

NEWS

Kilbeggan's Critical Healthcare Awarded €5M Ambulance Contract

CRITICAL Healthcare, the Kilbeggan based company which provides a comprehensive range of emergency medical products and services to ambulance providers, fire services and the pre-hospital market in Ireland, the UK and Scandinavia, has been awarded a nationwide contract with the National Ambulance Service.

The contract is worth in the region of €5 million over a 36 month period.

The contract involves providing a managed solution for the purchase and supply of emergency medical supplies and patient consumable products for approximately 100 ambulance stations throughout Ireland on behalf of the HSE.

Critical Healthcare will utilise a bespoke and innovative web based management system developed in-house called Medlogistix to fulfil the contract. This unique web portal is aimed specifically at the healthcare market and offers a fully managed solution for the procurement, stock management and delivery of medical products across multiple locations. The system also offers in-depth reporting metrics. A pilot programme run within the North Leinster Ambulance Service demonstrated cost efficiencies in excess of 30%

of their annual spend over a 12 month period.

The company will also supply the National Ambulance Service with a wide range of medical consumable products required by a paramedic or first responder to diagnose, resuscitate and rehabilitate a patient such as dressings, bandages, oxygen masks, blood glucometers, gloves, defibrillator accessories, burn gels, head immobilisers, syringes and needles.

A number of these consumable products will come from the Duramedic range, a top quality line of products that have been developed in-house by Critical Healthcare. The Duramedic range includes a unique patented product called MediQuilt which is a reusable three tog quilt which has an anti-bacterial and biodegradable disposable cover. MediQuilt is manufactured by Critical Healthcare at their base in Co. Westmeath and fulfils HIQA's infection control policy that for every patient transfer, there should be a complete change of linen, ensuring a seamless system of infection control.

The Duramedic range, which was developed by Critical Healthcare in response to customer requirements for a consumable range of products that offers choice, value and quality, also offers product

quantities dictated by customer needs as opposed to generic pack sizes, ensuring significant cost efficiencies for the buyer.

The contract between Critical Healthcare and the Irish Ambulance Service will run for an initial 36 months and can be extended for a further period of 24 months. The contract will also be subject to an annual review.

Anne Cusack, Managing Director of Critical Healthcare, says the solution offered by her company will ensure significant cost and time efficiencies for the National Ambulance Service: "A significant amount of rostered time is taken up with managing the ordering and delivery of consumable products in each ambulance station. By introducing a web based solution such as Medlogistix, one scheduled order can be placed each week, thereby reducing the administration costs incurred by the HSE and improving the overall efficiency of the National Ambulance Service."

"Critical Healthcare strives to be the first choice for emergency medical professionals in Ireland and abroad. We are currently growing 20% year on year within the Irish market and we also have a presence in the UK and Scandinavia. It is our intention to continue

rolling out our innovative products into the export market, particularly mainland Europe. In addition, we are also committed to working with healthcare professionals to continue designing and developing new products and services to ensure a safer and risk free environment for service providers and, most importantly, the patient."

Established in 2000, Critical Healthcare manufactures and distributes over 5,000 medical and surgical products to healthcare

services and retail markets. The company currently employs 13 full time and two part time staff, with plans in place to increase employee numbers to facilitate the new contract for the National Ambulance Service.

The company's core customers include the National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Brigade, Dublin City Council, the Irish Red Cross and a range of pharmacies and hospitals such as St. Vincent's Private, the Galway Clinic, Barringtons

Hospital and Ulster Independent Hospital.

Critical Healthcare is delighted to be nominated in the 'Innovator of the Year' category in the upcoming SFA National Small Business Awards 2014

Critical Healthcare are proud winners of the 'National Procurement Award - Healthcare Category 2012' in recognition of their Medlogistix product



Seamus Reilly and Anne Cusack, Co-Founders of Critical Healthcare. TT0540GS

Died In Yorkshire

THE death took place in Bradford, Yorkshire on Saturday last, after a short illness, of Mrs Patricia Connolly, nee Dunne, a native of O'Molloy St, Tullamore.

Daughter of the late Thomas and Margaret Dunne, Mrs Connolly was predeceased by her husband Thomas.

