

Friends of Cardina Field



Field Location:

820 East Street

Fairport Harbor, OH



Sandra Knight

sknight@fhevs.org

Fairport Athletic Director

Overview/Goal

The Friends of Cardina Field community group would like to work collaboratively with the FHEVS School Board, FHEVS Administration, the Ohio EPA, and the PRP Group to restore Cardina Softball Field so that it is playable by the Spring of 2021.



First some history of Cardina Field.....



This is an image of Mr. Jim Cardina and his family during the field dedication.

The field was named and dedicated to Coach Cardina in 1997.

A few photos from when Cardina Field was built from 1984:
this was a community project and source of community pride.



Many hands make light work. It takes a village!





This is a photo from the Field Dedication in 1985. The fields had not been named yet, but Mr. Cardina and Mr. Urbanski are on the right-hand side of the picture. On the left is the school board and at the podium is Mr. Sommers, the Fairport Superintendent.

School support secures Fairport goals for '77

By MARK HOPWOOD
Telegraph Staff Reporter

Fairport School Supt. Kenneth Babb says immediate problems for the Fairport Schools have subsided with the approval of the 20-mill levy in November.

The levy has since been reduced by the county auditor to 15 mills.

"Our biggest problem overall is getting industry into the Diamond Shamrock property," Babb said. "But since we received our levy we are secure for the next five years."

The levy will generate



Kenneth Babb

\$400,000 per year to run the Fairport schools and will run for five years.

Babb said an underlying problem with the Fairport school system should be addressed in 1977.

"We have a problem with a lack of students," Babb said. He said trends towards smaller families, the number of retired people in Fairport and the lack of available building space have caused enrollment in the school system to drop noticeably.

"At one time, half the population of Fairport was in school," Babb said. He said since that time enrollment has been dropping. He said a solution could be the construction of apartments or in time new families would replace many of the retired citizens in the present homes in the village.

Going back to 1977

When a levy was passed to keep Fairport Harbor schools open, Superintendent Kenneth Babb soon made plans to acquire the land for the fields after the Diamond closed.

Left: Superintendent Kenneth Babb pictured here in an article from 1979 about the passage of a permanent levy to keep Fairport Schools open.

Right: 1958 Season--Coaches Daly, Rojeck and Babb going over strategy.

Sports and extracurriculars have always been an important part of a student's experience in school.

Fairport-

when Diamond Shamrock would close its Fairport plant by Dec. 31, 1978. Babb and some of the school board members were shocked but not surprised.

Immediately after the announcement of June 1978, the school board passed a -20-mill emergency, five-year levy to generate \$400,000 needed to keep the schools open. The people of Fairport Harbor made national headlines by their overwhelming support of this November 1978, levy which was said to have been one of the largest ever approved for a school district.

Grave problems were to follow. Since the chemical plant closing Dec. 31, 1978, the village school district valuation has dropped from \$14,892,000 to \$17,904,000.

In 1977, the first year of collection on the emergency levy, the county budget commission collected 11 mills which brought in a total of \$173,821, or \$26,179 less than requested. Over the three years the emergency levy has been in effect, the district will have received \$179,515 less than requested.

The tax loss, plus decreased valuation, had the effect of the school district's collection being one-half the

the low tax base of Fairport and the options we have in continuing the present school system." One of those options would be to merge with another system.

Next year voters will have to reconsider the 20-mill emergency levy, but in the meantime the board is considering a six to eight-mill levy to submit to voters this November. Collection probably wouldn't begin until 1981.

That isn't all, Babb says. A year after the levy renewal, valuation will be definitely stabilized and the board will know exactly how much money it will take to run the school system. "Then we should have another permanent levy," he says.

"We could ask for the money we need all at one time. We don't want to do that. It all comes down to the question of whether people want an independent school system.

One of the big problems is the board has been slowly using up the \$740,000 carryover of Dec. 31, 1978, when Diamond Shamrock closed its chemical plant. Now the district is spending more



Coaches Daly, Rojeck, and Babb going over strategy for 1958 season.



FAIRPORT SKIPPER FIELD

DEDICATED

APRIL 27, 1985

SITE
DONATED BY

DIAMOND SHAMROCK

The sign
on the
flagpole
between
both ball
fields
showing
the original
name of
the facility.

