



PRESS RELEASE
March 27, 2007

Marlborough: What happens when you bring teens together with adults to play the game of pool? You end up with one of the most successful positive youth development after school programs that this region has ever seen.

Throughout this school year, police officers, senior citizens, youth service bureau staff from AHM, community volunteers and teachers have joined forces to create a police and teen pool league. Thanks to the efforts of a group of caring adults the Police and Youth Pool League was created earlier this year for Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough teens, providing young people with a positive experience. A planning committee consisting of Marlborough Resident Trooper TFC Manny Acosta, Marlborough Resident Trooper Mark Packer, Marlborough Constable Randy Ransom, Marlborough Senior Services Director Vi Schwarzman and AHM Teen Activities Director Charles Olbrais worked together to develop the new league.

Together AHM, the Marlborough Senior Center, the Connecticut State Police, and the Marlborough Police Department developed a model positive youth development program that they hope to replicate future years for Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough teens.

The police and teen pool league was made possible through a grant from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. The program started in October of 2006 with a world class exhibition that featured two world renowned pool players. Marlborough resident Paul Drexler, a master craftsman who creates one of a kind pool cues was able to make contact with No. 1 world ranked table pool trick shot player Mike Massey and No. 8. world ranked The two world champions conducted a table pool skills and trick shot demonstration at the Andover, Hebron, Marlborough Youth Services Bureau on September 26, 2006.

Since October, each month community members such as Hebron Resident Trooper Kelly Kraynak, Marlborough School Superintendent Sal Menzo, RHAM Middle School Assistant Principal Ann Starr, and Russ Schwarzmann, one of the senior volunteers, along with a host of other community volunteers play in best out of five game pool competitions with the twenty four teens. For two days each month, games of pool are played at the AHM Youth Services Teen Center in Hebron and the Marlborough Senior Center. According to AHM Executive Director Joel Rosenberg, "some of the best teachers in the game of pool are members of the local senior centers in Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough. All of the adults deserve a great deal of thanks for being good sports and role models. It was clear from the first match that everyone was having fun."

Young people were given a chance earlier in the year to be among the first twenty four participants ever in the newly formed league. Every participant agreed to play by a set of pre-defined rules of etiquette and gamesmanship. Each month youngsters from grade six to twelve played against other teens.

On April 11, 2007 the top three finalists will play head to head in a championship round of pool that will declare the top three winners of the six month league and tournament. The final round for the year will be played at the Marlborough Senior Center. At that time, in addition to crowning the top winners, every young participant in the league will receive a trophy and a each adult will receive a special recognition.

The programs' founder Marlborough Resident Trooper TPC Manny Acosta stated: "Many hours of planning and coordination went into this project. Were it not for the support of Lt. Rush-Kittle, administrative staff, school resource officers and road troopers from Troop K this project could have never taken place. I also have to acknowledge the outstanding support given to the league by AHM Youth Services and the Marlborough Senior Center. This was a truly a great regional community effort."

The Police and Teen Pool League is a compliment to a growing number of after school activities for Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough teens. In years past where they may have been few out of school activities for young people between the hours of 2:30 and 6:00 PM, today there are a host of activities within walking distance to RHAM High School. Thanks to a grant from the State Department of Education, AHM Youth Services has been able to develop a wide range of after school programs in partnership with the school districts for Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and RHAM. For more information on the Police-Teen Pool League or any of the after school clubs for elementary, middle and high school students visit the AHM Youth Services website at: www.AHM youth.org.