



STAFF

By: [Nathan Bomey](#)
AnnArbor.com Staff

Saline's former Kelly's restaurant s Italian eatery after sale

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The long-vacant downtown Saline restaurant property will be revived later this year as a new Italian restaura

Pete Toarmina, owner of **Mickey's Dairy Twist** on th five other family partners closed a deal this morning to

The Toarmina family plans to renovate the 6,000-squa three to six months as a family-friendly Italian restaura

The transaction marks the culmination of a five-year effort to sell the property, which has been empty since **Ann and Brad Beach** closed Kelly's and the Saline Café in December 2004. Kelly's, the bar portion of the operation, and Saline Café shared a kitchen and were operated jointly.

Toarmina told AnnArbor.com today that the family ownership group had yet to settle on a name for the new space, in part because the deal came together in a matter of a few weeks. He said it was tempting to keep the Kelly's name because of its visibility on Michigan Avenue and the strong reputation of the former owners.



The downt
Kelly's anc
Italian rest

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"It's almost a shame to change it," he said. "But you've here is great. I really like the way it just has a 'Cheers' something that is more fresh and new."

Toarmina said the space is in excellent shape - so much was desirable. For example, linens and silverware were

But he said the ownership group plans to refurbish the installing new carpeting.

The family hopes to open the restaurant soon after rec and state, a process he expects to take up to six months. Sheko and Rose Tolson are partners on the new restaurant.

The storefront's revival will add sorely needed foot traffic restaurant downtown, joining **Mac's Acadian Seafood Downtown Tavern**.

"We're getting some walkable traffic, which is really good," **Chamber of Commerce** Executive Director **Larry Ost**

Toarmina said the restaurant is not to be confused with restaurants in southeast Michigan that is owned by To Saline restaurant would offer Toarmina's brand pizza (would not be called Toarmina's Pizza).

Toarmina said the ownership group is also considering ice cream at the downtown location.

But he emphasized that the Mickey's Dairy Twist on Main he and his wife have owned for 16 years - would continue

"It's a good, viable business," he said. "Mickey's is not

The ex-Kelly's space was listed by Ann Arbor-based **Scaprarese** on behalf of Ann and Brad Beach.

Ann Beach's parents, **Herb and Joyce Gaudet**, launched who was not available for comment, tried to market the hiring Swisher to market it.

Caprarese declined to reveal terms of the deal but said several years ago. However, the price was gradually lowered to \$399,900 for the property and \$50,000 move induced a flood of interest, he said.

The deal includes 10,000 square feet of space on the (105 and 107 W. Michigan Ave.).

“People look at it and become really enthusiastic about had for development purposes, whether it be commercial end condos, and ultimately the real estate was priced I said. “Basically we had to reposition the property and I market conditions and market the property based on the basically the first floor.”

Toarmina said, though, that he was optimistic that the repositioned for use by new tenants.

“We will be looking for tenants for the upper floors although upper-floor space isn't in bad shape.

Contact AnnArbor.com's Nathan Bomey at (734) 623-; [follow him on Twitter](#). You can also subscribe to AnnArbor.com's newsletter or the upcoming breaking business news e-

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Kelley's 103 had the best ceasre salad around.

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Good Luck Toarmina & Gang! We'll be there on Op

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So glad to see! My family and I loved Kelly's, and I a luck! We will definitely be there!!

SalineFan
Posted 12 hours ago

Wow we need this wonderful news in Saline. Thank more perfect owners ... great, just like Mickeys!