



## Youth directors to make Community Center teen-friendly

By **Jessica Turetz**/ Correspondent  
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**S**HERBORN - Just ask Alexa Collins and Kate Vacovec about their ideas, and the excitement shared by the first-ever Sherborn Community Center student co-directors comes brimming through the telephone.

"Our main goal for the community center is to be a place where kids want to hang out," said Collins.

Current standouts on the agenda are a Valentine's Day dance for middle-schoolers; a black and white ball for DS freshman and sophomores; and a Jam session with local bands for the upperclassmen.

"We want to have something for each level of kids," explained Vacovec.

"It's so much fun working with them, they're full of energy, full of ideas," said Jim Byrnes, community center president. Byrnes points to the success of Friday night movies for elementary-age kids, and said he hopes to replicate that success for older kids. "My whole philosophy is if you make it fun people will come," he said.

With these new responsibilities, the old friends are adding to their already filled plates. Collins swims on two area swim teams, plays spring lacrosse and is an accomplished Girl Scout. Vacovec is also a talented swimmer and lacrosse player, and plays soccer as her fall sport. Both said they have future aspirations for student government.

Both co-directors seem especially excited about the black and white ball, slated for as soon as they can plan it. "It will be semi-formal, and more girls will want to go because they like to get dressed up, and then the boys will follow the girls," reasoned Vacovec.

And while Collins is pushing for dates, Vacovec thinks "it's better not to push the whole dating thing." They hope the dance will act as a sort of welcome party for incoming freshman as well as sophomores.

"Not a lot of people go to regular dances, we wanted it to be more formal ... start a tradition," said Collins.

With the battle of the bands, planned for later in the school year, the girls hope to bring in the crucial "cool" factor needed to get high schoolers to community center events. "We think a lot of high school bands would want people to hear their music," said Collins. They said the idea plan is to keep the event low-key and relaxed.

"It would be fun to start having more stuff to look forward to at D-S and create more school spirit," she said.

Byrnes called the girls "awesome." "They want to do a lot of things," he laughed. "I had to slow 'em down ... but it's a good problem."

Both know that participating in the board of directors is a way to test out the "real world." "You're able to complete a job that an adult might be able to do," said Vacovec. "I've never been on a board before," said Collins. "I've never had to stand up and say my ideas in front of people."

As this new year kicked off, the student leaders were looking forward their first board meeting this week.

"I love Kate, she's awesome. I think we both have good ideas to bring to the table, we go hand in hand together," said Collins.