Maintenance Work to be Completed at Cardina Field

(Maintenance List has been developed in conjunction with PRP Group)

1. Replacement of two above grade dugouts;
2. Installation of a new above grade press box;
3. Scoreboard repairs; tree trimming; and other similar maintenance activities;
4. Chain-link fence repairs including new posts (driven) and painting;
5. Relocation of foul posts (driven);
6. Removal of the former softball field scoreboard concrete pad and backfill with previously approved and imported soil fill;
7. Maintenance of a storm water catch basin (adding previously approved and imported soil around perimeter);
8. General maintenance filling in low areas using previously approved and imported soil;
9. Import of ballfield clay (Diamond Clay or equivalent) to level the playing fields;
10. Import of fresh gravel to improve the driveway (57 limestone);
11. Installation of a new concrete pad and concession/storage shed;
12. Installation of subgrade electrical and water utilities to the new concession/storage shed; and
13. Irrigation water line repairs.

Dugouts--Now Torn Down

Work started with tearing down two dugouts.
Thank you to the FHEVS School Board,
Facilities Committee, Scott Hribar, Ed Reed,
and Tony Scheiber Hauling.

- ✓ Completed on July 15
- ✓ Hauled away by Tony Scheiber Hauling



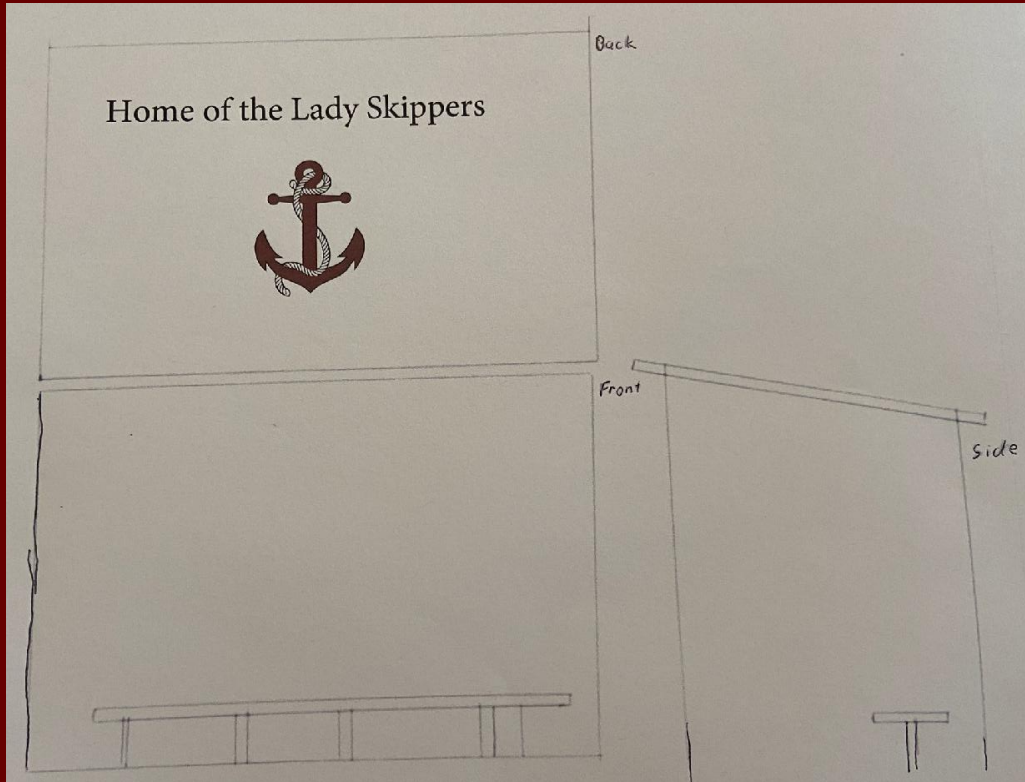


Many great
memories were made
here!

Softball dugouts have
been removed!



Current Dugout Design--Proposed Design



Materials Needed:

- 4 x 4 x 8 Pressure Treated Wood (16)
- 2 x 4 x 8 Pressure Treated Wood (20)
- Roofing / Siding Materials for two dugouts
- New Wood for two Benches

Dirt is needed to level the playing surface.