Deepest sympathy is extended to her sons, Tommy and Nigel, brothers Michael, Robert and Christopher, sisters Bridie, Ann, Nora, Mary and Christine, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Her funeral will take place in England.

May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Fined For Having No T.V. Licences

SIX people were fined a total of €960, with costs of €390, for having no television licences when they were summonsed before Tullamore District Court on Monday last.

Two other cases were dismissed under the Probation Act by Judge Katherine Staines.

Buckley Welcomes Rates Change

FINE GAEL Councillor Molly Buckley has welcomed a change to the law on rates. Under legislation put forward by Fine Gael TD Paudie Coffey, businesses will no longer be forced to pay rates arrears from the previous tenant when they take on new premises.

The legislation has been accepted by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, and is being included in the Local Government Reform Bill 2013.

This is great news for businesses in Tullamore and all of Offaly, and something they have been seeking for some time," Cllr. Buckley stated. "Under the old legislation, which dates back to 1838, tenants who vacated a property with rates due were not liable and instead the new tenant is forced to pay the rates arrears. It was ludicrous that a law dating from before the Famine was still affecting Irish businesses in the 21st century," she commented.

Killeavy Calls For Hard Water Solutions

LOCAL Sinn Fein Councillor Brendan Killeavy is calling on Irish Water to come up with solutions to Tullamore's hard water supply.

The councillor said: "Tullamore's water supply used to come from a source in Clonslee, Co Laois. This supply covered all of Tullamore at one time. In recent years as the town developed the demand for water also grew. The Clonslee water supply wasn't able to produce enough water for all of Tullamore and the only source of water Offaly County Council was able to find was near Durrow by sinking wells. This water supply covers everywhere in the town north of the Grand Canal while the soft Clonslee water supply covers everywhere south of the Grand Canal."

He continued: "The Durrow(Arden) Source is hard limey water that is taken up from the ground through limestone. This is causing problems for residents in the north side of the town with household appliances blocking up with lime. This issue has been raised by several councillors, including myself over the last number of years, but it would seem that a solution to the problem is not forthcoming as council management have informed me that there is no other water supply near Tullamore. This is an issue that's not going to be resolved anytime soon so some serious investment by Irish Water will have to be made to either soften the water at source or look further afield for a soft water supply."

Seven Samurai At Film Club

NOT many films can claim to have had and still have such an influence on the cinematic landscape as Akira Kurosawa's 1954 masterpiece, 'Seven Samurai', an epic Japanese period adventure drama.

Set in 1587, during the 'Warring States Period of Japan', Seven Samurai follows the story of a village of peasant farmers concerned over the threat to their crops posed by a group of bandits who have vowed to return after the harvest to steal them.

In order to facilitate the length of the movie, Tullamore Film Club has moved the starting time of the film forward to 8pm, this Friday the 31st instead of the traditional 8.30pm slot in the Presbyterian Church.



Is this the biggest pothole in Tullamore's town centre? Eagle eyed Tribune reader Pascal Collins spotted this pothole near St Catherine's Church at Hophill. TT0543GS

U.S. Chaplaincy Unit Dedicated To Tullamore Born Jesuit

JOE KELLY, born in O'Connor Square, Tullamore, was ordained as a Jesuit priest in July 1963, and died at St. Peter's Jesuit University in Jersey City on 5th December 2008.

He had spent forty-three years of his life as a priest in the United States - three of them in studies at Cornell and Loyola University in Chicago, twenty four as chaplain at St. Peter's, and sixteen as assistant pastor at St. Malachy's, the Actors' Chapel on Broadway.

In 2005 a special resolution of the Senate of the State of New Jersey honoured Father Joe Kelly by acknowledging "his many meritorious accomplishments (which) have earned for him ... the pride and gratitude of the State of New Jersey, as well as the respect and admiration of the members of this House", while after his death he was remembered and honoured in a number of different ways.

In May 2010 his passing was recalled on one of the "signages" or giant billboards on Times Square in the heart of New York. About the same time, the Broadway Association was instrumental in having his "caricature" hung on the wall at the renowned Sardi's Restaurant along with the greats of the film, theatre and entertainment industry.

