

## HOSPITALITY

# Tommy's Tavern, Tio Taco coming to Christiana Mall

By Jacob Owens

CHRISTIANA – Triple T Hospitality Group, one of New Jersey's fastest growing restaurant groups, is arriving in Delaware next year with two new locations at the Christiana Mall.

The restaurant group owned and operated by the Bonfiglio family is opening its first Tommy's Tavern + Tap and Tio Taco + Tequila Bar in Delaware at the locations of the former J.B. Dawson's and California Pizza Kitchen at the destination mall off Interstate 95.

The restaurants are the southernmost locations for the 12-year-old group that ranked in the Inc. 2,500 this year, which covers the fastest growing private companies in the country. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Triple T has grown from

three restaurants to 10 and expects to open eight more next year.

Founders Tommy and Yvette Bonfiglio, joined by their daughters Christina and Andrea, launched the hospitality group in 2009 after a lifetime love of restaurants convinced them to contribute to the industry. Their first location was in Sea Bright, N.J., on the northern Jersey Shore.

"If we're going to Delaware, the Christiana Mall is the spot to be," Tommy Bonfiglio said. "We have a lot of guests who have children that go to or went to the University of Delaware. They all tell us, 'Oh, we're very excited to go there when we visit our kids.'"

The spaces at the former mall restaurants, which each have exterior entrances, will be gutted and completely built to the group's



Triple T Hospitality Group will open a Tio Taco at the former California Pizza Kitchen at the Christiana Mall next year. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIPLE T HOSPITALITY GROUP

aesthetic specifications, Bonfiglio said.

Tommy's Tavern is the original group brand, which features high-end finishes, a sports bar offering and a catchall menu of scratch-made food. Coal-fired pizzas, wings and handmade sushi are all on the menu – a byproduct of the Bonfiglios asking themselves what they wanted to eat.

"That's what makes Tommy's special. I call it the veto vote," he said, describing how spouses and kids

often cannot agree on one style of restaurant. "No one can ever agree on anything, but at Tommy's there's something for everyone and it's all high-quality ingredients."

The family created the sister brand Tio Taco after finding a great location that was too small for a Tommy's and sensing an opportunity to bring their flair to Mexican fare. Tio Taco features upscale Mexican street food with high-end, contemporary aesthetics. **DBT**