- Clean dirt/Fill for slope in the infield where settling occurred: We have dirt donated from last year that we have moved to the infield.
- Diamond Clay Mix: Cost is estimated around \$3,100/truckload (25 tons per truckload).
- Scoreboard Area has an old concrete pad that needs to be removed and we need to fill underneath the scoreboard where settling occurred over time.
- All work projects on this site have to be approved and documented on an online docs system with the OEPA.



Fencing Repairs Needed

Repair chain link fencing in front of dugouts: approximately 115 feet first base side and 115 feet on the third base side. In many places the fencing just needs to be re-attached.

We are gathering estimates to replace the 8 foot tall chain link fencing. If it is reasonable and if we raise enough funds for it, we will also replace the tall sections along the first and third base.

Estimates are coming in around 3-5K.



Repair Fencing - 3rd Base Side

Replace top fence rail that is damaged along 3rd base side.

Replace approximately 43 feet of shorter chain link fence that is in poor condition along 3rd base side.



Repaint Fencing - Outfield poles/chain is done!
We plan to paint infield poles, but we are waiting on
estimate/cost for infield chain link fencing.

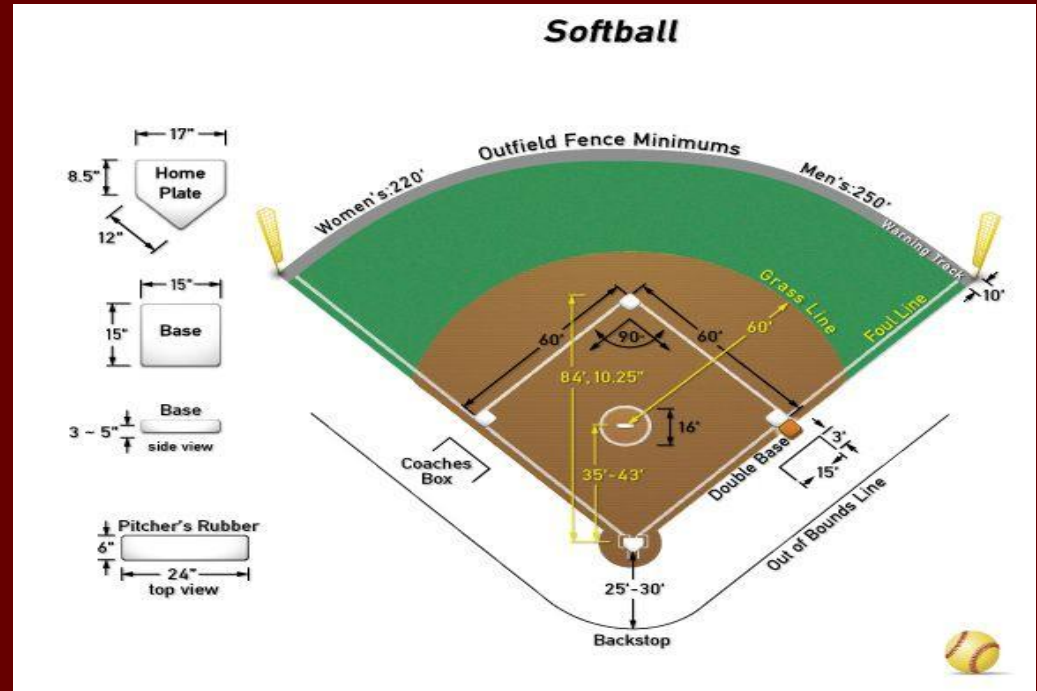


Lady Skippers hard at work painting the fencing!



Other Improvement Projects for Cardina Field

- Purchase a new press box similar to what boys have for the baseball field.
- Replace/restructure bases and relocate Foul Poles based on new location of home plate.
- Home plate needs to be 25-30 feet in front of backstop.



New Storage Shed Needed

The old concession stand/storage shed was hauled away by Tony Scheiber's Hauling Company.

Thank you to Tony Scheiber's Hauling, Scott Hribar and Ed Reed for your work on this project!



