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News for Darien

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Two Food-Serving Establishments Get Lowest ('C') Rating, 3 School Cafeterias Get A's in Latest Health Inspections

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Two Darien eateries each got the lowest rating of "C," and there was only a single mistake found at one of the three town schools inspected in the most recently released town Health Department inspection reports.

The 12 health inspections were conducted from Aug. 28 to Sept. 6 (last Wednesday).

Most Recent Inspection Results

Here's an alphabetical list of the most recently released health inspection results (an explanation for each

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part of the list, including links, is just below the list).

Keep in mind that a food-serving establishment with a history of good ratings may occasionally get a poor inspection rating, occasionally the best do, and every restaurant normally gets a few things wrong (an explanation of how this list is put together is immediately below it):

SCHOOLS:

— Hindley School — 10 Nearwater Lane — Sept. 5 — Town Rating: A — State Score: 100

— Ox Ridge School — 395 Mansfield Ave. — Sept. 6 — Town Rating: A — State Score: 98 — Inspector's Remarks: "Ice cream stored on floor in walk-in freezer."

— Tokeneke School — 7 Old Farm Road — Sept. 5 — Town Rating: A — State Score: 100

OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

— Burgers Shakes & Fries — 800 Post Road — [Sept. 1](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 97

— **Darien Diner — 275 Post Road — [Aug. 28](#) — [Town Rating: C](#) — State Score: 87** — *Inspector's Remarks: "Items left out on the counter to cool: rapid cooling techniques not utilized; large amount of eggs pooling in walk-in [cooler?]; bare-hand contact on the line with ready-to-eat [food]; washing hands in the prep sink; misuse of a service area hand sink; no paper towels at the prep/ware-wash sink; labeling issues (granular and spray bottle); thawing two large turkeys in water ([at] three-bay [sink]); no covered waste in the ladies' restroom."* — *Inspector's Comments: "Spraying floor mats outside during inspection—running into storm drain. MGR [Manager?] Rita did sign two employees up for the Darien Health Department training this month. Documentation of training for new employees?"*

— Hibachi Sushi Ya — 111 Old Kings Hwy. N. — [Sept. 5](#) — [Town Rating: B](#) — State Score: 89

— **Sono Baking Company — 49 Tokeneke Road — [Sept. 1](#) — [Town Rating: C](#) — State Score: 94** — *Inspector's Remarks: "Soup temperature 117 degrees; personal items in prep area; hand sink used for other purposes than hand washing."* — *Inspector's Comments: "Soup reheated to 165 [degrees] to be hot-held at 140 [degrees] or above."*

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— Sono Baking Company (reinspection) — 49 Tokeneke Road — [Sept. 5](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 95

— Sugar Bowl — 1033 Post Road — [Sept. 1](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 96

— Ten Twenty Post Oyster Bar and Bistro — Sept. 6 — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 93

— Vavala's Delicatessen/Caterer — 156 Heights Road — [Sept. 1](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 93

— Wee Burn Country Club, Satellite Location — 410 Hollow Tree Ridge Road — Sept. 6 — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 97

Dates link to the food establishment's inspection report referenced here (when available, sometimes it takes a while to get posted online), and **Darien's own A/B/C ratings** link to a Web page showing several of the restaurant's recent inspection ratings.

See also:

- [Our previous article](#) showing restaurant inspection ratings (Aug. 31)
- [Darien Health Department Starts Letter Grades for Food Service Inspections](#)

For restaurants and other food-serving establishments rated "C," and for some others of interest to the public (like schools) additional information is given. When we provide that information here, then words within brackets ("[]") have been added for clarity by Darienite.com; semicolons like this (";") separate individual comments by the inspectors. Each comment is about a particular violation that triggers a deduction of one or more points from a perfect state score of 100.

How Darien's Restaurants Are Rated

Restaurants in town are rated under the Darien Health Department's own A/B/C ratings system. Health inspectors also use the state health code regulations to score restaurants, with a perfect score set at 100, and demerits (of 1 to 4 points each) for various code violations.

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The Darien system takes into account problems that are ongoing, so a restaurant scoring higher than others on the state scale may actually get a lower score on the Darien scale.

You can find the past several inspection ratings under the Darien ratings system for food-serving establishments [on this website](#), and now you can also find copies of inspection reports, including state health code scores in the same place.

Any establishment actually deemed unsafe can be closed by the town Health Department until violations are fixed. Town Health Director David Knauf says that has never happened in the time he's been with the department.