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Gazette 2.0

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Painted rocks make splash in West Suburbs

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Volume 2, Issue 12 | Tuesday, April 10, 2018 | 50¢ Copy

This year's Robinson spring cleanup is expected to bring out a variety of volunteers, including Montour High School students, residents and police officers.

Earth Day prompts community cleanups

BY CAITLIN SPITZER

The flowers are starting to bloom and the grass is turning green again. It's time for spring cleanups!

With the temperature getting warmer, the piles of snow on the side of the roads melt to reveal the garbage left behind over the winter months. Some of the most commonly found items are cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastic bottles, bottle caps and tires.

The impact of littering is broad. A 2009 study conducted by Keep America Beautiful, Inc. (KAB), found that not only does littering have environmental consequences, such as contamination of local waterways, but there are indirect costs as well.

The study reported that 36 percent of business developers take a community's amount of litter into account in their decision making process.

A staggering 93 percent of homeowners would lower their judgment of a home's value based on how littered the neighborhood is. And, obviously, trash on the side of the road is plain ugly and takes away from any community's visual appeal.

Across the country, many neighborhoods participate in some sort of spring clean up to combat the accumulating trash left behind over the winter months.

Robinson Township has held its annual spring clean up for about 10 years in a row.

The day consists of a joint effort of about 30-40 local volunteers taking to the streets to pick up as much trash as possible.

Many people volunteer their time and supplies to make this day happen. Montour High School students and local residents will participate.

Starbucks will be coming out with 20-some volunteers. Giant Eagle Market District will be providing a space and refreshments for volunteers to meet.

State Representative Anita Kulik will donate water bottles and County Councilman Pat Catena will provide tools, while PennDot is donating gloves, reflective vests, and trash bags.

The public works and police departments will be helping out as well, by providing a safe space for the volunteers to work alongside the road and notifying traffic to slow down.

SEE, **CLEANUP**, PAGE 4

Moon Park receiving Miracle League Field

BY JILLIAN JANNEY

The Moon Miracle League, a nonprofit organization that allows individuals to participate in baseball and an active lifestyle regardless of disability, is moving forward with plans to construct a baseball field and playground in Moon Park.

Mike Magulik, Jr. was inspired to initiate this hometown project by his three-year-old son Luke who is diagnosed with a genetic disorder. At 14 months of age, Luke was found to have 5P Deletion or 5P- Syndrome, a condition often associated with intellectual and developmental disabilities, altered facial traits, low birth weights, and weak muscle tone in infancy.

"For all the families that are out there who didn't think their child would have a safe place to play or were excluded because of their diagnosis, that's going to change in May 2019," said Magulik of the project

SEE, **LEAGUE**, PAGE 2

Increase to Sto-Rox Library hours

BY CINDY HINDLE

No good comes from a library that is closed.

That sentiment is often heard at the Focus On Renewal (F.O.R.) Sto-Rox Library, located at 420 Chartiers Ave., McKees Rocks where complaints about lack of hours were often fielded by its staff.

In response, hours there are making a substantial expansion and the staff is excited to see it happen. Beginning April 9, the library will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 pm. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Located in the same building as the Ryan Arts Center, the plans are to combine efforts to offer programs involving both the art center and the library.

"This is really exciting," said Shravani Charyulu, the library's newly hired youth literary arts coordinator. "Libraries in any community are more than a place to get books for your history projects or book reports."

Photo by Lynne Deliman
Jennifer Gray and Shravani Charyulu

The staff, which includes Charyulu, Library Director Cheryl Napsha and Jennifer Gray, is looking forward to having more involvement with the people of McKees Rocks and Stowe Township.

SEE, **LIBRARY**, PAGE 10

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Around the Neighborhood

We bring to you all of the local news from around the communities. Borough News, School News, you name it, we report on it!

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- Bulletin Board -

Police Award

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police awarded Officer Anthony Seretti of Stowe for his efforts in apprehending a bank robber March 19. Seretti was on foot patrol when a bank robbery occurred at Key Bank on 6th Avenue. The teller had handed over currency containing a transmitter pack to the robber. Police dispatch then aired the location of the pack at a bus stop at Smithfield Street and 6th. Seretti boarded Port Authority bus #5711 and observed a passenger seated at the rear of the bus matching the description of the robbery suspect. Additionally, the suspect had currency protruding from his pants pocket. Seretti then placed the suspect into custody.

100-month Celebration

Christ Community Church will celebrate its 100th month serving a free community dinner in the McKees Rocks area April 28. It has been more than eight years since the members at the church, located at 900 Chartiers Ave., opened its doors to welcome anyone from the area to come in for a monthly dinner. These full meals are served on the last Saturday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. All dinners are served by volunteers who donate both time and money to this project. Guests are never asked to donate. The church is planning to celebrate the milestone with a special event starting at 4:30 p.m. on April 28.

