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Sara Trivisonno, of **Mike's Kitchen Catering**, hands a plate of chicken Picatta to Michelle Eversole, of Kirtland, during the Mentor Restaurant Showcase Wednesday at the Mentor Beach Pavilion. Looking on is Sara's father Mike Trivisonno. The restaurant is owned by Mike and Sherri Trivisonno.

A whole bunch of area residents got a taste of Mentor-area restaurants on Wednesday night.

And, judging by the ooh's and ahhh's heard throughout Mentor Beach Park Pavilion, it tasted pretty good.

The first Mentor Restaurant Showcase attracted about 150 people to sample the wares of 17 restaurants that do business in and around the Mentor area.

The event, sponsored by the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce, was designed to be just what the name says — a showcase.

"We really wanted to highlight, because we have such diverse culinary options in the city, try to give them a chance to highlight," said Kevin Malecek, president of Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce.

All eateries that took part are members of the chamber, and Malecek said a couple of the restaurants joined the chamber so they could take part in the Showcase.

Restaurants served up samples of the food available at their restaurants, and many offered up coupons and other trinkets to guests at the event.



Mike's Kitchen Catering Company was one of those on hand, serving samples of its chicken Picatta and barbeque pulled pork.

Owner Sherri Trivisonno, manning the company's table with her husband, **Chef Mike**, and daughter **Sara**, said joining the Showcase made sense for her company.

"They can taste stuff in the comfort of this kitchen in the hopes that they will enjoy it at their next event," she said, pointing out that her company is a full-service catering company that specializes in corporate clients and outdoor barbeques.

She said she didn't think twice about donating all the food for the event.

Mike's was not unlike the others on hand, providing large tastes of food to those taking part.

"It is a small price to pay to enjoy the flavors from **Mike's Kitchen Catering**," she said as she pointed out that the restaurant uses the recipes of Mike's mother, **Marie Trivisonno**.

Guests paid \$25 for unlimited samples of food and two drink tickets.

Diners dug in to pot roast, macaroni and cheese, pizza and ribs from such diverse spots as Lakeshore Eatery in Mentor, Beach Club Bistro in Concord Township and World of Wines and Liquor in Mentor.

Sue Staiger of Mentor attended the event with a friend, and was thrilled with what she got to try.

"I saw it online and thought it sounded like a good thing, and we are enjoying it very much," she said.

She said it was worth the price of admission.

"I'm trying to hit places I have not gone to in Mentor, and that's working out very well," she said.

She particularly enjoyed Lakeshore Eatery's offerings. "The pot roast reminded me of my mom's pot roast," she said with a smile as she pointed out the restaurant's table in the corner.

Malecek said he was pleased with the turnout for the first event.

"We had done some Facebook advertising, we had some general advertising in Mentor City Magazine, just to tell people, hey, this is a chance for you to have a kind of great event, a great night out by the lake, and enjoy all these great restaurants," he said.

"I'm very thrilled with the attendance, and if the people that are here participating with the restaurants are happy — and I think talking to several of them, they are very happy — then we've done our jobs. Our job is to promote the Mentor business community and this is a way to do that."