



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Lori Greenslade
978.836.7729

Playground to be demolished, rebuilt by Community Volunteers

TOPSFIELD, Mass., September 25, 2009 — The Topsfield Playground Committee (TPC) is six months ahead of its goal to demolish and rebuild a new and improved Proctor School playground thanks to the generosity of local businesses, residents, parents and local organizations. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground is planned for October 28, 2009.

The project, a cooperative effort to support a new community park and playground at Topsfield's current Tot Lot and Proctor Elementary school, is slated to begin demolition of the current Proctor School structure on September 26, 2009. Installation of new equipment through a Community Build is slated for October 24, 2009.

This Saturday, Cowhig Enterprises will donate their time and manpower in addition to coordinating and leading a team for the demolition of the old playground and preparation of the site for the installation of the new equipment.

Additional contributors on the Cowhig-led team, include: Dewey Excavating (equipment and labor); RE Thompson (auging equipment and labor); Robert Peckham, Benevento Sand & Stone (cement); Segal Construction (labor and general carpentry); Mello Disposal (dumpsters and refuse removal). Topsfield resident and EBSCO Publishing President Tim Collins, was also a major contributor through both EBSCO and personally.

"We are so grateful to John Cowhig and the team he was able to assemble for their generous contribution, especially during such tough economic times," said Karen Duval, construction manager for Topsfield Playground Committee. "John has been doing business in Topsfield for over 20 years, and his efforts on this project are a great example of a local business leader taking action to make a lasting contribution to their community."

Due to the support of local organizations, TPC was able to surpass original installation goals. Topsfield Educational Foundation (TEF) supported the project through a grant which enabled TPC to order the play structure in time to ensure installation this fall. Also, Masco Youth Basketball (a Boxford Athletic Association program) is funding improvements to the basketball court.

Proctor Elementary School's only playground has been closed to its 294 students since spring 2008 over safety concerns. Proctor school will benefit from current, safe equipment and a renovated basketball court. Local Boy Scout Troop 81 members Nick Bettencourt and Sam Warner have completed a portion of their commitment to earn their Eagle Scout leadership badge by painting pavement games to enrich students recess time at Proctor School as an interim project before the equipment is installed.

TPC relies on individual contributions to raise appropriate funds privately. The group is committed to ensuring Proctor School students participate in adequate physical activity during their school day. Topsfield Rail Trail runs adjacent to both playgrounds, creating an additional recreational opportunity for surrounding communities.

TPC, founded by a group of concerned parents, is committed to set in place ongoing fund-raisers and to continue on to Phase 2 of the project: replacing the current Tot Lot with a new Community Park and seating area, comprised of bricks and plaques engraved with names of the generous contributors.

For more information about TPC, to volunteer to assist in the Community Build, or to make a cash or in-kind donation, please visit www.topsfieldplaygroundcommittee.org.