

8/2/2011

Hank Soar Field 3 back in business

PAWTUCKET - City officials were planning to reopen the Hank Soar Athletic Complex for all games on Tuesday of this week, Aug. 2, nearly four months after a metal light pole fell at Field 3.

Games scheduled at that field for Monday of this week were moved to other fields after officials notified leagues that the work would not be done for another day.

A 50-foot metal tower, on the third-base side near home plate at Hank Soar Field 3, was found fallen in the parking lot on Saturday, April 16, apparently due to high winds. The collapse, which occurred after all games for the day were over, forced the cancellation of all games while city officials determined whether other towers were safe. No one was reported injured. All scheduled games at Field 3, including those for approximately six adult leagues, were canceled until further notice, as permit-holders were notified.

The fallen light pole has now been replaced, according to officials.

Engineers inspected other poles at Hank Soar shortly after the tower fell, quickly determining that they were safe for games to proceed on other fields, according to city officials.

Doug Hadden, spokesman for Mayor Don Grebien, said work at the Hank Soar Complex on Dunnell Lane was originally scheduled to be done July 1, but delays in fabricating brackets to reinforce all light poles set that date back to Aug. 1.

According to Hadden, Chris Crawley of the Parks and Recreation Department worked with all leagues that use Field 3 to reschedule games. Almost all leagues got their games in, while one league got a prorated refund for the games lost.

The final tab for the replacement and reinforcement work is not yet in, though it was "not an inexpensive undertaking," according to Hadden, who spoke for John Blais and Norm Lamoureux of Parks and Recreation. Resource Controls functioned as general contractor for the work.
