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Lights expected to go up soon at boro field

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If all goes well, East Conemaugh Borough will be a little brighter by spring.

Officials and volunteers expect to soon begin installing lights at the borough's Little League field, a project made possible by a state grant and community support.

The lights will aid the growing Conemaugh Valley Youth League, which includes boys and girls playing baseball and softball.

"We have about 16 teams trying to play on one field, and weather delays, rain and darkness all are a factor," said Mark Miller, the league's president.

"(Lights) will give us about 30 extra games we can have on that field," Miller added.

Installation of four steel light poles will represent the culmination of a two-year effort.

A major milestone in that effort was East Conemaugh Borough's award of a \$20,000 state grant. The borough had

applied on behalf of the league, and the grant was delivered with assistance from former state Rep. Ed Wojnarowski before he left office.

Without the state funding, Miller said, "It would have taken us forever to raise that money."

Community donations also have played a role, with the league raising more than \$6,000 through fundraisers, Miller said.

Officials looked into purchasing used lights, but in the end they decided to buy new equipment, said Steve Coy,

East Conemaugh council president.

The lights arrived earlier this month. "All the labor (for installation) is going to be volunteer labor," Coy said.

"The only part that I'm not sure we can do ourselves is drilling holes."

Volunteers believe they can begin work during the winter months and have the lights ready for the league's April 24th opening day.

"We're hoping that, by spring, they're going to be up and activated," Coy said.

While an illuminated field is expect-

ed to greatly benefit Conemaugh Valley Youth League, organizers pledge it will not negatively impact borough residents.

That's because the league will cover operational costs for the energy-efficient lights, Miller said.

He added that the bulbs are designed so that they "concentrate all the light on the field," limiting any "spill" lighting on nearby homes or roads.

Also, officials said all games will end before 10 p.m. in compliance with East Conemaugh's curfew.