



Athletic Fields Forever NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2013

Letter from Tina McKandes

Dear Cooney Fans:

Happy New Year! I am sure you are like me, eager to take a deep breath from the busy holidays and allow life to settle into a more normal routine.

Routine for the Oconomowoc Sports Booster Club, however, is a long way away given that we are all immersed in the very exciting and promising *Athletic Fields Forever Campaign*. Our all-volunteer leadership group is growing by the day as we broaden our reach into the various communities that support OHS athletics. Today we have six separate committees with memberships ranging from 6-10 people, all meeting monthly (or sometimes weekly!) to continue to identify sources of funds and to invite people to participate.

On behalf of the Booster Club, THANK YOU to all who have said 'yes!' by volunteering to help build stronger and more competitive outdoor athletic fields and facilities for our community. And beyond that, thank you for helping strengthen our community by enhancing our property values and deepening our pride in Oconomowoc.

Not involved yet? Call me! We will find a place for you in an area of interest. We are nearing the \$1.5 million mark on our way toward our \$3.9 million goal. Help us sustain the momentum!
Go Cooney!

Tina

Tina McKandes
President, OSBC
Co-Chair, AFF Campaign

CAMPAIGN GOAL:
\$3,900,000

RAISED TO DATE:
\$1,448,937

THANK YOU KEITH FARLEY!

It is said that 'many hands make light work.' Community member and impassioned volunteer, Keith Farley is a master at inviting and engaging not only people's hands, but their feet, heads, hearts, and pocketbooks in helping insure that the *Athletic Fields Forever* projects will succeed. On a personal level, Keith has donated hundreds of hours of time and his company, Oliver Construction, has made immeasurable contributions as well.

Keith is quick to point out that things get done when communities rally around a common interest, passion, or cause. "You just need to ask people to learn about the need, talk about the plans, and then you need to invite them to help. People love this town and they want to help," he said.

Keith's children have long since graduated from OHS so why is he so interested in these athletic fields renovations? His explanation focuses little on himself and goes back to the real reason this is being done: The OHS student athletes. Keith can often be heard making the case that our kids deserve facilities that are current, safe, and competitive. "They deserve nothing less," he says.

Thanks, Keith. Not only do you invite and engage, you inspire!



FACILITIES UPDATE

Grading has been completed on the **West Fields** (formerly the shoe factory fields). This newly upgraded space, made possible in large part due to the OASD appropriation of \$700,000, will be home to soccer and football practice fields, as well as to the new girl's softball diamond. In the spring, some final grading and other site work will be completed, as will the seeding of the turf. A full growing season will then be necessary before teams can actually use the fields.



Rendering of the fields

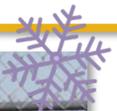
FOOTBALL UPDATE

In early November, OHS alumnus and former football player, Chad VandeZande, gathered a group of former teammates, alumni, and parents and invited them to take the lead in raising money for the proposed renovations to the current football stadium. Armed with a deep appreciation for how football can be transformational in the lives of young men, and motivated by the fact that the current facility has not seen a major improvement since 1965, a small committee has embarked on a quest to raise \$1.4 million of the funds needed to renovate the facility. This includes replacing the existing field surface with a synthetic turf that will last exponentially longer than natural grass. In less than two months, this group committed and/or secured pledges totaling \$348,000. In addition to Chad, special thanks go to Ross Kopfer, Chris Shult, Glenn Derby, Tom Stapleton, Tim Valley, and Coach McMullen! You are off to an amazing start – thank you!



SOCCKER UPDATE

Fred Begale and a loyal group of volunteers meet weekly as they develop plans to raise \$600,000 for a new soccer stadium. Their passion knows no limit as they meet on Wednesdays at Roots at 6:30am! The early months of their planning also included reception at the home of Karen and Dave Trepton, a gathering that enlisted a few more volunteers for the cause. Special thanks to Eric Jensen, Casey Deidderich, Brad Bella, Bob Butenhoff, Kathy Ardellini, Becky Hammer, the Treptons, and Coach Mike Bizjak. Progress is being made and they will go further with your help so feel free to step up!



TENNIS UPDATE

The committee of enthusiastic volunteers that includes Coach Suellyn Schellpepper-Rohrer continues to maintain a strong heartbeat of activity, getting the word out and asking for gifts and pledges to support Matchpoint Commons, the tennis pavilion proposed for a site adjacent to the tennis courts. Most important amenity: Restrooms! They are focused on getting several more families to make a pledge so that construction might begin in Spring 2013. For that to happen, over \$100,000 in new pledges must still be secured. Can you help?



TRACK UPDATE

Mike Walden and Tyler Danen have begun to mobilize a group of eager volunteers to raise \$200,000 for the track. Aware that their work must coincide with the football committee's work, Mike and Tyler have already begun to tell the story. Thanks to Fox Brothers Piggly Wiggly for their commitment of \$2,500 to get the shotput rolling!

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL UPDATE

Committees for each of these sports are under construction. Stay tuned.....



CABINET LISTING

Cabinet

- Carol Adler
- Mike Barry
- Fred Begale
- Tyler Danen
- Casey Diderrich
- Eric Jensen
- Paul Kopydowski
- Scott Raduka
- Suellyn Rohrer
- Brian Sinkula
- Tom Stapleton
- Chad VandeZande
- Mike Walden
- Kathy Wisnefski

Honorary Co-Chairs

- Mary and Dick Henszey

Co-Chairs

- Keith Farley
- Tina McKandes

