



More restaurants are carrying defibrillators and having their staff trained to use them to save customers' lives. Jimmy Kearney (left) owner of The Irish Cottage Restaurant and Pub in Methuen, is given a defibrillator for his restaurant by Brian Mercer, EMT and president of Emergency Medical Training Services in Lawrence. Mercer trained Kearney and his staff to use the defibrillator

### **EMT says More Restaurants Carrying Defibrillators**

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METHUEN — more local restaurants are carrying defibrillators so their staff can respond to customers' medical emergencies.

"The employees have become a critical link in the chain of survival," said Brian Mercer of Emergency Medical Training Services in Lawrence.

Mercer, an EMT, sells portable AEDs and trains/certifies people to use them, as well as to perform CPR, respond to allergic reactions and save choking victims. Mercer just sold a defibrillator to The Irish Cottage Restaurant & Pub in Methuen. He is selling one to the Fireside Restaurant & Pub, also in Methuen. He has sold them to The Claddagh Pub in Lawrence, the Lawrence Municipal Airport, the North Andover VFW and the Lawrence Elks Lodge. He has donated one to the South Lawrence Little League. Mercer said it costs a little less than \$3,000 for an establishment to purchase & install a portable AED unit and have 25 employees trained.

"We made it mandatory to have all the staff certified," said Irish Cottage manager James Kearney. Our enthusiastic service-oriented wait-staff were quite happy when they realized the knowledge could not only help them save a life at work, but also at home, according to Kearney.

The defibrillator sits on the bar at The Irish Cottage. Once it's activated, a voice instructs the rescuer. The machines prevent valuable time from being wasted while victims wait for professionals to arrive. A person has a 50-percent to 60-percent higher chance of survival if a defibrillator is hooked up in less than four minutes, Mercer said. "Two of my students have saved lives already," he said.