

# Committee hopes lights can fix league's scheduling troubles

By Chad Mearns  
Our Town Editor

For the 15 baseball and softball teams in the Conemaugh Valley Youth League (CVYL), competing for time at the league's only field has become increasingly difficult. So CVYL president Mark Miller is hoping to shed a little light on the problem — literally.

Miller is part of a committee seeking funds to light the field, located along business Route 271 in East Conemaugh. Other members include Jason Dorofey, Brent Dorofey, Jim Stiffler, Tricia Byers, Paula McCleester and Jim Fox.

Recently granted approval from the Conemaugh Borough Council to pursue the project, the committee

expects the project to include four galvanized light poles holding a total of 28 light fixtures illuminating the field.

Miller estimates the cost of the project between \$20,000 and \$30,000, but is hoping a combination of state grants and donations from community businesses and organizations will fund the lights. Operating costs, he said, would be paid for by the CVYL.

The committee took its initial steps for the project in July, when it consulted the opinions of community residents to gauge support for the project.

"We knocked on doors and walked around," Miller said. "The feedback has been really good. There have been no complaints at

all."

Several houses are located adjacent to the field, but Miller said little or no spill lighting would spread from the field to the residences.

Miller said the CVYL grew from 165 to 195 participants last summer, and the league could expand to as many as 17 teams in 2009.

Drawing most of its players from the Conemaugh Valley School district, which recently has seen dwindling participation numbers in several sports, the CVYL serves tee-ball, baseball and softball players from ages four through 15.

Miller said his son's minor baseball team was only able to play half of the 18 scheduled games due to a wet spring and a lack of field access.

"Trying to play all those games on one field with rain-outs and make-up games was just totally impossible," he said, adding that the proposed lighting system would extend available playing time to 9:50 p.m. each night.

"I think it would spark an interest in baseball," Miller said. Without the lights, he fears the limited field access would hinder or reverse the CVYL's growth.

The committee began its fundraising campaign last month at the annual Last Blast o' Summer car show, during which the group raised more than \$900. The CVYL has also set up an account for donations at local First National Bank branches.

For additional information, visit [www.cvyll.com](http://www.cvyll.com).