

Hopewell Valley News

HOPEWELL VALLEY: Turf field will be named for local contractor

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By Ruth Luse, Managing Editor

On Monday, the Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education adopted a resolution “acknowledging funding contributions for the Athletic Turf Field at Central High School.”

Among items covered by the resolution is the naming of the new turf field.

It will be called Ackerson Field, in recognition of all the work done and in-kind donations made by local contractor, Michael Ackerson.

Ackerson Contracting Inc. also will receive name placement on the turf field scoreboard.

At the July 5 turf field groundbreaking ceremony, Sheryl Stone, Recreation Foundation trustee, said: “Mike (Ackerson) has personally done the work you see behind you today and by the time the turf is laid will have donated more than \$400,000 of time, equipment, energy and expertise.

“Whatever problems or challenges crop up, Mike seems to be able to find a solution by making a call or just taking on more work himself. With the township’s support, Mike is able to work his regular job from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. and then come and work here until 9 p.m. and all weekend.”

Ms. Stone and Kim Bruno, also a Recreation Foundation trustee, attended Monday’s school board meeting for the purpose of delivering one of shovels used during the turf field groundbreaking ceremony.

“The shovel will be kept in Superintendent Thomas Smith’s office as a reminder of the wonderful partnership that included the Recreation Foundation, neighbors, local businesses, municipalities and the community at large,” said board President Lisa Wolff.

“It is both humbling and rewarding to see the outpouring of support for our students and district.

“While you review the list of major donors (see below), I’d like to point out that the donor shown as ‘Fall Ball 2011’ represents a big donation made up of hundreds of smaller contributions. That’s a lot of car washes, bake sales and effort driven by lots of caring students, parents and community members,” Ms. Wolff noted.

The school board partnered with the Recreation Foundation of Hopewell Valley for the development and installation of the turf field in the summer of 2010.

Funding for the installation of the turf field was provided by the Recreation Foundation of Hopewell Valley through fundraising efforts with AstroTurf.

As a result of successful fundraising events, construction of the new turf field began in June.

In its resolution Monday, the school board expressed “gratitude to the Recreation Foundation of Hopewell Valley and the community members, groups, and businesses for their kind contributions to the Athletic Turf Field project.”

IN ADDITION to Mr. Ackerson, the following donors of gifts and/or services of \$10,000 and above will receive acknowledgement for the life of the current turf field:

- Large Medallions (\$125,000, plus) — Trap Rock Industries and Hopewell Valley Soccer Association;
- Medallions (\$50,000 plus) — Hopewell Valley Lacrosse Association; Pop Warner /Gridiron Club; Fall Ball 2011; Hopewell Valley YMCA; and IEW Construction Group.
- Half Medallions (\$25,000 plus) — D & L Brothers, LLC; Hartel Timber Services, LLC; The Front Porch; and Hopewell Valley Community Bank.
- One-Fifth Medallions (\$10,000 plus) — Murphy-Butler family; Maida Family Foundation; and Pennington Quality Market.

AND, the resolution also addresses field use.

According to Ms. Wolff, “when the field is not in use by the school district, we (the district) will rent it out to outside organizations for a facilities rental fee. (the actual number has not been established yet). If one of our listed donors (such as the local soccer association) wants to use the field, we will give them rental fee and lighting fee credits.”

The rate will be set under the district’s Facility Use Policy.