

Michael F Myers

39 On the Green
Verbank, NY 12585

April 27, 2022

Ms Betsy Maas
Supervisor
Town of Union Vale
249 Duncan Road
La Grangeville, NY 12540

Dear Betsy,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of the Town's Municipal Investment Grant application to invest in new playground apparatus at Godfrey Park. I have resided On the Green within sight distance of Godfrey Park for forty years. In fact, my personal knowledge and use of the Park dates to the 1960's when my Dad would drive me from our home in the Town of LaGrange to Godfrey Park to play Little League baseball. It is Union Vale's first Park, long a place of enjoyment.

It has been many years since the playground at Godfrey Park has had equipment installed. The Park is very well maintained but time and use has affected the overall condition of the current fixtures. They could use a sprucing up. I enthusiastically endorse the Town's application for this Grant.

Godfrey Park and the surrounding neighborhood are great places to live and grow. The Park has been well used for years. My children, neighbors children and now my grandchildren have used the park through the years. Upgrading the equipment at the Park will continue the wonderful tradition of recreating at Godfrey Park. Let's keep the Park attractive and encouraging to our young people to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

I keenly advocate that this Grant be awarded to the Town of Union Vale.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Myers

Chuck Richwine & Anne De Muro

22 On The Green, PO Box 175, Verbank, NY 12585

Betsy

We are writing to you about our experience with Godfrey Park. It is a wonderful community park in need of upgrade. You can only imagine our delight when we learned of the possibility of grant funds to provide the necessary upgrades and wanted to make certain that we sent a letter of support for such.

Our three kids have grown up using this park. The kids (now ages 30, 29, 26) started using the park when they were infants and have continued to use the park through early adulthood. It has been a convenient park and a bonus for our family – the swings, basketball court, baseball field. You name it. Even our dog(s) have enjoyed an outing at the park and exercise in the field.

Both of my sons have their Boy Scout Eagle award with their Eagle Projects specific to upgrades of the bathroom facility at Godfrey Park.

Our Grandson, now 3, loves playing in the park. We were able to use the park for sledding and snowshoeing this past winter.

The challenges with Godfrey Park are twofold. First, the park equipment is quite old and in need of upgrades. The equipment has not been changed since our children were youngsters. We are fairly certain that there are new safety standards and ADA guidelines for equipment that should be addressed. Secondly, the bees. In July/August there is a period of time where people have to stay out of the sand because of the bees.

Our community would benefit tremendously if Godfrey Park was to get this grant for these necessary upgrades.

Please let us know how we could support your efforts.

Respectfully yours,

Chuck Richwine & Anne De Muro

From: ilana nilsen <ilanaenilsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 1:12 PM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey Park

Dear Supervisor Maas -

I was thrilled to hear of a potential renovation at Godfrey Park. It's less than two miles from my house. We loved going there when the kids were little. Until the sand bees came out, it was cute and close by. And then my kids aged out of the playground equipment that seems to be geared for kids under 5.

But I've noticed it's tired looking and only seems to be frequented by people playing basketball on weekends. For us, it was a terrific place to bring a snack and meet a friend for a quiet playdate. It's small, so I never worried about not being able to see my kids.

My kids are 10 and 11 now. They desperately still need to spin around, test some boundaries and do things that don't require electricity.

We were just at the Boston Science Museum and Childrens Museum. SO many great interactive ideas! Wouldn't it be cool to have one of those electricity generating bikes? With a little awning and solar charging station? Or a parking area covered with solar panels? Well, maybe that would be better at Tymor. But there are other neat things that could be done at Godfrey.

With the parking area relatively close to the play area and so flat, maneuvering a stroller, wheelchair or walker would be so much easier. Who knows? Maybe seniors from the Fountains or living close by might use it as well.

A few summers ago, we were in Scandinavia. The philosophy for children seems to be if they get out their wiggles, they're happier, eat better, don't get sick as often...with an emphasis on happier. Every filling station we went to had a sandbox, jungle gym, slide, tight rope, something fun. Even a tiny street corner would have something to do. Many had that groovy poured rubber matting and it looked great, but also kept the place tidy and softer for hard landings. There were so many terrific playground options. Our favorite stop had activities for parents too. Many playground fixtures were made by Kompan. Coincidentally, the local US representative lived in Stanfordville.

More locally than Scandinavia, we sometimes go into NYC and my kids love those playgrounds too. Especially anything with a water feature!

Seeing Godfrey Park be revitalized would a dream come true. It's such a cute area, quiet, safe, and a great mix of nature and hamlet. I really hope something works out. And do let me know if you ever want to see the 500 playground photos I took!

