

## Guilford librarians learn to use defibrillator

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GUILFORD — The Guilford Free Library staff just learned how to use a cutting edge, life-saving piece of equipment donated by a local business.

“Who wants to get shocked this morning?” Louis Iannotti, Northeast Sales Manager for Defibtech jestingly asked about a dozen employees, who all looked to one another to volunteer when they heard the question.

Defibtech, a Guilford-based Automated External Defibrillators manufacturing company, donated a new-model AED to the library as part of their goal to get more defibrillators into public buildings. This model, called the Lifeline View, provides step-by-step video instructions to guide a rescuer during an emergency.

Iannotti, who demonstrated the device Friday, said the company has produced 200,000 of the new machines for various places around the United States. “What we are trying to do is raise awareness about cardiac arrest,” he said. “We are in the business to help save lives. That’s our goal, especially in public facilities with lay people.”

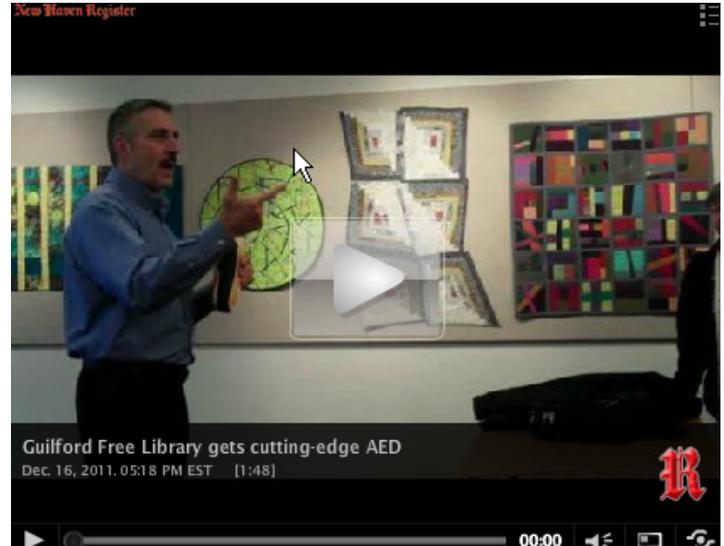
The device came out on the market in 2010, surpassing the technology of former AEDs that just talk the rescuer through defibrillation.

“With the sheer number of visitors coming to the library on a daily basis, that leads to the fact that having an AED on site would be advantageous,” said Iannotti.

Sandra Ruoff, director of the Guilford Free Library, said 500 to 1,000 people come through the library each day. The company also donated an AED, which costs about \$2,500, to the Guilford Fire Department this year.

“We have that hometown connection and we like to support local businesses,” he said. According to Iannotti, various things can cause cardiac arrest including a blow to the chest, mineral deficiencies and dehydration, but about 1,000 people in the United States are saved every year with the AEDs.

He added that the national average for Emergency Medical Services to arrive at a scene is 8 minutes; national response times range from 6 to 12 minutes.



“With sudden cardiac arrest, 3 to 5 percent survive and with every minute, their chance of survival decreases about 7 percent. Sudden cardiac arrest is really a serial killer,” he said. “But the survival rate could go up to 70 percent with these AEDs.”

Ruoff said she wouldn’t have had money in the budget to purchase an AED without the donation and she is glad the library now has one.

“It’s designed so someone can use it without knowing anything,” she said. “That was the part that was initially intimidating to me and the staff.”

Library employee Judy Haggarty, who participated in the training, said she feels more comfortable knowing the device tells her exactly what to do.

“The library is a safe place but this makes it a little bit safer,” she said.

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