

# Lions raising \$45K to construct pavilion for events in Collins Park

BY MICHAEL GOOT  
Gazette Reporter

Collins Park could get a pavilion to house family reunions, birthday parties and other events as soon as this summer, thanks to a donation from the Scotia-Glenville Lions Club.

The organization wants to construct a 2,000-square-foot pavilion in a relatively unused, flat area of the park near the Beukendaal Masonic Temple, with access from a small road off Schonowee Avenue next to the Masonic building, according to club President Eric Buskirk. The structure would be made out of laminated wooden beams on a concrete slab, and there would be picnic tables, as well.

The Lions have raised about a third of the estimated \$45,000 cost.

"It will be by far the biggest project we've ever done. We're looking maybe to join up with another Lions group or maybe another service organization," Buskirk said. "We're hoping to get it done by this summer season, probably more like fall."

Buskirk said the idea for the pavilion came about because the Lions Club, which is relatively small, with at about 30 members,

has typically done smaller projects such as assisting sight and hearing foundations and planting trees at Indian Meadows Park.

"I was the new president, and I kind of wanted to try something big," he said.

Initially, members were talking to village officials about dressing up a small 200-square-foot section of the park near where Schonowee and Washington avenues meet by planting bushes and installing a picnic table. That project didn't get off the ground, but Buskirk had heard the village was looking to build a pavilion.

Buskirk thinks building a pavilion would provide a nice meeting space for groups or for a wedding or corporate outing, which is something Collins Park currently lacks. In addition, it would be a revenue generator for the village.

"They'll be able to rent it out and make a little bit of money," he said.

A pavilion has been a long-sought goal for Scotia officials as a complement to waterfront revitalization projects in that area of the village. Mayor Kris Kastberg said he believes the pavilion, which could accommodate 200 people, would get a lot of use.

"We probably get three or four

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**ERIC BUSKIRK**

Scotia-Glenville Lions president

requests per week for a large pavilion for things like a family reunion," he said.

The village is pairing this project with planned renovations to the bathrooms next to the park's Little League field and upgrades to the electrical system. Kastberg estimated the cost of the entire project is around \$140,000, which includes the pavilion that the Lions are donating. He is grateful that the Lions are taking the initiative.

The Lions Club is donating all proceeds from its annual spaghetti dinner to the project. The event will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. March 9 at the First Reformed Church of Scotia, 224 N. Ballston Ave. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children younger than 12.

To contribute to the pavilion project, call Buskirk at 882-8754.