



# Reno's Pizza On the Move!

by Laura Fantarella

July will be a tough month for pizza lovers as Reno's Pizzeria closes its doors and prepares to reopen at a new location.

Reno's Pizzeria, a popular destination for Orange folk, will leave its present site on the Boston Post Road to make way for a proposed new Taco Bell restaurant. Reno's will relocate to 500 Boston Post Road, next to Go Green Fitness.

Before opening his new location, Reno's owner Dave Kennedy hopes to close for only two to three weeks. "We hope to be open for business by August 1," he said. The new Reno's will have a similar look and feel to the old one but will be smaller. While the dining room will be smaller, Reno's

will make up for it by offering free delivery throughout Orange. Reno's will add some additional items to the menu, such as a wider variety of chicken wings, a few new gourmet pizzas, an assortment of healthy salads, and some new sandwiches.

Kennedy has mixed emotions about leaving his current property which is owned by his family. The location, which has been home to several Orange eateries including The Farm Shop and Clark's Dairy, holds many fond memories of many residents. "This site has a lot of sentimental value," he said. "We took this building down to the studs and completely renovated it before we moved in. I love it here." But Taco Bell

Corp. made the Kennedys an "offer they couldn't refuse."

"Several fast food chains have approached us over the past four years," Kennedy said. "The first few times we didn't even consider the offers. The last time we really couldn't turn it down." Taco Bell will demolish the building to construct a new restaurant.

Kennedy actually practiced law for eight years before venturing into the restaurant business. Initially he was a silent partner in a Newtown pizzeria and later went to work there when he left his law practice. After getting a taste of this new career and being nationally recognized in *Gourmet Magazine* for his pizza, he left the Newtown pizzeria to open Reno's in 2006.

Kennedy, has a long connection with the town. He and his wife Stephanie, and their three sons actually live one house away from the home he grew up in near the center of town. His restaurant quickly became a town favorite, packed with families and diners throughout the week. The Tuesday night "Pizza Fest" is a fun way to sample all the varieties of pizza made at Reno's for \$9.95.

Last year Reno's was awarded the "Community Service Award" from the Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the Kennedys' commitment to giving back to the community. They frequently hold fundraisers for town causes, particularly to raise money for Little League girls' softball and elementary and middle school events.

"It is easy to do things for this community," he said. "It always comes back to you. The people of Orange are wonderful and they always remember to support the businesses that support them."

