Food Trucks Compete for ‘Rookie of the Year’ Title

MCPL, Jazzy B’s, Chamber, & Ennovation Center Host ‘Food Truck Face-Off’ in Independence

Independence, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library’s Square One Small Business Services, in partnership with the Independence Chamber of Commerce, Jazzy B’s, and the Ennovation Center, will host the deliciously competitive Food Truck Face-Off on Friday, May 31, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Independence Chamber of Commerce (Located at 210 W Truman Rd, near the north end of the historic Independence Square).

During the competition, five local food truckers will serve quarter-sized entrees to attendees and a panel of food critics. Attendees will vote to decide who is deemed the 2019 Rookie Food Truck of the Year, while critics will award the Critics’ Choice Award. This year’s food truck contenders include:

- Mattie’s Vegan Eats, a family business serving “plant-based cheese and comfort food”
- Da Poké Wagon, owner Elizabeth Ridgway serves Hawaiian island cuisine
- KC Cajun, authentic Louisiana bayou food
- Nikki-G’s SoulQ Bistro, a BBQ bistro specializing in smoked meats
- Ciao Bella Ice Creamery and Bakery – made-from-scratch ice cream sandwiches, cookies, and milk

“We’re thrilled to host another Food Truck Face-Off, which is not only a fun event for local foodies, but also a chance for us to shine a light on local businesses,” said MCPL’s Morgan Perry, who helps organize the event. “This friendly competition gives truckers a chance to implement the lessons they learned in our workshops and show off their incredible creativity and culinary talent.”

In addition to sampling food from each of the trucks, attendees can enjoy beer from local brewers, including Fringe Beerworks, Grains & Taps, and Sims Home Brewing, and play yard games. Throughout the evening, Jazzy B’s owner Brandon Simpson will emcee the Face-Off, giving play-by-play accounts inside the trucks and relaying feedback from the critics to help attendees decide who will win their vote! This year’s panel of critics includes Alex Levine, author of Kansas City Food Trucks: Stories & Recipe, Danielle Lehman, creator and host of the Open Belly podcast, and food blogger Craig Jones, who was deemed the “Grill Mayor” by the Food Network in 2012.

Tickets to the Food Truck Face-Off must be purchased online prior to Wednesday, May 29, at midnight. They are $35 for general admission and $50 for VIP: TicketTailor.com/events/FoodTruckFaceOff. The Face-Off will be held rain or shine.

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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.