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Let there be lights

Fundraising underway to move lights to Forges Field

GateHouse News Service

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PLYMOUTH — We're always told that both recycling, as well as sharing, are good things. The Plymouth Pop Warner football program is in the process of seeing how good they both can be.

The process of tearing apart Romano Field for the construction of the new Plymouth North High School is now underway. The poles and lights that surrounded the field have been taken down and are now in storage. With any luck, those same lights soon will be shining on the young stars of the Plymouth Pop Warner football program.

"It's a great opportunity to share resources," Plymouth Pop Warner President Chris Parker said. "We have a chance to put lights on our game field and help with our scheduling of games and maybe offer the field as a neutral site for playoff games."

Right now, Plymouth Pop Warner uses the game field on at least four Sunday's during the regular season. The league has more than 400 players and cheerleaders on seven teams, so without lights, games start as early as 7:30 a.m. in the fall and go on until 5:30 p.m.

"It makes for a long day on Sunday, but the place where we could really use the added time is during the week for practice," Parker said. "The lights would be a big help in getting everyone on the field."

With the construction of the new high school, the Plymouth North football team is also going to be displaced for the next few years. There is already a plan in place for the team to practice at Forges Field right after school in the fall with the youth coming in after them.

The Blue Eagles home games this fall are set to be played at Forges Field on Saturday afternoons. Once the lights are in place, the parking and grandstands would be available to once again host night games.

A lower field at Forges does have lights. The youth lacrosse league uses it during the spring season and the older football team use it for practice during the fall.

As with all ideas, there is a cost to putting the lights at Forges Field. The light poles date all the way back to their original installation at Romano Field, so there is a question as to whether they will need to be replaced. There is also a question as to whether the concrete bases for the lights can be transferred to the new location.

"Both NStar as well as Emerald Excavating have been tremendous in helping us out so far," Parker said. "We're still not sure how much money we will have to raise, but there will be some fundraising involved with this project."

Trying to get a little ahead of the curve, the league has already scheduled "Laugh for Lights," a night of comedy and dancing on Saturday, April 23 at the Moose Lodge in Manomet. Plymouth native Christine Hurley will host the night of comedy. She has a couple of other comedians will perform and then a DJ will take over for some music and dancing to end the night.

Proceeds from the event will go to the light project. Tickets for the night are \$20. For more information send an e-mail to plymouthvikings@gmail.com.

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