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BERKLEY

Groups looking to raise money for special swing in Berkley park

By Mike Koury

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Posted July 13, 2016

BERKLEY — A local business and charity group is raising money to put a swing designed for children with special needs in a Berkley park.

The Friends of Berkley Parks and Recreation and NorthPointe Foot & Ankle are looking to raise \$700 to install a special swing for children with disabilities in Kiwanis Tot Lot Park, 1363 Cambridge Road. Donations will be accepted from July 18 to Aug. 18 at the NorthPointe offices, 27901 Woodward Ave. No. 110, or by contacting the Friends at friendsofberkleypandr@gmail.com.

Parks and Recreation Director Theresa McArleton said there is no swing like this in any of the Berkley parks, so for them to get this swing would be huge.

“It’s something that we had identified with the Friends (of Berkley Parks and Recreation) as a need, and something that we would love to see in our parks,” she said.

McArleton said the idea for the swing came out of a five-year planning meeting the Parks and Recreation Department had, with some residents saying they’d like to see something like this in one of the parks.

“It really was a prominent need and want from the community,” she said. “We heard that and we thought we’d figure out a way to do that in working with our Friends group.

“Certainly providing access for all children to be able to enjoy recreation is really important to us, and this will allow all children (that are) differently abled to be able to swing.”



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Amy Lister, of the Friends of Berkley Parks and Recreation, said it was after that five-year planning meeting that they took the idea to see what they could do with it. She said she hopes this possible installation will open the door for more of these types of swings in the other Berkley parks.

“If there’s a need for them, then there should definitely be one for everyone,” she said.

Chris Morrisroe, a spokeswoman with NorthPointe, said each year, the doctors look for some charity to contribute to in the weeks leading up to the Dream Cruise, and Berkley Parks and Recreation recommended that the doctors reach out to the Friends to talk about ideas.

For NorthPointe, Morrisroe said, it was about getting the entire family out of the house and being active.

“The special-needs children, it’s just as important to go out there and play and be a part of the actions with all the other children,” she said. “This way they’ll be safe and they’ll still be having fun.”

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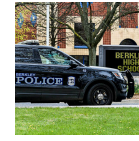


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Mike Koury covers Berkley, Ferndale, Huntington Woods and Pleasant Ridge along with the Berkley Schools and Ferndale Schools districts for the Woodward Talk. He has worked at C & G Newspapers since October 2015 and attended Michigan State University. He has been described as “a wonderful angel” by his mother and “sleepy” by his editor.

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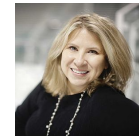
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