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MONTY TECH

CAPTION---Ashburnham Light Dept. From left are Jordan Gendron, Bruce Brackett and Matt Wilson, all linemen for Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant;

FITCHBURG -- Thanks to the Ashburnham Power and Light Department, Monty Tech's softball players can now concentrate on making hits, instead of chasing after foul balls.

The school wanted to install netting on the ball field to prevent foul balls from going out onto Route 2A, a major state road.

To get the project moving, electrical teachers contacted Stan Herriott, light department manager, to see if his department could lend a hand. Last year, Herriott was able to purchase the poles for the netting at cost and had his crew drill the holes and set them in the

ground.

This spring, the light department linemen came back to the school to install the netting and special hooks to ensure it stays in place.

Athletic Director Dave Reid said the school is very grateful to Herriott and his crew for stepping up to make the softball field a lot safer for the players. "Before we had the netting, the players would have to run out into the road to catch foul balls. It was a safety issue," he said.

Electrical teacher Paul Cormier said the Light Department saved the school thousands of dollars in installation costs. "They drilled the holes for the poles, set the poles in the ground and installed the netting and hardware. The company was able to get the poles and mounting hardware at their cost. Monty Tech saved thousands of dollars in installation costs because of their assistance and generosity," he said.

To show its appreciation, the softball team treated Herriott and his lineman to a cookout recently at the school.