Thank you!
ilana nilsen
845 677 8556

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Blue Moon Farm
329 Camby Rd
Verbank, NY 12585

WILLIAM F. MURPHY
IRON FURNACE RESTAURANT
3399 ROUTE 82
VERBANK, NY 12585

May 3, 2022

To whom it may concern:

We have a successful business in Verbank in the Town of Union Vale right on Rt. 82 around the corner from Godfrey Park. Over the years, we have been embraced by the local community and enjoy seeing and hearing from all community members in the restaurant regularly. During the pandemic, as we struggled to feed the patrons while complying with all the rules and regulations, the ability to serve both food and drinks outside (curbside) was a life saver for everyone, us and our customers.

Many of our patrons would order dinner and head over to Godfrey Park to sit at a picnic table and enjoy dinner & drinks outdoors with their family. The park is really pretty and adds considerably to the charm of this neighborhood but the playground equipment, sand volleyball court and restrooms need considerable work. They are old, battered and unattractive, even to kids.

We understand from the Town that this Municipal Investment Grant, if approved, would enable us to get new playground equipment and a new surface area for the kids, of which there are many locally.

We totally support the Town applying for and hopefully receiving this grant. It will be money well spent – going directly to those who need it most – the kids and our future. Let's keep them safe and provide all of them a healthy atmosphere in which to enjoy growing up in.

Sincerely,

Willie Murphy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willie Murphy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Murphy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Murphy', with a horizontal flourish.

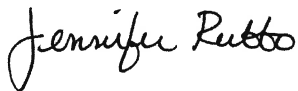
May 3, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

The Town of Union Vale Conservation Advisory Council wholeheartedly supports the town's proposal for improvements to Godfrey Park. Godfrey Park is a small but important park in our town. With improvements, it can become a primary source of inclusive recreation for town residents both of Union Vale and neighboring towns. The park is ideally located near the northern border of Union Vale, close to the towns of Washington and Lagrange, and adjacent to the main thoroughfare, State Route 82. Located on a level piece of land with ball fields, a small pavilion, and playground equipment, it provides residents with an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, through recreation and physical activity. The current conditions, however, need major improvements due to age, and normal wear and tear. Additionally, with relatively minimal changes this park can become fully accessible and inclusive to residents with all levels of abilities. Funding for this project with help to activate the park for *all* residents, not only in Union Vale but in eastern Dutchess County.

The CAC feels that access to outdoor recreation is an important component of increasing awareness and support for our natural environment. The use of outdoor spaces for athletics, play, contemplation, and recreation improves the mental and physical health of everyone. We commend the Town for its interest in improving this small gem of a park and encourage allocations of funds to aid in its improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Rubbo". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "R".

Jennifer Rubbo
Chair, Conservation Advisory Council

Alain M. Natchev
52 Oakbrook Lane
Lagrangeville, NY 12540
(845) 227-7749

May 3, 2022

Re: Godfrey Park Playground

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the Town of Union Vale and writing this letter in support of the Town's application for the Municipal Investment Grant from Dutchess County for the rehabilitation of Godfrey Park Playground.

Over the years, my family has greatly enjoyed the Town's parks and recreation facilities and it has come to my attention that the Godfrey Park Playground is solely in need of upgrades. I have driven by many times in the recent past but I had no idea of the park's deterioration as seen in recent photos of the existing equipment and park amenities, understandable in view of the fact that they are some 20-30 years old.

The Godfrey Park playground is teetering on being considered unsafe and not a facility that I would want my children to use in its current condition. The wear and tear of the equipment reflects that this old playground has provided many hours of enjoyment to the children of Union Vale and the current young generation deserves a sorely required update to the playground.

Accordingly, I strongly support the Town's efforts to obtain funding to restore the Godfrey Park Playground to its former glory.

Sincerely,



Alain M. Natchev

**Daniel R. Richards
3037 Route 82
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569**

Dear Dutchess County Community Advisory Committee:

I am writing to request that you support Union Vale's request for funds to support the re-building of the Godfrey Park playground equipment and immediate surrounding area.

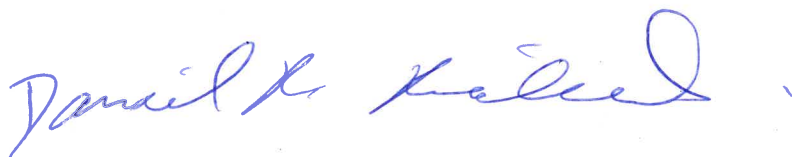
As a longstanding Union Vale resident, member of the UVFD and Fire Commissioner, we spend a great deal of time in the community and have watched as Verbank, the home of Godfrey, has touched bottom (economically) and worked hard to come back to the thriving community it was years ago.

