



THE PIZZA SHOP
417 MAIN STREET
KNOX, PA 16232

For February 2016, let's swing the business spotlight up to 417 Main Street where you will find the legendary PIZZA SHOP. The business has been a major part of the Knox Main Street makeup for many years and we're darn glad it's there. Universally loved by all, "The Pizza Shop" has a fantastic tradition of providing great fare in a friendly atmosphere at a righteous price. It's another one of the great Knox businesses we are very proud to have up on our main street.

You can't talk about "The Pizza Shop" in Knox Pa without talking about (owner) Julie McConnell, she's well known and loved by all in the community. Julie has a few nicknames folks have affectionately tagged her with over the years, just mention "Pizza Julie" and everyone in these parts will know who you're talking about. "Mom" and "Mama Jul" are the other nicknames I hear her employees call her, they love her and love working for her. Julie is the sole proprietor of "The Pizza Shop" in Knox Pa these days and she has worked long and hard in building the business into what it is today.

Julie Crone McConnell graduated from Keystone High school in 1980 and went on to attend Penn State Dubois where she received her Associate Degree in 1982. Even during these years at school long ago, Julie worked at "The Pizza Shop" on weekends and during the summer breaks. It's been a lifetime legacy for Julie at the Pizza Shop with no end in site, it's easy to see she loves doing what she does.

BUSINESS HISTORY & TIMELINE....."The Pizza Shop" began business at this 417 Main Street location under the name of "Toby's Pizza" in 1977. The original startup owners and operators of the business were James H. and Patricia McConnell along with Jack & Sammikay Giering. The business operated under this ownership team for a couple of years, then the McConnell family became sole owners around 1980. It was around this time they changed the name from "Toby's Pizza" to "The Pizza Shop"

Jim & Pat's son James R. McConnell and Julie Crone McConnell took over operations of "The Pizza Shop" in 1984 and in September of 1987 James R. and Julie McConnell purchased the business from James H. and Patricia McConnell, and the rest (as they say) is history. Julie then became the sole owner of the business in June 2015.

BUILDING HISTORY....."The Pizza Shop" operated in the original 417 Main Street building up until 1995 when expansion was needed to accommodate the business. Local building contractors Ron Switzer & Steve Fosdick erected a new building beside the old one, and incorporated the two buildings together. This doubled the seating capacity up to 75 and provided a larger working area for their operations. It used to be SRO when the High School kids would pack the place after a football or basketball game, the new building provides a beautiful spacious dining room that streamlined the dining and "take out" operations of the restaurant. It's real comfy at "The Pizza Shop" these days.

WEDGIES – HOAGIES – PIZZA.....Julie will tell you it's a lot about Wedgies, Hoagies & Pizza but they also have a full menu there at the restaurant serving breakfast daily opening up Monday thru Fridays at 7am (Saturdays @ 6am) with a nightly closing time of 10pm. Friday nights they are open till 11pm. Yum, Things are good at "The Pizza Shop"... My brothers and I always get their famous "Town Square" Pizza's to go for the Steeler games. Julie tells me some folks call those "Town Squares" the "City Block Pizza" when they call in. "Give Me A City Block"....Ha!

There's no doubt about it, the most famous menu item "The Pizza Shop" has is those dang "Wedgies" infact there is a site on Facebook called "Pizza Shop Wedgie Lovers" where you will find Wedgie lovers from all over the place giving testimony about their favorite Wedgies. Ham Wedgies, Steak Wedgies, Turkey Wedgies, Deluxe" Wedgies....It's a Wedgie world for all those Wedgie lovers, they are even trying to figure out ways to ship them across the USA. I noticed Julie even sells "unbaked wedgies" when she closes down the restaurant for Christmas & Thanksgiving. People got to have those dang Wedgies!

Julie & Jim have 4 children they are very proud of. James (28) – Kari (25) – Kyle (18) and Jenny (15) have all worked at the restaurant over the years. Julie's sister Barb Switzer has worked at the restaurant since 1982. Joan Gorham is another long time employee who has worked at the restaurant since 1987. It's a lot about family and friends at "The Pizza Shop" in Knox.

Julie has been buying all of her Hoagie buns from the Knox Bakery for years now, she buys all of her materials as close to home as she can.

"The Pizza Shop" in Knox Pa is another one of the outstanding merchants we have here in Knox, we are lucky to have this fine business on our main street. We all say THANK YOU to Julie and everyone at "The Pizza Shop" in Knox Pa. Long Live the Pizza Shop!