This was in acknowledgement of his tireless work and sterling contributions to the Times Square neighbourhood and to the Broadway community. He

was a special friend to this community, counselling actors, choristers and theatre staff, and saying Mass for them at times that were convenient. He played the role of a Catholic priest in the 1996 film City Hall in a scene with Al Pacino and to many was known as "Father Broadway".

For several years, Joe served on the Boards of the Broadway Association, the Times Square Alliance and the New York Mayor's Midtown Citizens Committee. He was also responsible for having the section of the street on which the Actors' Chapel stood named officially as "St. Malachy's Way".

Up to the moment of his death he remained committed to keeping Times Square and the surrounding areas free from dealings in sex and drugs and from every form of violence or sleaziness.

When he died he left on his computer a draft letter to the Mayor of New York, drawing attention to the way commercial sex and drug dealing were again becoming prominent in the Times Square neighbourhood and pleading that the city authorities do something to remedy this.

Another recognition came his way posthumously in 2011 when Mary Higgins Clark, the highly popular detective fiction writer, dedicated to him her latest novel, I'll Walk Alone, with the words:

Always a twinkle in this Jesuit's eye
Always a smile on his handsome face

Always faith and compassion overflowing his soul

He was the stuff of which saints are made

When all heaven protested his absence
His Creator called him home.

Most recently, on 7th December 2013, Joe was again remembered, this time at St. Peter's University in Jersey City where a new chaplaincy unit, The Joseph A. Kelly, S.J. Office of Campus Ministry, was dedicated to his memory.

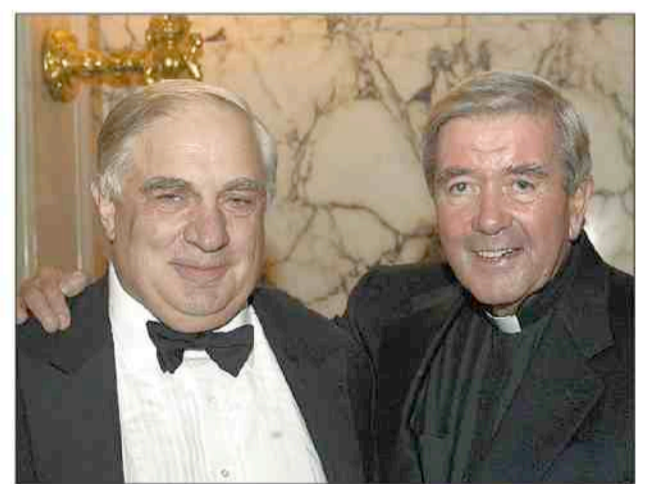
On that occasion the University President spoke of this as "a fitting tribute to an amazing man, one who will always remain in the hearts of so many of us. Now his legacy and love can be experienced by our entire community, even those who never had the good fortune of knowing him personally."

Apart from the building, one of Joe's most enduring legacies at St. Peter's is the annual Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) walk which continues to gather funds to provide international food assistance.

Joe's last visit to Tullamore was in August 2008. He was broken-hearted when he left it at that time, sensing that he would never see it again - and rightly, since he died unexpectedly just three months later. But the memory of this dedicated Tullamore priest lives on vividly in the hearts of the thousands he encountered and ministered to in Jersey City and New York.

At the time of his death, one of Joe's theatre-world friends wrote: "Some men become priests because they love God. Some men, especially Jesuits, become priests because they like to think about God. ... But Joe Kelly was a priest because he loved people. And for him loving people WAS loving God."

