

SMOKE-FREE

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smoking.”

Smoking is allowed in the Open Flame bar, as well as part of the restaurant on certain weekdays. A private party room can also be used by smokers.

“We close the smoking area down in the restaurant during weekends because nobody really smokes back there,” Kautromanos said. “But 60 to 70 percent of my customers in the bar smoke and say they want it that way. But then you’ve got the non-smokers who feel just as strongly about it.”

At the Bosch, manager Jason Flynn said a no-smoking policy at restaurants and bars is likely just around the corner.

“The handwriting is on the wall. You’re already seeing it in other places — New York and California,” Flynn said. “It’s going to happen. It’s just a matter of when and how.

“It’s OK as long as it’s done statewide and not county by

county.”

Smoking is allowed in the Bosch’s bar area, but not in the back dining room.

“We’re looking into building an outside area, like a deck, and having some heating units out there, where smokers can go,” Flynn said. “If (a smoking ban) does happen, we’ll try and make it as convenient as possible for smokers.”

At Clifford’s Supper Club, smoking is permitted in the bar and dining room. There are also smoking and non-smoking sections in the restaurant’s hallway.

Manager Jorge Lopez said banning smoking would not be an undue hardship at the restaurant.

“Honestly, probably we would lose some customers, but if you actually like the place, I think you would come whether it’s smoking or non-smoking,” Lopez said.

Lopez said Clifford’s has a loyal customer base.

“We have a lot of die-hard customers here so I don’t think we’ll really see a (drop-off) that’s bad,” Lopez said. “But things change. Just yes-

terday I had a party where they specifically asked for no smoking in the bar.”

Trying to accommodate all

Like a small but growing number of Milwaukee-area taverns and restaurants, Ann’s Italian Restaurant is one step ahead of the Legislature. Ann’s went smoke-free Jan. 1, 2008. Restaurant manager Justin Giersch said before the ban went into effect, smoking was allowed only in the lobby.

“We just decided to make it totally non-smoking. Most of our customers were very happy and thankful,” Giersch said. “In the whole year since then, maybe, we’ve lost one person.”

Smoking is permitted in an outdoor patio.

“There is a group that comes in on Friday nights that are notorious smokers,” Giersch said. “We just direct them outside to the patio where we got a heater and a bench set up.

“We try and accommodate everybody.”

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