

Hopewell Valley News

HOPEWELL VALLEY: Special turf field event today

DATE POSTED: Thursday, July 5, 2012 7:05 AM EDT
By John Tredrea, Special Writer



Jimmy and Billy O'Connor touch a sample of the AstroTurf they will be playing on this fall. They hope Valley residents will join them at the "Turf's Up!" groundbreaking celebration today (July 5) at 5 p.m.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new turf field will be held on Bulldog Walk, behind the high school's Performing Arts Center, at Hopewell Valley Central High School at 5 p.m. today (July 5). The ceremony will be held by the Hopewell Valley Recreation Foundation, which raised the money for the \$1 million field.

"We are within \$20,000 of our \$1 million fundraising goal," said Recreation Foundation trustee Sheryl Stone. "This project ('Turf's Up!') has been woven together with generous monetary contributions and in-kind contributions. The Recreation Foundation appreciates every contribution in this tight economy."

"The field, where students will play football, lacrosse, soccer and field hockey, is expected to be ready for use when school reopens in September," said Alicia Waltman, school district spokeswoman. "The public is invited to join members of the school administration, the

Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education and donors, for the groundbreaking."

The school district will oversee construction of the field, Ms. Waltman said. The general contractor for job is AstroTurf. Included in the \$1 million total are \$600,000 in "in-kind" donations of materials and labor. Those include stone and paving material from Trap Rock Industries, and excavation by local contractor, Mike Ackerson.

The foundation also has gotten scores of generous monetary donations, including \$25,000 from Hopewell Valley Community Bank, and \$25,000 from The Front Porch, a gift shop in Pennington.

Contributing township sports leagues include the Hopewell Valley Soccer Association; Hopewell Valley Lacrosse; Pop Warner Football; and the Hopewell Valley Central High School Gridiron Club.

For years, school and recreational league officials have said a turf field would help ease the Valley's crunch for athletic fields. A turf field can be used much more often than a conventional grass field.

The new field will be behind the Hopewell Township branch of the Mercer County library system.

A new varsity baseball field will be built on the grounds of Timberlane Middle School, since the turf field covers a significant portion of the area where the prior varsity baseball field used to be.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.hvrecfoundation.org.