Concession Stand Torn Down



New Storage/Concession Shed

We would like to build a concrete pad and build a 20 x 26 steel garage. This would be shared between baseball and softball.

Concrete Pad: 20 x 26

The garage would be split into half concession stand and half storage for the equipment/tractor.

PRP Group will help to build the form for the concrete and providing fill underneath it.



Tree Trimming Needed

- Remove dead tree limbs that are dying near third base side.
- A lot of branches are coming down during storms, etc.
- Thank you to Nathan Urban, FHS 2020 Grad, for helping with tree trimming!





Current Batting
Cages

An aerial photograph of a baseball field. The infield is a brownish-green color, and the outfield is a darker green. Several callouts with red arrows point to specific areas: 'Current Batting Cages' points to a structure in the top left; '20 x 26 Concrete Pad for New Storage/ Concession Shed (20 x 26)' points to a light blue rectangle in the top right; 'New Press Box (above ground)' points to a white rectangle in the center right; '<New Dugouts (above ground)' points to a light blue rectangle in the center right; '2 Trees with dead limbs that need trimmed or removed' points to two trees in the bottom right; 'Area where Dirt is Needed for Infield' is a large brown rectangle in the center; and 'Scoreboard - needs dirt here' is a brown rectangle in the bottom left.

20 x 26 Concrete Pad for
New Storage/ Concession
Shed (20 x 26)

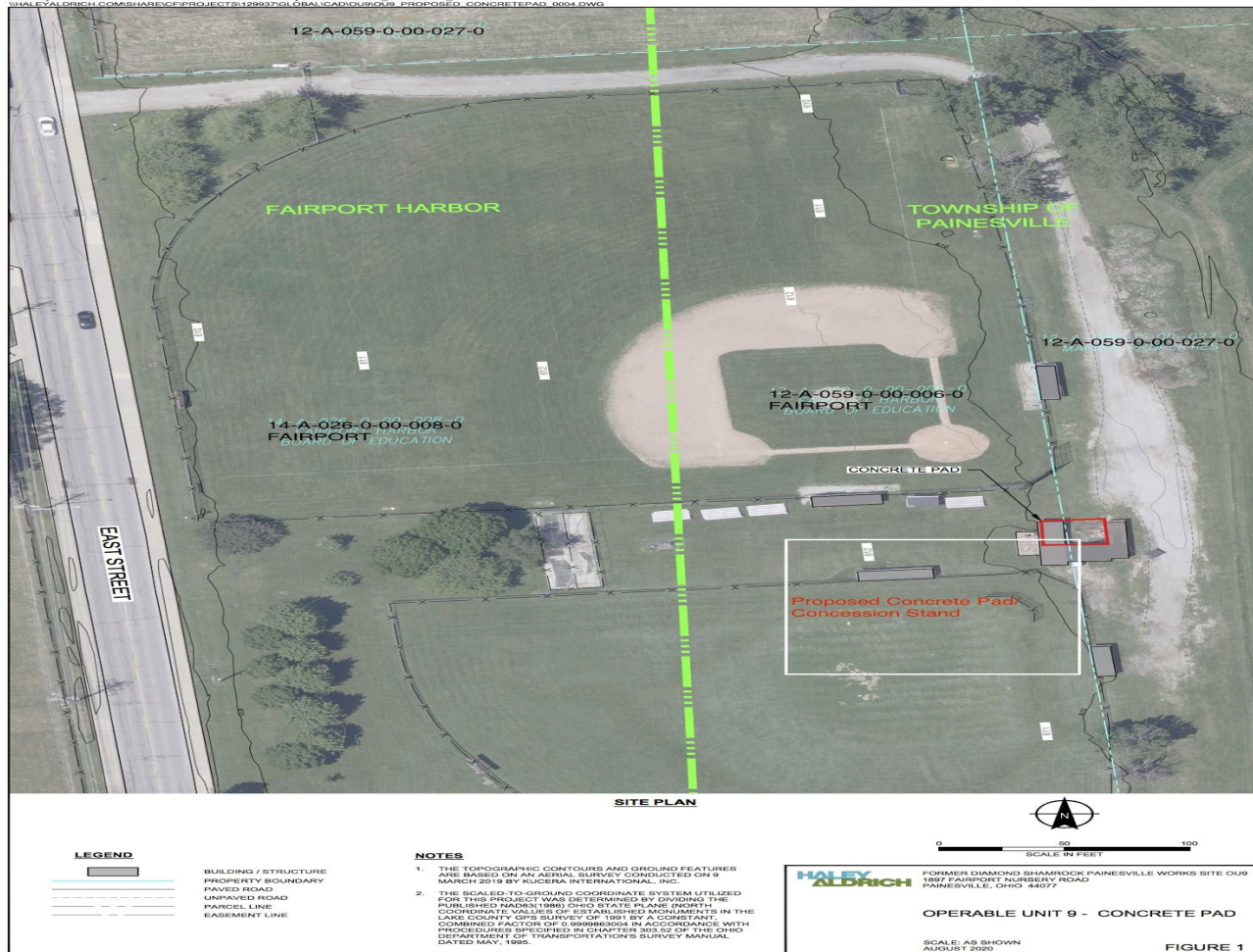
New Press Box
(above ground)

