

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 11, 2025

Contact Information:

Emily Becker, Community Relations Manager

Mid-Continent Public Library

ebecker@mymcpl.org | 816.503.4187



Library Hosts All-Ages ‘Food Literacy Fair’ July 19

Mid-Continent Public Library Celebrates Culinary Arts Month at Culinary Kitchens

Kansas City, MO – In honor of Culinary Arts Month, Mid-Continent Public Library’s Culinary Kitchens will host a **Food Literacy Fair on Saturday, July 19**, at their facility in the Green Hills Library Center (8581 N. Green Hills Rd., Kansas City, Mo.) **Starting at 10:00 a.m.**, MCPL Culinary Kitchens staff and presenters will host a variety of educational, hands-on culinary activities for all ages—from cupcake decorating to creating the perfect summer salad. The event is completely free to attend, and no advance registration is required.

“This event is a great opportunity for community members to get a small taste of what we do here at the Culinary Kitchens,” said MCPL Culinary Kitchens Director Xander Winkel. “They can enjoy live cooking demonstrations in the Teaching Kitchen, speak with our expert staff and presenters, and sample food from the local businesses that call our Commercial Kitchens home. We hope foodies of all ages will join us for this daylong celebration of food!”

Food Literacy Fair Schedule:

10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Morning Activities

- Tortillas for All Ages
- Make Your Own Tofu Breakfast
- Unicorn Cupcake decorating
- Dough Drop Cookies
- Tasty Treats with Angel (Angel’s Tasty Treats)

11:00 a.m. – Noon Ask a Chef, Culinary Kitchens Chef Charles Tibbs

Noon – 1:00 p.m. Start a Food Business, Culinary Kitchens Director Xander Winkel

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch Break

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Afternoon Activities

- Summer Mocktails
- Cajun Sweets and Kickin' It Cajun
- Summer Salad Flight
- Old World Wassail
- Hive and Harvest

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Trivia Bites: Food and Drinks

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ask a Dietitian

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Trivia Bites: Missouri Only!

Launched in 2023, the MCPL Culinary Kitchens were developed to fill a need that Library staff saw in the community—the need for free, high-quality food education and resources for both individuals and businesses. Located inside MCPL's Green Hills location, the Culinary Kitchens facility is home to a fully equipped Teaching Kitchen that hosts classes on nutrition and food preparation for all ages, and three adjoining Commercial Kitchens, which offer a homebase for local startup food businesses.

More information about all of the Culinary Kitchens' offerings can be found at mymcpl.org/Culinary.

###

Access Your World

Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](#) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 850,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Mid-Continent Public Library's Culinary Kitchens

[The MCPL Culinary Kitchens](#) are a destination and resource for anyone interested in learning about food and culinary entrepreneurship. Led by Director Xander Winkel, the Culinary Kitchens team offers customers a combined 60+ years of culinary and food business experience. Winkel, who has a background in nonprofit management and small business development, is joined by Kitchen Manager Taylor Smith, a registered dietitian whose expertise includes federal food regulations and one-on-one dietary counseling, and Program Manager Charles Tibbs, a former executive chef with experience managing a range of food operations, from small startups to stadiums with over 100 kitchen staff. Connect with the Culinary Kitchens on [Facebook](#).