Roxbury Register

New homeowner for Roxbury structure built by high school students will be picked on June 11

May 29, 2024

The second home designed and built by Roxbury High School students is sitting there.

But, its new owner will be chosen, via a lottery system, on Tuesday, June 11.

It's ready to go. On its foundation on West Dewey Avenue, and just waiting for a new family to move in.

The time frame to submit an application to own the township's newest affordable housing unit closed on May 17.

In April, Morris Habitat For Humanity, headquartered on Salem Street in Randolph, began taking applications for the moderate-income, two-bedroom home on West Dewey Avenue in Kenvil.

The single-family new construction home, built by students at Roxbury High School in partnership with Morris Habitat, will be sold as affordable homeownership to the selected applicant. The sale price will be $207,000.

The ranch-style home features two bedrooms and one full bathroom and is "Energy Star" certified. The home has a one-car garage and full basement. The home is suitable for families with a household size of two to four people. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, and U.S. military veterans were encouraged to apply.

The lottery for eligible applicants will be held on June 11.

Morris Habitat will hold an affordable 30-year mortgage. The home will have a minimum 30- year deed restriction that allows modest equity upon resale, but mandates that it be sold at an affordable price to another income-eligible family. The prospective homeowners will contribute a minimum of 300 hours of sweat equity helping to build their home as well as other homes.

Students in Frank Caccavale's Structural Design and Fabrication class (SDF) at the high school built the home from the ground up. They did the first one last year, and two more are planned.

Morris Habitat for Humanity joined Roxbury High School students and staff in transporting their most recent Habitat home to Kenvil on April 30.

The two-piece modular home was transported by tractor-trailer from Roxbury High School's parking lot to the home site on West Dewey Avenue. Each section was lifted by crane and gently placed with precision on the foundation built by Morris Habitat staff and volunteers. The home features two bedrooms and one bathroom and is expected to be finished this summer.

"It's so exciting to partner again with Roxbury High School to build an affordable home for a family in need," said Morris Habitat CEO, Liz DeCoursey. "It's inspiring to see how invested the students are in making a difference in their community, and they're also learning valuable trade skills along the way."

According to Caccavale, SDF program instructor at Roxbury High School, 36 students have been involved with building the ranch style home over the course of two school years.

"It was so gratifying to see the home transported to the property site," said Caccavale. "For my students, this will be one of — if not the day--they will remember most from their high school careers.".

The new homeowners will be selected in June and will perform a minimum of 300 hours of "sweat equity" toward finishing the project. Roxbury students will also continue working on the project through the end of the school year.

Morris Habitat builds more than just homes – the organization empowers families to build brighter futures for generations to come. Home is the foundation to achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance that people need to shape a better tomorrow for themselves and their families. Additionally, every home constructed helps to strengthen the fabric and economies of local communities for all citizens.

Morris Habitat for Humanity is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization, Habitat for Humanity International, committed to building homes, communities, and hope. The organization, which is one of the leading builders of affordable housing in New Jersey, serves 68 municipalities in Morris and Middlesex Counties and the Greater Plainfield area. Through volunteer labor and monetary donations and materials, Morris Habitat builds affordable new homes and provides home repair services to income eligible families and individuals.

Since 1985, Morris Habitat has served nearly 1,000 families through building 188 local homes, preserving 431 homes for low-income and senior residents, and helping 373 families with housing solutions worldwide.

The local affiliate organization has engaged more than 150,000 volunteers in its various programs. Morris Habitat also operates a successful ReStore home improvement and furnishings outlet in Randolph which has kept 19,727 tons of reusable materials out of landfills and funded 39 homes.

For more information, visit MorrisHabitat.org or call 973-891-1934.