

- \$100 office conference for enforcement purposes
- \$200 informal hearing
- \$300 formal hearing

These enforcement actions are taken only when the operation of a food service facility poses a risk to public health.

Calhoun County Public Health Department

## Fee Schedule

October 2009



Albion  
(517) 629-9434  
(866) 303-9436 (Toll Free)

Battle Creek  
Administration (269) 969-6370  
Clinic (269) 969-6363  
Environmental Health (269) 969-6341  
[www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth](http://www.calhouncountymi.gov/publichealth)

Marshall  
(269) 781-0909

As approved by the Board of Commissioners in October 2009

# No Smoking?

## ***Dr. Ron Davis Smoke-Free Air Law***

**O**n May 1, 2010, Michigan residents and visitors will be protected from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke in all restaurants, bars, and businesses. Michigan is the 38th state to enact this type of legislation. The law requires all businesses, including restaurants and bars, to be smoke free by May 1, 2010. Smoking is also banned in enclosed areas of hotels, motels, and inns.

Relating to restaurants and bars, smoking is not allowed on patios or other outdoor areas, as these are considered as an extension of the establishment. Also, private clubs including, but not limited to, American Legions, Moose Lodges, rotary clubs, Masons, are not exempted. Any establishment that serves food or drink requiring a license, cannot allow smoking. This is true even if it serves only once a week or once a year. If clubs do not serve food or drink but employ at least one person, they must be smoke free.

There are very few exceptions. Smoking is permitted in cigar bars and tobacco specialty shops (those that meet very specific definitions), private offices where only one person is the employee (this may be prohibited by Calhoun County's Smoke-Free Ordinance), and the gaming floors of Detroit's casinos.

This law will require changes in the operation of some food service facilities, as well as changes to employee policies and procedures. Basically it means there can be no smoking allowed on any property (inside or outside) owned by the business. We will provide you with more detailed information as it becomes available.

Please talk to your inspector if you have questions or concerns, or contact the Calhoun County Public Health Department at 269-969-6341.

Thank you for your cooperation.



## ***FOOD TRIVIA***

**T**he Catholic Church classed beaver meat the same as water fowl, which means it can be eaten during Lent.

**P**eople with thyroid problems should avoid eating large amounts of cabbage or cauliflower. They both interfere with the body's absorption of iodine which is needed by the thyroid gland.

**A** Hummer H2 could be driven around the world 244 times on the excess calories Americans consume each year.