

Little League Gets Face-Lift

WEST LAFAYETTE- After serving over 7,500 West Lafayette boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 since 1971, the West Lafayette Little League (WLLL) is in the midst of a \$365,000 facility update. In its 33 years of service, the WLLL Complex has been maintained with minor updates and renovations. As the all-volunteer organization strives to serve the community for 30 more years, the need for a major facility renovation has become apparent.

The WLLL Complex, located within the University Farms neighborhood, currently has a baseball field, softball field, practice areas and a junior baseball/softball field.

“The focal point of the Complex renovation will be a beautiful 2-story pavilion nestled between the baseball field and softball field,” Rob Kochon said. Kochon is the President of WLLL. Kochon added that “The structure will include an updated concession stand area and adequate restroom facilities for families and patrons. There will also be a second level complete with an umpire changing room.”

The pavilion will contain a large covered eating area and a play structure will be added to the East side of the new pavilion which will provide another area of recreation for the community and patrons of the events taking place at the complex.

The baseball press box has been renovated with new windows, walls and plumbing. The lower level, which served as the original concession stand and bathrooms, has been converted into storage. A brand new two story press box at the softball field has been built to match the style of the renovated baseball press box complete with new ground level storage, eliminating the numerous sheds spread out on the property and providing a clean, tight appearance to enhance the overall experience.

The fields themselves will also be updated. The softball field will have renovated dugouts and will be receiving an enhancement to the current field which eventually be graded, leveled and seeded. The baseball field will be receiving new bleachers, dugouts and bullpens. Batting cages and fencing will be completely replaced on both the baseball field and the softball field.

The WLLL hopes to have the project completed before the t-ball, baseball and softball seasons start in late April.

“We are excited that the project will be taking place this year as we are thrilled to be hosting the 12-year-old 2007 State Tournament of which the winner will continue to advance as Indiana’s representative in the Little League World Series,” Randy Truitt said. Truitt is a Board Member and is responsible for the fundraising for the project. “The event will give us a great opportunity to display what a great city West Lafayette is and showcase our new community complex. This complex allows us to provide a first class recreation alternative for the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow.”

The project is being constructed in cooperation with the West Lafayette School Corporation which owns the land and the City of West Lafayette which has contributed generously to the project and has pledged to financially support the project through contributions in 2007 and 2008. We have also received cash and pledge commitments from many individuals and area businesses such as: CP Morgan, Regions Bank, Lafayette Savings Bank, Buffalo Wild Wings, Schneider Corporation and Indiana Spine. WLLL has submitted grant applications to multiple foundations and look forward to

positive responses towards the end of March. Steve and Sally Byrn of West Lafayette have provided a \$50,000 donation to the project which will result in the field being named in their honor.

As an all-volunteer non-profit organization, the WLLL will be relying on individual contributions and corporate sponsors to fund the complete renovation project. WLLL is still in need of support to make the entire project a reality. The organization still needs to raise an additional \$90,000. Therefore, WLLL needs your support. Should you desire to support this much needed renovation, please send your contribution to: WLLL, 615 Ridgewood Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906. For additional information on supporting the WLLL Complex renovations, please contact Randy Truitt at 765-463-1737.