<New Dugouts
(above ground)

Area
where Dirt
is Needed
for Infield

Scoreboard -
needs dirt
here

2 Trees with dead
limbs that need
trimmed or removed



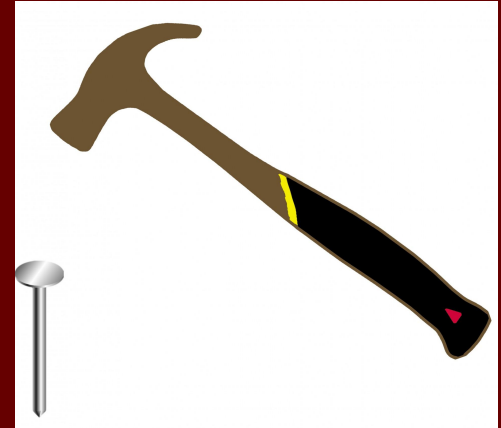
North end -
Urbanski Field

South End -
Cardina Field

Red Rectangle -
this is the
proposed
location of the
concrete pad
and new
storage shed

Field Work/Fence Repair/Design Volunteers

- Committee will be formed to work collaboratively to develop plans for this renovation project.
- Community Members who have volunteered:
 - Sandy Knight and Greg Knight (Teacher, Coach, Activities Director)
 - Jim Cardina (FHS Former Coach, Alumni)
 - Scott McFadden (Parent of Softball Player)
 - Chris Powalie (Parent of Softball Player)
 - Rick Safick (Community Member)
 - Tony Zalar (FHS 2000 Alumni)
 - Michael Gladding (Alumni, Community Member)
 - Jen Maruschak (Community Member)
 - Jeff and Kristen McKinney (Parents of Current Softball Players)
 - Tim Manross (Faiport Mayor, Community Member)
 - Terry Vale (Community Member)
 - Jason Heller (FHS Parent, Community Member)
 - Mike Nahorniak (FHS Coach, FHS Alumni)



Fundraiser Committee

- Committee will be formed to seek out grants and donations for this project.
- Current committee members include:
 - Katie Rumbarger (FHS Harding High School Principal)
 - Sandra Knight (FHS Activities Director, Athletic Booster President)
 - Jodi Cardina Trombley (FHS Alumni 1986, Daughter of Jim Cardina)
 - Jeanne Cardina Safick (Former Junior Class Advisor, Daughter of Jim Cardina)
 - Liz Heller (Parent/Community Member)
 - Tabby McFadden (FHS Parent)
 - Cortney Zalar (FHS 2003 Alumni)
 - Stephanie Zinnicker (FHS 2002 Alumni)
 - Amanda Lawson (FHS Parent, Alumni, Community Member)
 - Cara Mia Duncan (FHS 1995 Alumni)
 - Kristen McNeil McKinney (FHS Parent, Community Member)
 - Crystal Cicconetti (FHS Staff Member, FHS Parent)
 - Alicia Sherwood (FHS 2000 Alumni, FHS Parent, Community Member)
 - Nancy Gladding (Community Member)
 - Mike Nahorniak (FHS Alumni, FHS Coach)
 - Wendy Sharpe (FHS Alumni, FHS Junior Class Advisor, Community Member)
 - Jessica Drobil (FHS Alumni)
 - Tiffany Luthanen (FHS 2005 Alumni)



