

# Eatery faces sale, makeover into pub

The Restaurant and the Bar in West Chester is to be renovated and reopened in May, if all goes as planned.

By Benjamin Y. Lowe

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

The Restaurant and the Bar, a 20-year-old West Chester institution and a pioneer in the borough's downtown revitalization, will be sold and converted into an Irish pub, scheduled to open by May.

The current owners, Gus and Rosemary Correa, said they were selling the establishment because their son, Carlos, did not want to take it over.

Gus Correa, who will continue as owner of the D-K Diner on East Gay Street, would not be specific on the sale price but said it would be more than the \$1.6 million he paid for it five years ago.

The deal, which is expected to close by the end of January, includes the three-story building and its liquor license, an office, and five apartments.

The buyers, W. David Magrogan and Sean Mangan, said they will convert the Restaurant and the Bar into an "authentic" Irish pub called Kildare's or Kildare's Street, for a county in Ireland.

Magrogan, a chiropractor with offices in Brookhaven and Media, said he and Mangan would spend \$700,000 to renovate the restaurant, which is scheduled to reopen in May.

"What we're trying to bring there is a place where all people can come and feel comfortable," Magrogan said. "We want to meet the needs of a 21-year-old and of an 80-year-old."

The Restaurant and the Bar, he said, "needs to change. It has been that way for 20 years and it is not very competitive the way it is right now."

He said the 4,500-square-foot establishment, at 18-22 W. Gay St., would serve traditional Irish fare, such as medallions of lamb and Guinness beef stew. In designing their pub, the two said they are using guidelines issued by the Irish Pub Co., a unit of Guinness, the Irish brewer.

The eatery will be run as is until April, when renovations will begin. Half of the restaurant will remain open until May, when for two weeks it will be closed until its grand opening, scheduled for that month.

When it opened in 1982, the Restaurant and the Bar was one of three restaurants on Gay Street. Vicent's Restaurant and Bar, at 10 E. Gay, fol-

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LAURENCE KESTERSON / Inquirer Suburban Staff

**W. David Magrogan envisions** a pub — using guidelines by the Irish Pub Co., a unit of the Irish brewer Guinness — on West Gay Street in West Chester within months. He said he and partner Sean Mangan “want to meet the needs of a 21-year-old and of an 80-year-old.”

## Eatery faces sale, future as an Irish pub

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lowed two years later.

West Chester's Restaurant Row remained relatively unchanged until the Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, at the corner of High and Gay Streets, opened in 1998. Once that happened, West Chester Councilwoman Barbara McIlvaine-Smith said, Gay Street

quickly became West Chester's restaurant hub.

Magrogan's new restaurant is one of at least three scheduled to open in downtown West Chester this year.

Baxter's is to occupy the basement and first floor of the Rubinstein Building at the corner of Market and Darlington Streets,

said Stanford Zukin, a local developer and the building's owner. Baxter's, a restaurant and grill chain, also has locations in Paoli and Great Valley.

Coyote Crossing, a Mexican restaurant with a location in Conshohocken, will be across the street from Baxter's. It is scheduled to open by summer.

Magrogan said the West Gay Street pub could be the first of five he plans to open in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware over the next three years.

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