

Cricketers say thanks for renovations of Keney Park field

Members of the Connecticut Cricket League, Inc., and the Cricket Hall of Fame took time out on Thursday, July 25, to thank Hartford's Mayor Pedro Segarra, Department of Public Works Superintendent Kevin Burnham and all the other officials who had a role in the renovations of the south cricket field in Keney Park. In the earlier years, the field was looked upon as the best one in the country

At the brief ceremony which was held in the park, George Steir, Coordinator of the Keney Park Cricket Liaison Committee, told the mayor that words cannot express how the cricketers feel about the present condition of the field. "We now have a wonderful facility to play the game. It was job well done," he said.

Mayor Segarra in responding said that he was happy that they are pleased with what has been done to the field. "If people come together we can get things done," he said. "I would like to keep the sport growing in the community. Any good thing in the park needs to be grounded in the community," he added, and promised that he will work towards developing all the parks in the city and will make sure that they are safe for our youths.

In offering his thanks to all the people who are involved with what is taking place in the city's parks, Segarra promised to continue to maintain and build more fields in the city that will be able to accommodate the people who live in the communities. "I am approachable, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any help," he said.

"We are appreciative of the mayor stepping up to get the work done in the park," Friends of Keney Vice President Henry Hester, said. "We are looking forward to bring more activity into the park and will work to make the younger generation understand the process in which the parks operate. Young people are different, but they are all the same," he said.

Director of the Cricket Hall of Fame Michael Chambers in expressing how pleased he was about the renovations of the field said that because of this effort he has been able to obtain sponsorship of over \$10,000 to hold a T20 Tournament in the park in October. "I am positive that the tournament from which a team will be selected to participate in a \$100,000 tournament in Florida, will draw fans from not just other parts of the state but out of state as a team from Massachusetts will be taking part.

"Though many may not be aware, the sport is very beneficial to the economy of the city," he said. "Each year teams from out of state, some as far away as Canada, come here by the bus loads, stay in area hotels, and spend cash in the clubs and local businesses in the city."

At the conclusion of the ceremony they moved onto the field where Mayor Segarra and Councilman Kenneth Kennedy cut the ribbon to officially open the newly renovated pitch. Segarra also got dressed in cricket outfit and took a strike at a ball that was bowled to him by Burnham.

Cricket is kept alive in the city by immigrants from Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, India and Pakistan, all former British colonies where the sport which is very popular has become a part of their culture.

