Library Whips Local Entrepreneurs into Shape at ‘Bootcamp’

Business Workshop Offers Free Advice on Operating a Successful Business in KC

Blue Springs, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library’s Square One Small Business Services division, in partnership with the City of Blue Springs and the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce, will host a Small Business Bootcamp for local entrepreneurs on Friday, May 4, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Steven P. Westermann Fire & EMS Education Center (4715 US Hwy 40, Blue Springs, MO 64015).

“This event will offer businesspeople of all experience levels the chance to learn and grow their skillsets,” said Amy Fisher, who leads the Square One team at MCPL. “Not only is it a good opportunity to learn from successful business leaders in our area, the bootcamp will also provide a platform for entrepreneurs to connect with each other and speak with representatives from local organizations that support small businesses.”

The bootcamp will kick off with networking and complimentary snacks and coffee, followed by a keynote speech at 9 a.m. by Adrienne Haynes, Managing Partner of SEED Law. After the keynote address, attendees will have the chance to participate in a variety of seminars on business growth, storytelling, and social media, including:

- Direct Sales: How and Who is Your Target Market
- Facebook CHANGED the Rules!
- Difficult Conversations in the Workplace
- eCommerce for Beginners: Logistics, Looks, and Platform
- Preparing to Be Bankable, Not Bankrupt
- Quick Guide to Food Rules: Preparing “Food-Preneurs”

The Small Business Bootcamp is funded by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Registration is required at mymcpl.org/SquareOne.

“Continuing education and networking are two key components of being a successful business owner,” said Lara Vermillion, President of the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce. “We’re very proud to partner with Square One to provide both of these essential services at the Small Business Bootcamp and to support our local business community.”

Additional upcoming Square One programs include:

- Building a Solid Foundation for Opening a Restaurant on May 15 at MCPL’s North Independence Branch
- The Changing Face of Retail on May 16 at Platte Valley Bank’s Smithville South Branch
Facebook Advertising for Small Businesses and Organizations on May 22 at MCPL’s South Independence Branch

Learn more about Square One and register for these programs at mymcpl.org/SquareOne.

###

**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@mymcpl.org or visit mymcpl.org/SquareOne.