Future Maintenance/Planning for Care of Field and Future Softball Leagues for Community

- Prospects Baseball Organization - Open/Available to Fairport Players
 - Looking to start a Fastpitch team which will be open to Fairport players and expand program to younger teams next summer.
- On the Planning Committee:
 - Sandra Knight (Fairport Activities Director)
 - Cara Mia Duncan (FHS 1995 Alumni)
 - Mike Nahorniak (FHS Alumni, FHS Coach)
 - Stephanie Zinnicker (FHS 2002 Alumni)
 - Kristen McKinney (FHS Parent, Community Member)
 - Tony Zalar (FHS 2000 Alumni)
 - Scott McFadden (Parent/Alumni)
 - Chris Powalie (Parent)



Cleveland Prospects @ Urbanski Field

- Prospects Baseball Organization - Open/Available to Fairport Players
- Summer 2020 Repairs that Prospects Players and Coaches have made at the Baseball Field:
 - Pulled weeds and edged infield
 - Nail dragged field
 - Fixed tires on portable hitting tunnel
 - Fixed piping on portable hitting tunnel
 - Fixed netting and holes on batting cage
 - Edged 3rd base side bullpen mound
- Pledged \$1,500 towards infield dirt for Urbanski Field along with future improvements
- Huge Thank you to FHS Head Baseball Coach Dan Wolf for countless hours working on the field this summer and prior to our own spring season.



Urbanski Field (Baseball) -- July 2020



Cardina Field (Softball) -- August 2020



How will we raise funds for this project?

- Banner Fundraiser: We plan to hang banners on the fence and the funds raised will help with current and future maintenance of the field. (19 banners sold so far)
- Grants for field renovations
 - Dick's Sporting Goods - Applied for \$5,000 grant on 7-20-20
 - Pitch In For Baseball & Softball (Equipment Grant) - Applied on 7-25-20
 - Cleveland Indians Diamond Improvement Grant - **Received \$5,000 Grant**
 - MLB Baseball Tomorrow Grant - Sent letter of inquiry on 8-16-20 - Applied for \$14,127.50
- Community Sponsors: We have an MVP Dugout Sponsor!! - **\$5,000 - Fairport Harbor VFW Post 7754**
- In-Kind Donations are encouraged and volunteer labor is needed to make improvements.

We have big goals for this project: the path we take will depend on funding/grants/donations.

MLB Tomorrow Fund - Sent a letter of inquiry on 8-16-20 and asked for \$14,127.50, which would allow us to install lighting on both fields and purchase metal bleachers.

- New Dugouts - 4-5 K
- Dirt/Clay Mix for Playing Field - 3-4 K
- Fence Repairs - 3-5 K
- New Press Box - 2-3 K
- Scoreboard repair - 1-2 K
- New Storage Shed/Concession Stand - 5-6 K
- New Concrete Pad Installed - 2-3 K
- Lighting Installed - 10 K
- Metal Bleachers - 6 K

Total Overall Goal:
\$45,000

Friends of Cardina Field 

& the Fairport Athletic Boosters thank the
Cleveland Indians - MVP Sponsor \$5,000

**DIAMOND
IMPROVEMENT
GRANT**

Indians[®]
**CLEVELAND INDIANS
CHARITIES** 



Friends of Cardina Field



& the Fairport Athletic Boosters thank
Fairport VFW Post #7754 - MVP Sponsor \$5,000



Total Funds raised for Cardina Field

Banner Sales: \$6,160 (19 banners sold)

