

This article appeared in the May 7th, 2004 issue of the Hollis Brookline Journal. Please note that the article incorrectly identifies "The Rec" as a non-profit venture.



Photo by Laura Murphy

Members of the Venture Crew are volunteering their time to help put together a recreation center above the Brookline Village Store for Hollis and Brookline teens. Front row, from left, Greg Meess, Jana Loux-Turner, Tiffany Lenhard, John Bundschuh and Elise Robertson. Their adult helpers are Pattie Rocco, Danielle Beaudette, Kelley Veilleux and Michelle Mosca.

Teen center to open in Brookline

By Kathy Cleveland
Hollis Brookline Journal staff

BROOKLINE—"No place to go and nothing to do" is the universal complaint of teenagers.

But for one night a month, teens from Hollis and Brookline will have some place to go and lots to do — play pool, darts, ping pong, or board games with their peers, or watch a movie on a giant screen TV.

Danielle Beaudette of Brookline, who runs a tea party business called The Cozy Tea Cart, is sponsoring a supervised recreation room for teenagers two nights a month above the Brookline Village Store. The Rec, as she calls it, will be open

The Rec will hold an open house for those in grades 7 through 9 tonight, May 7, from 7-10 p.m. On Friday, May 21 there will be an open house for grades 10-12, from 7-10 p.m.

from 7-11 p.m., on separate nights for those in grades 7-9 and grades 10-12.

Beaudette has two daughters in college and two sons who are in kindergarten and second grade, and said there are plenty of activities for young children around town, but not for those of middle school and high school age.

"I feel like those kids are left out," she said.

The Rec will be run on a membership basis, with a group of adult volunteers as well as teenagers who are members of the Venture Crew scouts to supervise.

The nonprofit operation will charge the young people \$5 per night to offset the cost of heat and electricity (\$8 for two siblings in the same age group) and \$1 a slice for pizza and 50 cents for soda.

The young people will sign contracts and then will be issued membership cards. There will be an open house tonight (May 7)

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from 7-10 p.m. for those in grades 7 through 9. On Friday, May 21 there will be an open house for grades 10-12, from 7-10 p.m. Parents must be present at the registration.

There will be one parent volunteer for every 10 teens and no more than 30 teens at a time. Parents get free food. Members of the co-ed Venture Crew, a branch of the Boy Scouts, have volunteered, as individuals, not as members of the scouting group, said Beaudette, to help supervise and keep score for tournaments.

Jana Loux-Turner, a junior at Hollis/Brookline High School and a member of the Venture Crew, said she and

her friends are "really excited" about the project.

"It's such a cool idea, especially for junior high kids. They have nowhere to go," she said.

Village Store owner Bill Batte has just finished a two-year renovation project on his building that turned the upstairs into a 2,400 square feet community center.

"I think Danielle will do well" with the project, he said. "She has a big heart. There is definitely a need, and more so because it's a small town," and there is little for young people to do.

Beaudette is looking for more volunteers to supervise on the nights the 10-12 graders will be using the center.