



COMMUNITY HEALTH
& THE ENVIRONMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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24 CARROT WINNERS SET “GOLD” STANDARD

St. Charles County Rewards Eateries for Outstanding Food Safety, Stewardship

St. Charles County, Missouri – This week, the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment announced its **24 Carrot Gold Food Safety Excellence Award** winners for 2013. Presented by the Division of Environmental Health and Protection since 2007, the 24 Carrot Gold awards recognize local food service providers that demonstrate excellence in food safety, sanitation and employee education.

At on-site ceremonies led by County Executive **Steve Ehlmann**, St. Charles County recognized the following food service establishments as **24 Carrot Gold Food Safety Excellence Award** winners in 2013:

- **EL MAGUEY MEXICAN RESTAURANT** – 6125 Ronald Reagan, Lake Saint Louis
- **FARMHOUSE RESTAURANT** – 1120 Technology Drive, Suite 113A, O’Fallon
- **FIVE GUYS BURGERS** – 1520 South 5th Street, St. Charles
- **LITTLE CAESARS** – 425 Droste Road, St. Charles
- **RACANELLI’S PIZZA** – 3945 Mid Rivers Mall Drive, Cottleville
- **RUBY TUESDAY** – 1218 West Pearce, Wentzville
- **THE BRASS RAIL STEAK HOUSE** – 4601 Highway K, O’Fallon

“Food safety is the norm for the more than 1,300 establishments the Division of Environmental Health and Protection permits annually,” County Executive Ehlmann said. “These awards recognize those facilities that go above and beyond food code requirements, and they are to be commended for their efforts.”

These winners demonstrate the highest levels of food safety practiced in St. Charles County. Owned and family operated by Karen DeLapaz since 2006, El Maguey Mexican Restaurant did not receive any violations during its several inspections in 2013 — a credible accomplishment considering that most of these periodic reviews usually uncover at least one non-critical violation within an establishment. Even more remarkable is the record of Farmhouse Restaurant owners, Ken and Kathy Cobb, who have yet to receive a single violation since opening in July 2012 and require that each of their employees successfully completes an eight-hour food safety training. The “Crew” at the Ruby Tuesday in Wentzville proudly display that they earned perfect 100 scores in each of their last three 2013 health department inspections, and owner Scott Ellinger and his team at The Brass Rail Steak House continue to earn excellent inspections while growing from a staff of two to 40 employees since July 2012.

(MORE)

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While all permitted establishments within the county meet requirements to protect the customers they serve, the 24 Carrot Gold Award winning establishments exceed standards. To be eligible for consideration, recipients cannot have any critical violations during the preceding 12 months and incur no more than six non-critical violations over the same period. In addition, at least 90 percent of the food managers at the establishment must have successfully completed a food safety certification class. The facility must also have a current St. Charles County Food Establishment Permit and be in good standing with the department.

To help customers discover establishments' food service ratings, the department has placed a QR code on permit stickers that are posted at entry doors, drive-thru windows or other convenient locations. Customers can use smart phones equipped with downloaded applications to scan these codes and view an establishment's ratings. Alternatively, customers may visit the Reports tab at <http://health.sccmo.org>, and click on "Know the Score" under the Environmental Health heading to view these ratings. The division inspects all permanent and temporary food service establishments in St. Charles County, except those located within the City of St. Peters (which conducts its own inspections).

Throughout the year, the Division of Environmental Health and Protection works with area businesses and organizations to promote healthy conditions in our community. To learn ways the division helps to ensure public safety, please call 636-949-1800 or visit <http://health.sccmo.org>.

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(Cutline to accompany attached picture: St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann presented one of seven 24 Carrot Gold Food Safety Excellence Awards this week to Ken and Kathy Cobb, owners of Farmhouse Sandwiches in O'Fallon. Also pictured are O'Fallon Mayor Bill Hennessey (far left), St. Charles County Division of Environmental Health and Protection Director Ryan Tilley (second from left) and others.)