One of my greatest annoyances in life is watching the slow decline of buildings and grounds, especially those paid for with taxpayer's money, due to lack of interest and regular maintenance. Godfrey on the other hand, has grounds that have been well maintained but over the years, the structures (including the restrooms) have been the victim of vandalism during the tough times, and as a result look tired and worn down.

All of Verbank, led by the well-maintained Fire House, the Post Office, the Iron Furnace restaurant and now BBQ 82 restaurant take great pride in their appearance and as a result, the community is thriving again (it helps that the food is really good too). We need to assist the town, which has many financial demands, mostly to maintain existing town owned parks and structures, in paying for the playground equipment upgrade. The families of Verbank and the surrounding area deserve it for both safety and inclusiveness, as the community is changing and we need to change with it. It will also help continue this great tsunami of pride flowing over the entire community as we bring the Hamlet back to what it was many years ago.

We hope you can support us in this important project.

Most sincerely,



Daniel R. Richards

May 2022

To those considering our funding request:

Our children have grown up going to Godfrey Park—but it's not beloved. As it's within walking distance, we'll visit it, but there is far less for them to play with and, given the choice, they will ask to go elsewhere. We love the grounds and take advantage of the hiking, the swings, and the pavilion, but not much time is spent on the actual play structure. I asked my kids, and they told me they like to go there...but then they asked to go to the other town park instead. (Please keep in mind that they are 4 and 6 years old!) They don't particularly take to the playset at Godfrey, and usually end up running through the fields and then wanting to go home. And as a mother, I'm not eager for them to play on the dated and relatively unsafe playscape, so I won't encourage it. My children love making up games together as they run through a playground, utilizing the structures in conjunction with their imagination. Yet this only happens at other playgrounds, never Godfrey. I'd be thrilled to regularly be able to walk them over to a playground they actually, truly adored.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best,

Arianna Schlegel

39 Verbank Village Rd.

Verbank, NY

1 of 1

238 Walsh Road
Lagrangeville, NY 121540
May 3, 2022

Supervisor Betsy Maas
Town of Union Vale
249 Duncan Road
Lagrangeville, NY 112540

VIA EMAIL

Dear Supervisor Maas:

We have been Union Vale residents since 2002 and one of the Town's many good attributes is its investments in Parks & Recreation. This letter is in support of the Town's efforts to apply for grant money to purchase new playground equipment for installation into Godfrey Park.

It is important to keep Godfrey Park, and the children who have fun there, in a safe environment. After looking at the photos of the current playground equipment it would seem it is past time for replacement. We applaud the Town's efforts to see to it that our children and grandchildren have a safe and fun place to play.

It is our hope that you are successful in securing this grant money and move forward with this investment in our children's health and well being.

Thank you for your efforts.

Yours truly;

Mark & Julia Del Vecchio

From: Nara V Sarma <nsarma@optimum.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 8:55 AM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Cc: townclerk unionvaleny.us
Subject: LET U REVITALIZE GODFREY PARK


We, in the beautiful Town of Union Vale are the fortunate inheritors of two public parks; the 500 acre Tymor Park at the eastern end, the largest municipal park in NY State, and the tiny, but no less unique, Godfrey Park at the western end, tucked away behind our On the Green.

Over the years we have enjoyed visiting both the parks, but Godfrey seemed so special, near and intimate and accessible. The lush green fields, the limited distance trails, all enhanced by the happy sound of children playing in the playground, which does not have seem to have any improvements or modernizations in all these years that we have been residents of this town, keep attracting us.

I think it is incumbent upon us, not only to maintain and preserve Godfrey Park, for those who follow us, but also to make improvements to its facilities as time marches on.

Apropos of that, it is clearly the time to revitalize the playground so that it may bring joy to many for years to come.

Nara



79 North Clove Rd.
Verbank, NY 12585
845-677-5870
Hh677@aol.com

May 2, 2022

Dear Ms. Maas:

I am writing to you today with regard to Godfrey Park in Verbank.

This little neighborhood park is a local gem in much need of some sprucing and updating. It's location in the north end of Union Vale makes it (potentially) a valuable resource for families who may not always be able to travel to Tymor Park.