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Caitlin Spitzer: Editor-in-Chief
Darrell Chestnutt: Marketing Manager
Sonja Reis: Consulting Editor
James Hogan: Copy Editor / Columnist
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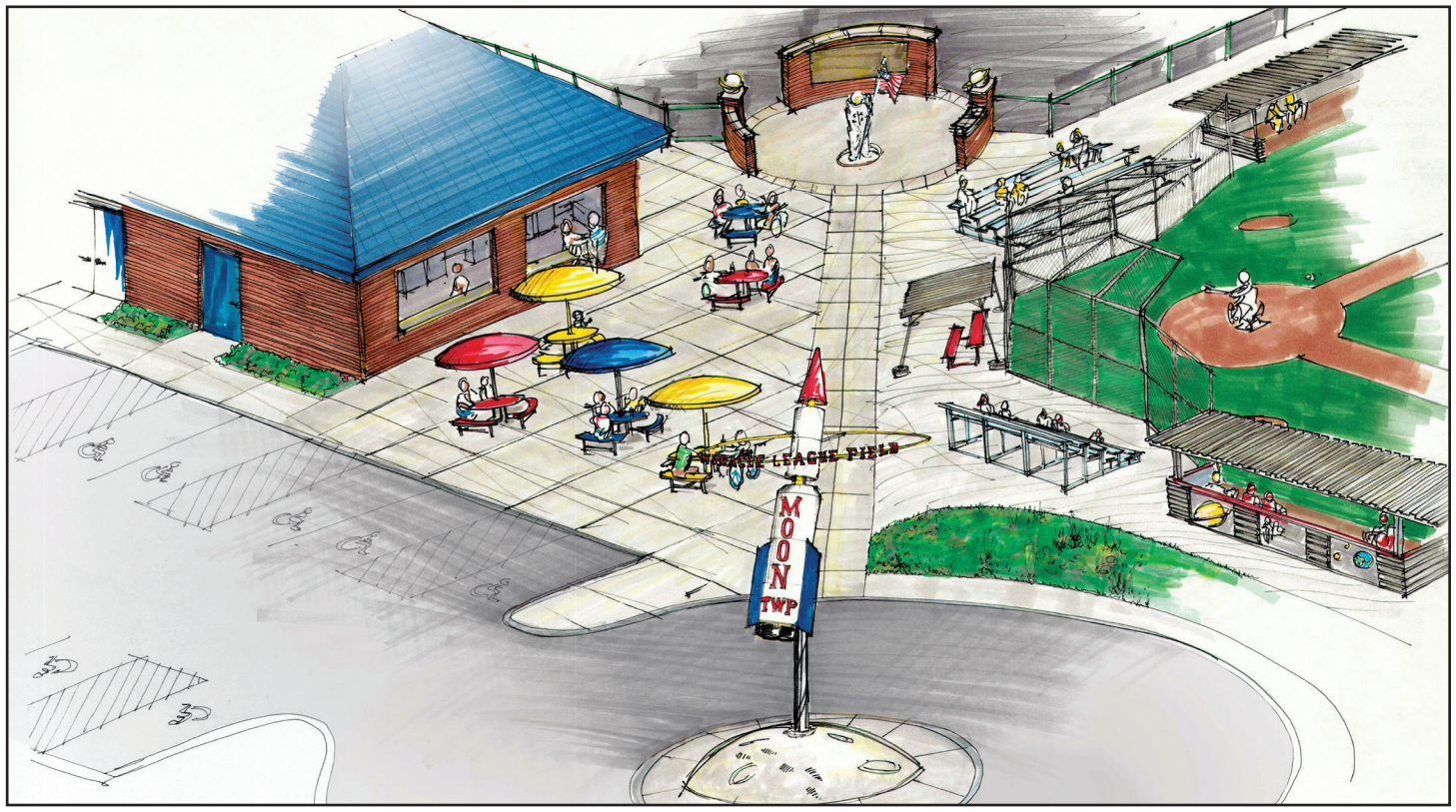

Sketch by Avon Graf Architects, LLC

Field to work miracles

LEAGUE, CONTINUED

expected to cost more than $2 million to complete.

Another Moon resident looking forward to having a place close to home where special needs children can gather to play is Nick Mahramas. His oldest son, 11, has multiple diagnoses that can affect his ability to play. In the past, Mahramas and his family traveled to Cranberry's Miracle League field. They said they enjoyed playing at the field and the experiences it yielded, but had trouble committing the time to regularly travel to the site.

Mahramas strongly believes the field in Moon will bring an opportunity for various members of the community to learn how much entire families can become restricted by abilities others take for granted.

"It can impact Moon in more ways than people realize," said Mahramas, who feels that the safe play environment provides the ability for children and parents to relate to other families.

With a proposed Independence Day groundbreaking, Magulik is hopeful other special needs programming will begin fall 2019. Soccer, yoga, golf and flag football are under consideration. Additionally, Moon baseball, soccer and softball, as well as several other individual and nonprofit organizations in Allegheny and Beaver counties, have shown interest in using the site.

The field is being funded through donations and will be made of seamless, latex-free rubber turf with safety and inclusion in mind and will provide a safe place where anyone can play and engage in physical fitness and healthy activity, regardless of disability, said Magulik.

(L-R) Mike, Jack, Luke and Christina Magulick

The league utilizes volunteer "buddies" to assist the players with needs and to protect players, while allowing the players to participate as much as possible. Often, these buddies provide encouragement and support to the players.

There are more than 240 Miracle League organizations across the nation, but this will be the first field located in western Allegheny County. It will be accompanied by a restroom facility, adaptive playground and asphalt and concrete pathways for accessibility.

A service-disabled, veteran-owned general contracting company, RBVetCo, led by Russ Heyz and former Steeler, Rocky Bleier, is the construction manager for the project. Details are important. They include a proposed three-tiered water fountain for wheelchair accessibility and a drinking area for service dogs.

Magulik said he welcomes continued suggestions since the final plans are not set in stone and the organization is looking for changes that can make the most impact for its users.

"This is the place where they can be the stars. They don't always get that in other places," he said.

Those interested in contributing financially are encouraged to visit the website to buy a brick or make a donation.

Volunteer opportunities for announcers, buddies, coaches and more are approaching this fall. Sponsors include: Pirates Charities, RBVetCo, Robert Morris University and Edgar Snyder & Associates.