

# Former Rivals to re-open as The Local

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Less than two weeks after it closed its doors the Rivals sports bar location has a new owner.

The City of Beloit is working on paperwork for a new establishment to be called The Local Sports Bar and Grill. City Clerk Rebecca LeMire said The Local LLC, owned by Mike Dutter, submitted the paper work and is working on getting the permits approved in order to open.

“They want to open on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17,” LeMire said. “We talked at length to the owner on how that is a very aggressive schedule. A lot of it depends on him getting the building ready to go and the permits in order.”

LeMire added right now the city council is scheduled to consider a liquor license for the establishment on March 16.

Dutter said he and his brother, Pat, purchased the building from Michael and Charlotte Jero and all the equipment inside. He said his wife, Lori, and brother, Pat, will run the bar.

“It’s been something we’ve wanted to do for about 15 years now,” Dutter said. “We are just trying to get the place back to where it was when it first opened.”

Dutter said they are currently busy working on cleaning up the kitchen area, and will upgrade the flooring in the pool hall room as well as some work in the bathrooms.

A new menu is being worked up with plans to serve a fish option every day, Dutter said.

“We’ll also have a ribeye steak sandwich,” he said. “So it won’t all be just fried bar food, but we will still have burgers and waffle fries.”

He also said he plans on upgrading the bar’s beer tap system, and bringing in more of a drink selection.

Dutter said the name of the bar comes from their family’s Irish background and heritage.

“In Ireland there’s always a local pub, but no one says the name they always say, “We’re going to the local,”” he said.

The decor around the sports bar will be changed slightly with more of a Beloit sports theme rather than just national or state college teams. Dutter said they are looking around for Beloit sporting items.

Dutter said he knows the plan to open for St. Patrick’s Day is aggressive, but he’s confident the bar will be ready in time.

They are still hiring employees, and those interested should stop by the bar during the day to pick up an application. He said they plan to hire between 12 and 15 full- and part-time employees.

“It’ll be a nice place to come check out,” Dutter said. “We’ll have DJs and bands on the weekends.”