

Diamond Club's Work Rolling Along Thanks to Community Volunteerism

By MICHELLE LINCOLN
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The Stuarts Draft Diamond Club is looking forward to opening play on the baseball field it is renovating behind the Stuarts Draft Firehouse by fall 1994.

The club, consisting of a group of Stuarts Draft residents concerned with the lack of playing space for baseball teams in the area, joined forces to renovate the field it felt was in danger of being lost for good.

Since its formation in August, the Diamond Club, with a lot of help from community members, has done quite a lot on the first phase of its renovation project — grading of the field.

Orvin Kiser Sr., president of the Diamond Club, said volun-

teers have raised the elevation 4 feet at home plate and completed the slope to outfield.

Kiser said 900 loads of dirt from a drainage project Augusta County is working on in the Draft, as well as 6 acres of dirt from the Windmill Square Shopping Center run-off holding pond project, have been used in grading the field.

Kiser said the club hopes to have this first phase completed by Jan. 1, 1994.

The next phases of the project include irrigation and seeding of the field, putting up a

fence, and work on a concession stand, press box, handicapped accessible bathrooms, dugouts and a parking lot.

Kiser had special praise for volunteers working on the project, including Raymond Eavers of Eavers & Sons Construction Co. for the use of graders, bulldozers, front end loaders and his equipment operators; Jackie Crummett, Bill Sullender and Larry Weaver who were instrumental in getting the work done; John Fust of Design Tech for use of a loader and equipment operator.

"These people have really been out there busting their backs for the community," he said.

Kiser expects the renovation of the field to cost approximately \$200,000.

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—Orvin Kiser Sr., president, Diamond Club

He said the club has applied to the Augusta County Recreation Commission for the matching funds to complete this project. The club plans to raise its half through donations, benefits and other fund-raising projects.

The Diamond Club meets the last Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Stuarts Draft Firehouse.

Anyone interested in joining the club or helping out in some way is welcome to attend this Thursday's meeting.

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