

**Kenny Howell**

*Managing Editor*

Authentic, traditional Italian food is coming to the heart of Mt. Juliet.

Mirko Pasta, located at the old elementary school site, has a menu filled with authentic Italian pastas, appetizers, salads, soups and desserts.

“People just love our food,” said Mirko Pasta’s Gary Murphey.

The location on Demonbreun has been open since October 2011, and has been getting rave reviews. Urbanspoon users have it at 90 percent and Yelp users have given it four stars.

Missy Johnson has been wanting to open in Mt. Juliet for awhile because this is her home. They had a location in the Publix shopping center, but really wanted a patio. The town center location popped up, and they grabbed it.

At Mirko, you really have your choice to make any combination of pastas. Your server will go through the different pastas you can choose from, which include six short pastas, six long pastas or six types of ravioli. You can even get gluten free pasta in spaghetti, fusili or penne.

## **Mirko Pasta opening April 1**

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

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Once you have made your pasta selection, you move on to your sauce. You have 14 to choose from, including options like pomodoro, Bolognese, alfredo, carbonara and pesto. You can also add on to your pasta, vegetables, chicken, meatballs, sausage, ham, salmon, shrimp or crab.

If you don't want to create your own pasta, Mirko has five signature pastas or six different entrees like Pollo al Marsala.

For a great lunch option, you can get one of Mirko's six paninis, soup and salads or pastas and entrees.

Mirko also has an extensive wine selection with several types of reds, whites, wine-tinis and classic wine cocktails. There is also draft and bottled beer.

Mirko Pasta was started by Chef Mirko Di Giacomantonio. He is a native of the small coastal town of Tortoreto, Italy. He worked as a chef and manager in restaurants in Italy, Belgium, Germany, Romania and the United States. He started Mirko Pasta in Athens, Ga. and there are now 15 locations across Georgia, Tennessee , Virginia, Kentucky and Alabama.

Mirko Pasta will be open for business April 1.