

## Group to fix up Twin Oaks baseball fields

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middletown

The athletic association wants the fields to be in good shape for the 15-year-old Babe Ruth Baseball state tournament it's hosting in July.

The Middletown Athletic Association will fix up the baseball fields at the township-owned Twin Oaks Park without the benefit of an additional \$20,000 from the township.

The group withdrew its request for the money before the township supervisors made any decision on whether to allocate the funds.

Although the newspaper was unsuccessful in reaching any supervisors for comment Wednesday, they appeared reluctant when the request was first made at the Feb. 1 meeting. They said the township budget was tight and it probably wouldn't be fair to other athletic groups to give the MAA an additional \$20,000.

There is already \$10,000 in this year's township budget for improvements at Twin Oaks, located at Trenton and Woodbourne roads.

The athletic association is hosting the 15-year-old Babe Ruth Baseball state tournament in late July.

Nine teams from around the state will participate, along with a team from the MAA. Games will be played at Twin Oaks and at Bucks County's Queen Anne Park on Woodbourne Road.

The association was going to use the additional money for improved fencing, infield mix, repairs to batting cages and other items at Twin Oaks.

Now, the MAA will do the extra work at Twin Oaks with its own money, donated materials and volunteer labor, said MAA treasurer Robert Butts and township Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna.

"You can accomplish a lot in a day or over a weekend with a lot of people pitching in to volunteer," said Lamanna. "I know they had a bunch of people working there on a recent weekend and they have another volunteer maintenance day scheduled soon. They've done an amazing job and things are looking good at Twin Oaks."

Butts said MAA officials took another look and prioritized the needs at Twin Oaks.

"In some cases, instead of replacing sections of fence, we're painting them as kind of a stopgap," he said. "We've had some businesses step up to provide work at a greatly reduced rate. We're not trying to do everything in one broad stroke."

The athletic association has always done most of the routine maintenance at Twin Oaks in lieu of paying the township permit fees to use the fields, Lamanna said. The group is also working with the county on improvements at Queen Anne before the state tournament, she added.

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