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Cornerstone D/B completes 1,600 s/f Kilwin's retail store

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Cornerstone Design/Build completed a construction and renovation project for Kilwin's, a retailer of chocolates, ice cream and other confections. The new store, Kilwin's first in New England, is located at 262 Thames St. The 1,600 s/f site formerly housed the Army/Navy store, which had been a Newport landmark.

The store offers handmade chocolates, hand dipped caramel apples, fudge and many other confections. Their "original recipe" ice cream, gift baskets, desserts, coffees and beverages round out the menu. The opening took place in early February, just in time for Valentine's and Easter. It is expected to be an important stopping point for both locals and visitors.

"We sought out a builder who had experience in food service and retail construction," said William Hoffman, the franchise owner. "In asking around, the Cornerstone name kept coming up. I was impressed with their construction experience and their design know-how. They certainly delivered a first-class project for us."

Cornerstone president Bob Sanford said, "It was a pleasure working with Bill Hoffman. He wanted the project done right, as it was his first franchise. He was open to our design ideas and value-added approach to construction. Although it's a somewhat confined space, narrower and deeper than the typical store, we all worked together to turn the site into a wonderful experience for the shopper."

Cornerstone Design/Build is a 20-year-old, Swansea-based construction firm that specializes in commercial, retail and educational construction. It provides both design and construction services throughout the Northeast. Recent projects include Panera Bread, David's Bridal and a new library for St. Mary's Academy Bay View.

Kilwin's is a leading retailer of chocolates, ice cream and other confectionery products. The company is headquartered in Michigan and has been in business since 1947. There are currently more than 70 stores nationally.

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