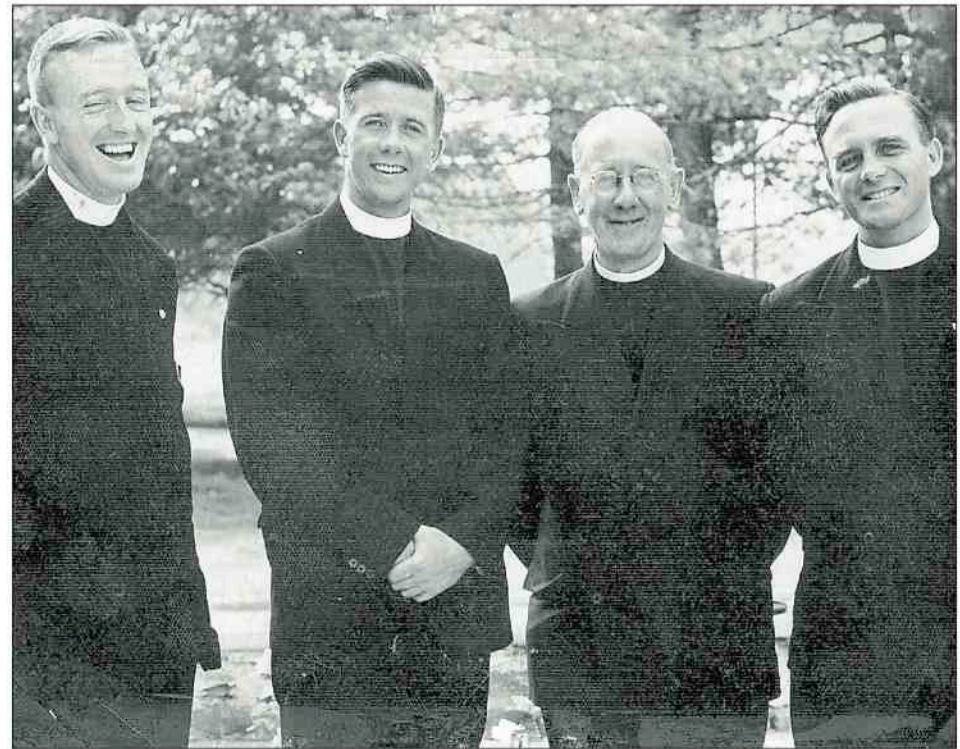
And since he lived in a world full of people every relationship in his life was a prayer. He didn't need to fall to his knees to commune with the Almighty. He just needed to pour a glass of good wine for a friend, cook him a gourmet meal, and tell the best story ever into the wee hours of the morning." It is no wonder that his Creator called Joe home at the relatively early age of 77, seemingly before his time.



Above right: Fr Joe with Peter Sutherland. TT0546GS



Right: Fr Joe with Irish actor Liam Neeson in 2004. TT0544GS



Fr Joe with Pa Mullan, Bob, Michael in August 1963. TT0545GS

Local Elections Candidate Highlights Durrow Dumping

INDEPENDENT candidate in the Tullamore municipal district in next May's local elections, Seamus Kirwan has highlighted the problem of illegal dumping in the Durrow area.

Mr Kirwan came across the dumping in the accompanying photograph on Saturday afternoon as he canvassed the local area.

Mr Kirwan, a resident of Tara Crescent, said he saw the County Council election as an opportunity for him to do something positive.

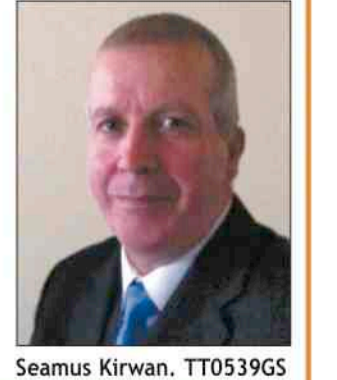
Announcing his candidacy late last year, Mr Kirwan, in a statement released to the Tribune, said: "I believe that change has to come from grass-roots level, and I call on local people to stop the rot, stop voting for the same people and parties every time. Consider other options, like voting for me Seamus Kirwan as an independent representative. Or consider running yourself in some

capacity, as a means of bringing about meaningful change to our political scene in Offaly and indeed nationwide.

"If we don't do something positive toward meaningful change, then nothing will ever change and things will carry on as they have done for so long, with our main parties swapping positions at every turn, and continuing to alienate their electorate, while they happily shuffle in and out like professional schemers at Lanigans Ball.

I see job creation, support and sustainability as being the core to rebuilding our

local economies. Would that the powers that be were more proactive than they have been to date on this front."



Seamus Kirwan. TT0539GS



Illegal dumping in the Durrow area. TT0541GS