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**Mario's Italian Restaurant Closes Making Way For New HiWay Pizza Pub Location**  
*Dante's Restaurants' HiWay Pizza Pub brand to open a second location this fall.*

**State College, PA:** Mario's Italian Restaurant's parent company Dante's Restaurants and Nightlife, announced today that it has closed its Mario's Italian Restaurant location on North Atherton Street in State College, PA.

The decision to close the restaurant was based on the company's strategic review process and to enhance long-term company growth. Director J.P. Mills explained, "We have come to the end of our current lease at Mario's. The lease renewal terms presented a significant rent increase and subsequent increases thereafter. We attempted negotiations to reach amicable terms, but unfortunately, we could not reach an agreement." All the employees of Mario's have been offered other employment opportunities at their other Dante's Restaurants and Nightlife locations.

"We have enjoyed a long run at Mario's and are fortunate to have so many loyal customers. We would like to thank them for their patronage and support and we invite them to come say hello to us at our other locations," comments Director Jennifer Zangrilli. Fans of Mario's will still be able to find the same scratch-made pastas, sauces and Dante's Restaurants' Italian know-how at HiWay Pizza Pub and Inferno Brick Oven & Bar.

Dante's is significantly reinvesting in their flagship brand, HiWay Pizza Pub. With the closing of Mario's, Dante's will work quickly to open a second HiWay Pizza Pub location on West College Avenue. J.P. Mills explains, "We are super excited to have been working for the past few months on plans to update our HiWay Pizza Pub brand. HiWay will be great place not just to watch sports and have a few drinks, but will have a restaurant section for families and kids. Enhancing the atmosphere and guest experience as well as expanding our food and drink menu is our focus, but don't worry, the same great food that made HiWay a State College tradition will remain. The closing of Mario's gives us the ability to grow our HiWay brand and celebrate the pizza that our company was built on. Building a new location from scratch will give us a clean canvas to present a new look for our HiWay Pub brand for years to come." HiWay Pizza Pub was opened in State College by Dante's owner Andy Zangrilli in 1963.

**About Dante's Restaurants and Nightlife.** Founded in 1963 by Andy Zangrilli, Dante's Restaurants is one of the most unique multi-concept restaurant companies in State College, Pennsylvania producing all of their food menu items in-house fresh from scratch. Locations include Hi-Way Pizza Pub, The Deli Restaurant and Z Bar, Liberty Craft House, Inferno Brick Oven & Bar, bar bleu, The Saloon and The Hopshop Beer Market.

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