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Contact Information:
Emily Brown
Public Relations Coordinator
Mid-Continent Public Library
ebrown@mymcpl.org
O: 816.503.4187
M: 816.809.9630

Mid-Continent Public Library Explores ‘Business of Wine’

Wine Experts Offer Industry Insights at Square One Panel Discussion

Parkville, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library’s Square One Small Business Services division will host The Business of Wine with Kevin Hodge on Friday, February 9, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Library’s Parkville Branch [8815 Tom Watson Pkwy., Parkville, MO 64152]. During the event, Hodge, owner of Cellar Rat Wine Merchants, will lead a panel of wine experts in a moderated discussion about the local wine industry and culture.

“When many people think of wine country, they think of vineyards in Italy, France, or even California,” said Amy Fisher, who leads MCPL’s Square One Small Business Services team. “But there are many successful vineyards and wine-focused enterprises that operate right here in Missouri.”

In fact, according to a 2013 study by the Missouri Wine and Grape Board, wine and wine grapes have a $1.76 billion impact on the state’s economy.

“Our goal for this program is to educate participants on the local wine industry and to give them some insights on what it takes to be successful in it,” said Fisher.

Business of Wine Panelists include:

- Marc Joseph, Wine Manager at Cellar Rat Wine Merchants
- Kathi Rohlfing, Sales Representative at Pinnacle Imports
- Stephen Gregory, Import Manager for HGC Imports
- Joyce Angelos Walsh, wine judge, writer, and Tasting Room Manager at Vox Vineyards
- James Lowery, Winemaker at KC Wineworks

Following the panel discussion, attendees who are 21 and over will have the opportunity to sample products from the panel members. The Business of Wine is free to attend, but registration is required at mymcpl.org/SquareOne. The program is funded by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

Other upcoming Square One programs include:
• Simple Steps to Starting Your Business on February 13 at MCPL’s South Independence Branch
• Business Basics: Creating Your Business Story for Small Businesses and Nonprofits on February 15 at MCPL’s Blue Springs North Branch
• Intellectual Property Workshop on February 24 at MCPL’s Woodneath Library Center

Register for The Business of Wine and other Square One programs at mymcppl.org/SquareOne.

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**Access Your World**

Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and three Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**Square One Small Business Services** at Mid-Continent Public Library supports local entrepreneurs through access to information, programs, and opportunities during regular library business hours. Small business specialists are available to meet with business owners by appointment. For more information about Square One Small Business Services, contact a business specialist at squareone@mymcppl.org or visit mymcppl.org/SquareOne.