



A view of the new Barrington Community Stadium from atop the home fans' grandstand, looking east across the field as the new turf was laid.

## Birth of the Barrington Community Stadium

As I came to work each day this summer from my home in Lake Barrington to the school district offices in the village, I often drove down Hart Road to watch progress on the new Barrington Community Stadium. At first, I saw the old, rusting bleachers come down and the construction fences go up. For a long time, the only noticeable change was the movement of dirt from one area to another. Finally, in mid- to late-June, things started taking shape. One could see the form of the new concession plaza, the outline of the track, and the rising grandstands. While often sitting in Hart Road traffic, the activity of the construction site became a source of entertainment. As I looked around at other drivers, I noticed I was not alone. This new stadium became a focal point, an attraction, and I knew it would continue to be for a long time.

Fortunately, we live in a community that understands the importance of maintaining (and yes, sometimes replacing) our public facilities. The old stadium served the needs of Barrington area youth for more than 50 years. But time took its toll and in the spring of 2007, voters approved funding for a new outdoor multi-purpose sports

complex. On that election night, we celebrated being able to replace an aging infrastructure with a modern facility that will host students and fans for the next generation. But that is only part of the story. A group of dedicated citizens formed the Friends of the Stadium and committed themselves to raising additional funds to ensure that continued enhancements would be possible. The Friends of the Stadium, led by Jon Stickney, secured donations for several upgrades, which include FieldTurf®, modern restrooms, and a LED video display scoreboard with video capabilities.

Other benefactors, as well as significant contributions from Wickstrom Ford, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, and the Wiseman family, enabled many improvements that residents and students alike will appreciate. Durable and environmentally friendly, FieldTurf, rather than a grass field, means the stadium is more versatile than its predecessor. The resilience of the new surface provides added safety for players on a field that will retain the same level of quality from the first kickoff in August to the last touchdown in November. No longer will torn-up grass and an uneven field contribute to injuries. This state-of-

PHOTO: BOB MILKOVICH



Workers unrolled sections of FieldTurf®, which were then sewn together and anchored to the playing surface of the new stadium.

the-art facility is also available to other Barrington teams and physical education classes throughout the year, and underclassmen will have a chance to play on the main field even before becoming varsity athletes. The new video scoreboard is a learning tool for our multimedia and television production classes, adding excitement to games throughout the season. Finally, who on a cold, late-fall night will not appreciate the stadium's new heated indoor restrooms?

The work and foresight of the Barrington 220 School Board is also crucial. Through long meetings, the board helped guide the funding, planning, and naming of the new stadium.

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Top: Jon Stickney (left), founder of the Friends of the Stadium, inspects the new 50-yard line with Mike Obsuszt (right), athletics director of Barrington High School. Above: Here is the overall plan of the new Barrington Community Stadium.



To their credit, board members knew this facility would serve more than just Barrington High School, understanding the potential value of the stadium to the entire community. The board of education's decision to name the new development Barrington Community Stadium underscores our motivation that it becomes a resource to the greater-Barrington area.

So, as the air cools and the leaves start to turn, I hope everyone in our school district finds time to attend soccer, football, or lacrosse games at the new Barrington Community Stadium. This is your stadium of which we can all be proud, where our students will make memories, and where this community can gather with the satisfaction that we have built something special together.

As always, you can reach me at [tleonard@cusd220.org](mailto:tleonard@cusd220.org) or by phone at 847-842-3588. U



PHOTO: THOMAS BALSAMO

Dr. Tom Leonard is the superintendent of District 220 schools.



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