Unfortunately, much of the playground equipment was installed decades ago, and is in sad, worn condition. In some cases, the parts of the equipment that children need to grab on to is just not very safe or inviting. Updated equipment could eliminate such hazards and improve the playground experience for our community's children. While updating the playground equipment we should consider including some sensory components, which would both serve children with special needs and educate others about those needs.

In addition, the sand surface of the playground is often full of sand bees, which is not fun for anyone! Resurfacing the play area would greatly enhance this park.

I look forward to seeing a renewed Godfrey Park that will serve the needs of our residents both today and in the future.

Sincerely,

Holly Harvey



**** May 2, 2022

To the Town Board of Union Vale

money
Spend some on landscaping
Plant flowering trees along the edge of Park
in Tymor and Verbank

Spring flowering trees can be enjoyed while
driving by or entering ~~the~~ the park in Verbank and entering
Tymor

Jane Geisher
60 Milewood
Verbank
12585

Get big ones and/or protect
so the deer can't Tackle
them!

Jane Geisher
60 Milewood Rd.
Verbank, NY 12585

Age: 96

From: [karenbfoley](#)
To: townclerk@unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey Park
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 8:27:34 AM

I urge the powers that be to endow the town of Union Vale with a grant to help restore Godfrey Park for our children. I was honored a few years back to be part of the re-build of the Tymor Park playground. I am astonished that Godfrey still sits there in a very dangerous state. Our children need the outdoors, the fresh air, the socialization that comes with a playground! These are not big demands, but they are lifestyle demands. Let them play. Let them play safely. I trust that our local government will make it beautiful for our children and all family members to enjoy a picnic and play time on a beautiful day here in our beautiful town.

Thank you,
Karen Foley

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Louis Dagostino](#)
To: townclerk@unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey park Playground MIG Grant
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 10:27:38 AM

Hi Andrea,

I am writing to support the planned renovation of Godfrey Park on the Green in Union Vale through a Dutchess County Municipal Investment (MIG) Grant fund request. Godfrey Park is an oasis for Families in the town. It is uniquely sited near the community center of Verbank: The Post Office and the Volunteer Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad are within strolling distance of Godfrey Park.

The Park is a long time asset to the community but it in need of upgrades. The MIG will support replacement of rusted and broken playground equipment that is at least 20 years old (in some cases 30 years!) and worn out. In addition the MIG Grant wil make Godfrey Park ADA compliant.

Please inform me of the progress of the Grant process.

Sincerely,
Louis Dagostino

111Cooper Drive
Verbank, NY 12585

From: Diane Moebus <detsm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 10:17 AM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey Park

My husband, Roy, and I are very supportive of the improvements to Godfrey Park. It is important for our town to provide a safe environment for children to play; one that improves our ADA compliance.

Sincerely,

Roy and Diane Moebus

Miriam Tannen
mimtannen@optonline.net

May 3, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing today to express support for updating and upgrading Godfrey Park in Union Vale. I lived in Union Vale since 1976, raising three children here.

We are a rural area, with little access to community areas where children and adults can gather outdoors. Play is important to children's overall health- including physically building strength and balance and play with others. I also feel that an area that offers adults access to outdoor community and a place to build balance and strength is important. How wonderful it would be to put these two groups together in an outdoor space in our town.

We have the bones- a flat area, parking space, convenient from a major road. We have the need- an aging population that needs outdoors and community and a young population that needs the same. I've seen in other countries parks that are developed with both of these age groups in mind, and they were wonderful and used heavily. Union Vale can be a leader in this in the county of a park like that! We have the space and the will, and now we need financial support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Miriam Tannen", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Miriam Tannen

From: DelCampo, Chris <cdelcampo@harveyschool.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 9:09 AM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Subject: In support of Godfrey Park

Dear Supervisor Maas,

I write in support of efforts to secure a grant to fund the necessary upgrades at Godfrey Park. Restoring the park is indeed a most worthy cause.

As a resident of Verbank for almost 30 years who raised two children in this beautiful town of Union Vale, I know firsthand how much joy Godfrey's playground brings to families raising kids. Some of my fondest memories as a father of two involve the many times I watched my children romp and play at Godfrey. I consider the park situated close to my home a little jewel that serves to enhance the quality of life in our town.

I urge the powers that be to do all they can to make the improvements that will offer families years of memories of their children getting to play in a safe and fun-filled facility.

