



## Charleroi Community Park lights baseball field

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Holly Tonini

### Under the lights

Holly Tonini

Players watch from the dugout under the lights at Charleroi Community Park's Cominsky Field Wednesday evening.



sports facility that would house indoor soccer, basketball and batting cages. The park gets most of its use from April through October, but the board hopes to eventually make the park operational year round.

The park board trustees are a nonprofit organization that was chartered with the mission providing recreation to the Charleroi area.

"It's a good group that truly has the benefit of the kids first and foremost. That's why we're there," Alterici said.

Besides the lighting project, the organization has worked to clean up the riverbank and put walking trails along the river.

"The thought for the lights came down to giving the kids more to do, and now with us having the lights there the kids will be able to play in the summer until 10:30 p.m. Instead of having to rush out of there for the safety factor, those kids trying to get a game in don't have to worry about it getting too dark. Now we can have a doubleheader," Alterici said.

The first PONY game played under the lights was Wednesday. At 1 p.m. Saturday, park board is hosting "Pitch, Hit & Run" sponsored by Major League Baseball. The competition will be open to boys and girls ages 7-14. The event is free.

The lights will come in handy just in time for the event, and hopefully for others like it.

"We're very excited about the whole thing," Alterici said, "Playing under the lights at that age is fun. I remember doing it when I was that age and it's a blast. Maybe the more kids that like it, the more kids will get involved and the better the program will get."

Posted: Thursday, April 28, 2016 4:28 pm

By **Nina Saluga** For the Herald-Standard

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**A**fter 10 years in the making, Charleroi's Community Park Board of Trustees was able to light Cominsky Field on Wednesday night.

While board members have talked about installing lights for quite some time, they've concentrated their efforts into making it a reality over the last two or three years, said Mark Alterici, trustees chairman.

"It took years of the previous people who were in charge saving money, because we did spend a lot of money on this — roughly in the neighborhood of about \$125,000," Alterici said.

The total spent was offset by grants, including one for \$35,000 from the Washington County Tourism Board, and another \$1,000 grant from FirstEnergy.

Charleroi Youth Baseball was biggest benefactor for the project, as they would be using the lights for night games, Alterici said.

The board chose to light Cominsky Field because it houses PONY League baseball, high school girls' softball and middle school softball. The board also plans to move Bronco League baseball games to the field, which is slightly larger.

By lighting Cominsky Field, which Alterici said gets the most use, it gives the board the opportunity to potentially expand. He said their long-term goal is to fund an indoor

sports facility that would house indoor soccer, basketball and batting cages. The park gets most of its use from April through October, but the board hopes to eventually make the park operational year round.

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