

Zef's Pizza Firetruck Brings Pizza with Flare

By Katie McFadden

"Hello? 911? Yes, I'd like to order a pizza!" If you try that, you might get into a bit of trouble. But if you call up Zef Noci, he'll arrive by firetruck to serve up some fresh pies at your next party. Zef's Pizza Firetruck is now making house calls in town.

Last year as the pandemic hit, and Floral Park resident and Kosovan immigrant Zef Noci was furloughed, it left him wondering, what's next? It was around his birthday, when he was gifted an outdoor pizza oven, that inspiration struck. "I've been making pizzas for about 15 years on the grill, but this pizza oven upped my game," he said. He decided to share the wealth. Wanting to lift spirits on the block, his wife came up with a weekly Happy Hour every Friday for neighbors to come for socially distanced get togethers, while Noci cooked up some pizzas. "People really loved my pizza and I enjoyed making it. It was a great experience and people were really encouraging, saying 'you should really do something here, you have a great product.' I got my job back, but I realized I needed something to fall back on and I really have a passion for pizza," he said.

Noci decided to turn it into a side business. His pizza, made with fresh ingredients, homemade sauce, fresh mozzarella and unique toppings, baked in a brick oven, spoke for itself. Noci started exploring food trucks and trailers, but in his search, he found that he needed something to stand out. "I

was told I need to give people an experience and it dawned on me that I gotta do something different. In my research, I came across firetrucks, and I thought a firetruck with a pizza oven built in would be so fun," he said. Noci was able to find an old truck, get a loan, find people to modify it and a plan was in the works. "Once I got the truck, people were calling me left and right for parties," he said.

When Zef's Pizza Firetruck rolls up to parties, you're not just getting pizza, you're getting an experience. If there's kids at a party, they all get firefighter hats and Noci invites them to sit in the cabin, turn on the lights or even hit the siren. "Seeing those kids' faces when they get to experience that, it's a lot of fun," Noci, a father himself, said. And in between keeping the kids entertained, Noci is slinging out personal pies made to order. From a classic margherita to pepperoni, to some extra sweet heat with added Mike's Hot Honey, to his popular truffle mushroom white pie and the "Oh Sweet Cheeses," a four-cheese pie with truffle honey, gorgonzola, parmesan, provolone and mozzarella, Noci has a variety of pizzas for every taste.

Noci can bring the truck to any event. Since launching in June, he's done everything from private parties to birthdays, graduations, christenings, corporate parties, and was even invited to a car show at Old Westbury Gardens. However, he's also starting to become known in Rockaway, a neighborhood he knows well. After all, Noci used to be a life-

guard on Beach 97th back in the '80s, he frequents 101 Deli, and he has a few friends in the neighborhood who mentioned it would be good for business. "I have friends who said there's a lot of firemen in Rockaway, so it would be a great place to bring the truck for a party," Noci said, adding that he

provides discounts for first responders.

In the future, Noci hopes to expand, adding more trucks to his fleet for Zef's Pizza to head nationwide.

To learn more about Zef's Pizza, check out www.Zefspizza.com, call 917-414-3480 or email zefspizza@gmail.com



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