

# Newport Grille to become Irish pub

By **BETTE ALBURGER**

*Times Correspondent*

**MIDDLETOWN** - Irish eyes will soon be smiling on the Newport Grille.

The restaurant with the New England flavor that opened three years ago on West Baltimore Pike, at the south end of Granite Run Mall near the multiplex theater, will be reborn in the fall as Kildare's Irish pub and eatery.

Newport Grille owners David and Hillary McGuinn say they are excited about their new partnership with Dave Magrogan, president/CEO of Kildare's, that will blend the best of both restaurants.

The parties discussed their plans at a recent planning meeting in Middletown Township.

Magrogan, a neighbor of the McGuinns before moving out of the area, told council's land planning committee he has Irish-style restaurants in West Chester, King of Prussia and Manayunk. He's been wanting to add the Middletown-Media area to the list of Kildare's locations, he said.

He noted Kildare's is a full-service eatery offering lunch and dinner in an authentic Irish atmosphere. The menu includes traditional Irish fare like fish 'n' chips, Irish stew and Guinness beer. Even the chefs train in Ireland, he said.

"We've not Americanized our restaurants," said Magrogan. "We try to make them look like we've transported an Irish pub to America. The design is authentic outside and inside. Everything is built in Ireland and shipped over from Ireland."

Patio dining also is planned at the Middletown location. Three parking spaces would be eliminated to provide the necessary space.

Hillary McGuinn said Newport Grille will be open through the summer. Then, after extensive renovations, it will reopen as Kildare's.

"We've loved being in Middletown and we will be staying on as partners," she said. "We'll continue to do fund-raising events and with a larger company, we can do more."

The McGuinns have been honored in Middletown for fund-raising efforts they have done with Riddle Hospital, the Rocky Run YMCA and Tyler Arboretum.

Magrogan noted Kildare's also raises funds for a variety of causes in the community.

McGuinn said the Newport Grille will remain open through the summer and renovations are expected to begin the end of the summer, perhaps in August.

Magrogan, a chiropractor from Thornbury, Chester County, entered the restaurant business when he bought the former Restaurant and Bar in West Chester in 1997.

He worked with a Dublin company, the Irish Pub Co., to import stone walls, chairs and other decor essential to creating a true Irish pub.

His West Chester location is at 18-22 W. Gay St. His mini-chain of Irish pubs are praised for their authentic "auld sod" feel.

Interestingly, Magrogan said he once considered purchasing the old Rib-It restaurant on State Street in Media, before opening his West Chester location.

Magrogan, who said he's 100 percent Irish, once worked at the long-closed Lobster Pot on Route 1 in Middletown. He went to college at West Chester University and attended chiropractic school in Atlanta.