General / Base Sponsors Donations: \$790

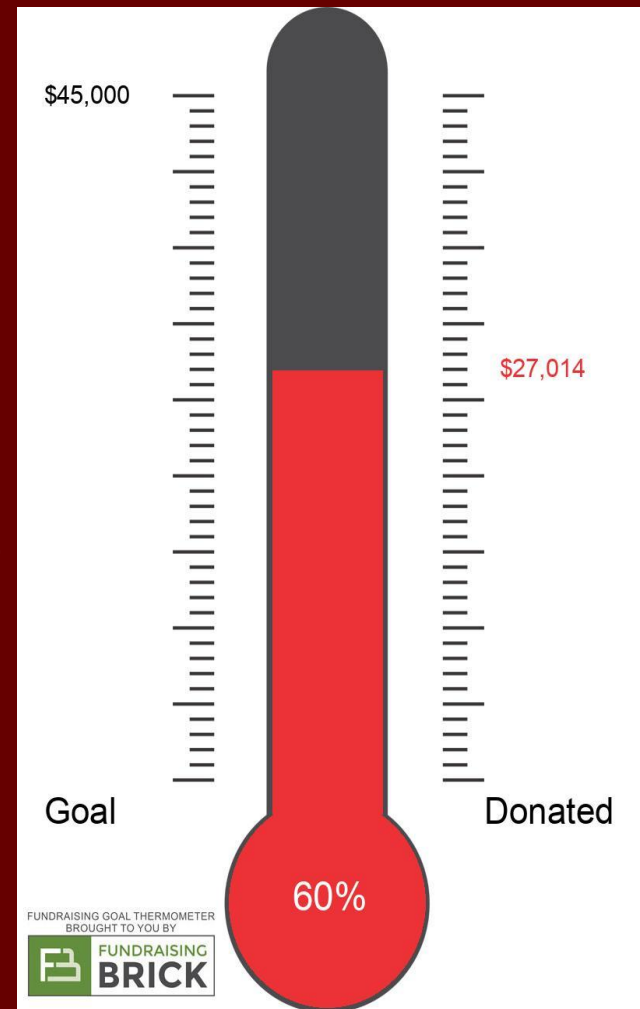
Facebook Fundraiser: \$2,905

Movie Nights/Kona Ice/Rego's Pizza Night/Chipotle - \$1,159.98

On Hand so far: \$11,014.98

- + Cleveland Indians Grant - \$5,000 (Awarded)
- + Total Pledged from local businesses - \$11,000
(Fairport VFW, Harbor Construction)

Total Raised with pledges/ grants so far: \$27,014.98



Friends of Cardina Field



Thank you to the following businesses/individuals
for purchasing a banner!

- Lake County Title *Triple Sponsor
- Concord Transportation *Double Sponsor
- Fairport Motorcycles *Double Sponsor
- Daveron Builders *Double Sponsor
- Rick Pop's Miller *Double Sponsor
- Kurt Law Offices *Double Sponsor
- Rita's Karate School *Double Sponsor
- Max Clean *Double Sponsor

"Single" Sponsors

- Lake County Landscaping
- Great Lakes Boat Works
- Charlton-Shirer Family
- Viktor's Legacy
- Crosby Creations
- Mardi Gras
- Pepco
- Main Street Photography
- Rego's Pizza Night
- Glazed Fairport
- Reho-Zinnicker Family



Help us revive Cardina Field



"Grandslam" Sponsor \$1,000

Custom Banner / Advertising
for your organization or business
on the outfield fence
for the next 5 years.

"Wild Pitch" Backstop Sponsor \$1,500

Advertising for your organization
or business on the backstop
for the next 5 years.

