

FRIENDS OF MANOMET YOUTH CENTER: HVAC units installed, new fundraiser afoot

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Posted Feb. 27, 2016 at 10:00 AM

PLYMOUTH – Remember the more than \$55,000 that was raised to benefit The Manomet Youth Center? Well, the HVAC units are officially installed and new windows and doors are on the way. Friends of Manomet Youth Center President Betty Cavacco couldn't be more pleased.

"We also updated the electric panel to 200 amp service for the HVAC," Cavacco said. "Right now we're working on a new floor upstairs that's weatherproofed vinyl."

Glynn Electric donated the new electrical system, installing the panel, and Carl Bruno of North East AC donated the installation of the HVAC heat and air conditioning systems, and only charged the nonprofit group the cost for the parts. Bill Hallisey of Shiretown Home Improvements & Glass is giving the Friends of Manomet Youth Center a big discount on windows and doors, charging the same as what Mass Save charges, Cavacco added.

"He's actually offering us better warranties, and more energy-efficient windows and doors," Cavacco said. "The biggest thing for me is that this is not one bit of a burden on the taxpayers." The Friends of Manomet Youth Center were able to raise more

than \$55,000 for the HVAC units and other improvements because Best Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM in Plymouth donated a 2015 Jeep Patriot Latitude for the cause. Robert Morse Sr. of Manomet bought the winning ticket and won the Jeep raffle during America's Hometown Celebration festivities in November. More importantly, the kids in Manomet won a year-round youth center that now has air conditioning and a better heating system. Cavacco noted that the older heating system will be retained as a backup should the new one need repairs.

The Manomet Youth Center is a haven for kids ages 7 to 14 and offers the use of a gym, daily group activities, a game room with a pool table, ping pong and air hockey, and a TV room where they can hang with their friends and enjoy a snack. Adults man the Center, supervise games and help to maintain a safe and happy harbor for children. Kids struggling to fit in at school find friends there and exercise for their minds and bodies. Cavacco formed the nonprofit group Friends of Manomet Youth Center last year when she learned the center might close. The group launched fundraisers to support programming at the center and saved it from dissolution.

The Friends are currently hosting a new fundraiser to raise enough money for a room for children to do their homework and receive tutoring. The group also wants to raise enough money so it can eliminate membership fees, so every child can go to the center free of charge. The winner of this latest raffle will be drawn either July 4 or on Thanksgiving, and will receive a week-long vacation to Disney World in Florida for four. Raffle tickets cost \$15 and you can buy one and enter the drawing by visiting friendsofmyc.com. Marty's Buick GMC has offered to help with the cost of this \$8,000 to \$10,000 vacation package.