

Hopewell Valley News

HOPEWELL VALLEY: Bank's \$25K supports turf field construction

An official groundbreaking for the turf field project is slated for 5 p.m. July 5 at the site on the Central High School grounds

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Shown with a big check that represents a big donation are (from left): Hopewell Valley Community Bank President and CEO James Hyman; Sheryl Stone, of the Hopewell Valley Recreation Foundation; and Pat Ryan, Hopewell Valley Community Bank Chairman of the Board.

The Hopewell Valley Community Bank (HVCBank) has given \$25,000 toward construction of a turf athletic field at Hopewell Valley Central High School.

HVCBank Chairman of the board Pat Ryan and James Hyman, president and CEO, made the donation to Sheryl Stone, of the Hopewell Valley Recreation Foundation, at the bank's main office on Route 31 on June 19.

The field is under construction now. The million-dollar project is being funded with money raised by the Recreation Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works to increase recreational opportunities for Valley residents.

An official groundbreaking for the project is slated for 5 p.m. July 5 at the turf field site, on the high school grounds near the Hopewell Township branch of the Mercer County library system.

Ms. Stone, a Recreation Foundation trustee, said the goal is to have the field ready for use by students when school opens in

September. The field is slated for use by many sports teams, the school band and other groups.

"The Foundation thanks Mr. Ryan and Mr. Hyman and the Hopewell Valley Community Bank for their continued generosity," Ms. Stone said as she accepted the \$25,000 check.

"They've provided support for the Recreation Foundation the whole 11 years it's been in existence. This donation will allow us to move ahead with construction of the field. The Hopewell Valley Community Bank is at the top of the list of community partners whose involvement is enabling us to provide the field," said Ms. Stone.

"This field will be used by thousands of residents, particularly young people. When we started organizing our bank back in 1992, we pledged that we would embrace the entire community and strive to become Hopewell Valley's finest corporate citizen. We appreciate all the community has done for us," said Mr. Ryan.

"The Hopewell Valley has been a great place to build a hometown financial institution. Participating in worthwhile events like the construction of this field is our way of acknowledging the community's support," said Mr. Hyman.

For years, school and recreational league officials have been saying there is insufficient field space in the Valley for already-formed teams and leagues.

A key reason for building a turf field, they say, is that it could be used much more often than a conventional grass field.