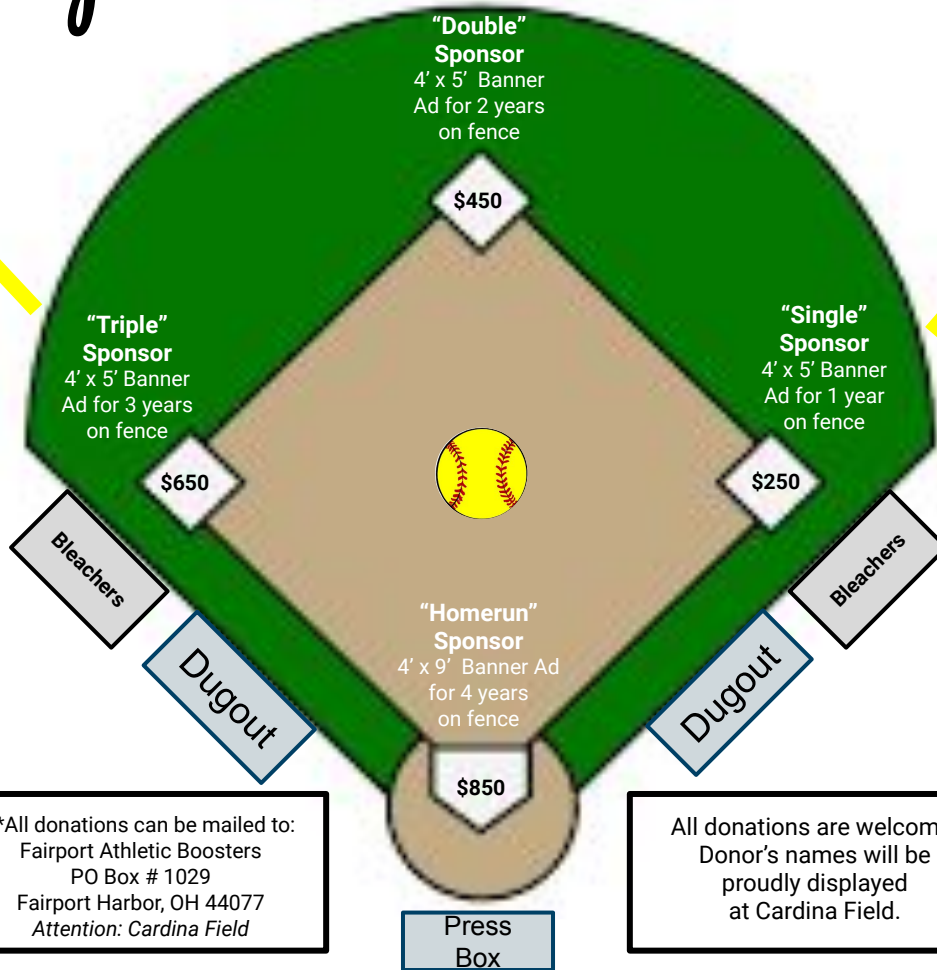
"#1 Skipper Fan" Bleacher Sponsor \$2,000

Advertising for your organization
or business on the bleachers
for the next 5 years.

"All-Star" Press Box Sponsor \$2,500

Advertising for your organization
or business on the press box
for the next 5 years.

**All donations can be mailed to:
Fairport Athletic Boosters
PO Box # 1029
Fairport Harbor, OH 44077
Attention: Cardina Field



"Walk Off Home Run" Windscreen Sponsor \$3,000

Advertising for your organization
or business on the interior of the
outfield fence on the windscreen
from foul pole to foul pole.

"Triple Crown" Concession Stand & Storage Shed Sponsor \$4,000

Advertising for your organization
or business on the concession
stand/storage shed, plus
additional banner displayed at
Urbanski Field and Greig Field.

"MVP" Dugout Sponsor \$5,000

Advertising for your organization
or business on the dugout, plus
additional banner displayed at
Urbanski Field and Greig Field.

All donations are welcome.
Donor's names will be
proudly displayed
at Cardina Field.



Outdoor Movie Night @ Cardina Field



Sat. Aug. 29th @ 9 pm
Donations Appreciated





Attention Fairport Alumni!



Dust off your cleats!!! Are you interested in playing in a Fairport Alumni Baseball or Alumni Softball Game? All are invited!

Players: Register by Friday, August 28th.
Email sknight@fhevs.org to sign up.

Game Date: Saturday, Sept. 5 @ 10:00 am

Cost to play: \$25 (All participants will receive an alumni t-shirt)

*****All proceeds to benefit Fairport Baseball and Fairport Softball Field Renovations. Please make your checks payable to Fairport Athletic Boosters PO Box 1029 Fairport Harbor, OH 44077*



If you would like to be a part of this project....

Please contact me! We need volunteers, skilled laborers and donations.

The News-Herald will be doing a cover story on Sunday.

We need parents of students in grades 1-6 that want to help us organize a summer softball league to grow the game with our young student-athletes in Fairport. Our goal of this project is to grow the number of participants on our spring softball and baseball teams.

It takes a village! This is our generation's turn to work on this project. I'm so thankful for everyone that has already helped and supported this project!

Friends of Cardina Field 

Thank you