

## HOPEWELL VALLEY: 'Turf's Up' fundraising effort is under way

By John Tredrea, Staff Writer

Posted: Thursday, October 7, 2010 10:49 AM EDT

The grassroots effort to build a turf athletic field at Central High School is picking up steam.

Sept. 10, Hopewell Valley educators, coaches, sports leagues leaders and parents came together to discuss the need for a turf field at Hopewell Valley Central High School.



The need for this field was

Hopewell Valley schools Superintendent Tom Smith (left) is shown accepting a \$100,000 pledge from the Recreation Foundation for the turf athletic field. At center is Fall Ball Coordinator Cynthia Wiley and, at right, Recreation Foundation trustee Jon Butler.

underscored by the summer's weather conditions and the school district's need to temporarily close eight of its 11 fields. As a result, the project, "Turf's Up," was announced.

"Turf's Up" is the follow-up to the Recreation Foundation's project, which resulted in the building of natural grass fields in back of Timberlane Middle School — known as Athletic Fields at Timberlane.

An all-weather turf field has been in the discussion stage for a number of years.

The Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution supporting the turf field project, sponsored by the Recreation Foundation.

"The Hopewell Valley Regional School District values and appreciates the continued support of the Hopewell Valley Recreation Foundation. They have supported the district's needs in the past through their funding of AFT, and again they are 'stepping up' to support the district with their multisport turf field initiative," said schools Superintendent Tom Smith.

"Although the district is unable to fund this project, the efforts of the Recreation Foundation and the team of committed parents have cast a vision to make this dream a reality," said a spokesman.

The foundation has provided \$100,000 of the \$850,000 cost for the first phase — the turf. The next two phases will include raising \$350,000 each for bleachers and eventually lights.

The first fundraising event will be the Recreation Foundation's Fall Ball, an evening of food, music, silent and live auctions. It will be held Nov. 20 at the Trenton County Club. In addition, raffle tickets for a cash 50-50 are being sold.

For more information, contact Cynthia Wiley at [wiley979899@yahoo.com](mailto:wiley979899@yahoo.com) or Sheryl Stone at 737-7862.

Close Window