Sincerely yours,
Chris Del Campo
19 Cooper Drive
Verbank, NY

Chris Del Campo
Communications Associate,
The Harvey School
Founder/Director Emeritus,
Harvey Cavalier Camp
Office: (914) 232 - 3161 x115
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cdelcampo@harveyschool.org
www.harveyschool.org

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Katonah, NY 10536

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From: Shawn Belanger <shawnbelangerny@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 7:22 PM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey Park Playground

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

The Belanger family would like to wholeheartedly support getting a new playground in Godfrey Park. Our home is at 34 On The Green, and Godfrey park is an absolute staple of our family life here. We have two young children that very much enjoy the park, but it has become rundown and dangerous to use. The old equipment is worn down and is decreasingly safe for young children with jagged, damaged edges and brittle, cracking plastic components. Also, the sand has become infested with sand bees which render the entire playground unuseable for children during the entirety of the warm months. Replacing this playground with something modern and safe, as well as refurbishing the sanded play area, would immeasurably add to the enjoyment of the children who live in this area and the quality of life for all of the residents of Unionvale. Safe and useful common areas are of utmost importance to community cohesiveness and pride, and a new playground and rehabilitated play area at Godfrey Park would preserve a key component in the wonderful quality of life we enjoy here in Verbank. Thank you very much.

-Shawn Belanger



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: sharonsloc@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 10:12 AM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Subject: GEOFFREY PARK

Betsy Maas ,

As a long time resident of Union Vale , I am writing in support of the need for a updated Village Park. It is a quaint park located in a small village that does not currently promote families to visit, play, picnic. The park playground equipment is quite out of date, and most likely not up to safety standards for children.

There is a volleyball and playground section that may be used more often , but every year there seems to be sand bee issue in the sanded areas that prevent children from using those areas. Perhaps ther is a substance that can be utilized instead of sand?

The park is a fairly small , lovely area that would be put to more use most likely with improvements.

Sharon E. Slocum

From: Susan Deane-Miller <susiemuse71@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 9:00 AM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey Park renovation

To Supervisor@unionvaleny.us

Godfrey Park is a nice place, and a necessary place for children, we need more of those. It has been good but it needs work.

The big downside of Godfrey Park is sand bees. Here is a great opportunity to put down a surface that will keep away the sand bees.

There is an opportunity to renovate the park, partially with a county grant. Marc Molinaro is a big fan of promoting Think Differently and making things more accessible for people with physical and developmental challenges. I imagine this parking area and level ground would be good for people in wheelchairs or using walkers as well as strollers.

How about a parking area that has a solar panel awning with charging stations for devices as well as cars and can support the evening lighting as well as reduce overall fossil fuels use? How about a solar garbage composter for leftover lunches and snacks? A garden bed area for communal mini victory gardens of healthy snacks and rain barrels to water it?

We could have a playground that rivals those in Scandinavia. My understanding is that the application for the grant to do this work is due Monday, May 2. So please consider my proposition ASAP

Susan Deane-Miller
126 Hookr Ave.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Sent from my iPad

From: Barbara Butler <babutler@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2022 12:18 PM
To: supervisor unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Betsy,

We don't have children, so I can't comment on playgrounds, but I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you how I use Godfrey Park.

I'm a birdwatcher, so I enjoy walking the park looking and listening for birds. It has a nice variety of habitats in a small area. The lawn-type grass around the ball field (where I find Bluebirds, Killdeer, phoebes, swallows) gives way to less frequently mowed areas on the slope that are good for sparrows. Above that are shrubs and small or isolated trees with mowed trails through the area. Good for warblers, vireos, flycatchers plus the trails allow for birder access to find them. (Thank you to the maintenance folks who preserve this "maze" of trails!) The grove of spruces between the park and the cemetery is yet another habitat.

When I walk at the park, I also walk down the road to the concrete bridge where Rough-winged Swallows nest. I add the birds I see over the corn field and the shrubby areas around the stream to my list, including the neighborhood Red-shouldered Hawk. At times I walk into the upper parts of the cemetery from the park. The lands adjacent to the park add additional habitats, increasing the types of birds to be found during a park visit.

On a May or June morning I can find 30+ species of birds. The best day was May 2, 2019 when our bird club field trip committee met at the pavilion and then took a walk around.... 43 species.

I expect that improved playground equipment would not interfere with the birds or birders at the park.

Barbara Butler

From: Kaye Saglibene <kayes1107@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 12:01 PM
To: finance2 unionvaleny.us
Subject: Godfrey Park Playground, Town of Union Vale, NY

Good afternoon Supervisor Maas,

I support this grant 100%. Our children definitely deserve an updated playground that is rust free.

Love the Godfrey Park!

Thank you for doing this for our Town,

Kaye Saglibene