



Capital Project facts:

0%

Proposed tax levy increase

• SEE PAGE 6 •

\$32,119,485

Total spending proposal for capital project renovations

• SEE PAGE 7 •

2

Separate propositions for renovations and field lights

• SEE PAGE 6 •

Dec. 14

PUBLIC VOTE from Noon—9 p.m. at Sanford St. School

• SEE PAGE 2 •

Abe Wing residents ineligible to vote

Please note that residents in the Abraham Wing school district are NOT eligible to vote on this project, as per state law.

Middle School renovation, field lighting proposed **Capital project on the ballot Dec. 14** \$32 million in repairs would require no new taxpayer dollars

Middle School students and staff duck to and from class under warped ceiling tiles that curl up from their frames.

Hundreds of students play games in a P.E. class, practice their beloved sport, or celebrate a High School milestone on top of 14-year-old turf that was designed for 10 years of use.

And our clever maintenance staff are fabricating their own replacement parts for classroom ventilator units whose motors are failing.

The district can address these concerns—along with other necessary renovations and repairs at the Middle School, High School, and elementaries—if residents approve a proposed capital project when they vote on December 14th. State aid covers 75.3 percent of the proposed \$32.1 million renovation project, which includes a separate proposal to install lighting on Putt LaMay Field.

Problems identified in the independent building conditions survey—such as failing windows and doors—would be fixed through the proposed repair project that won't raise local property taxes. The district plans to use state building aid and up to \$5.5 million of savings already on hand in unreserved fund balance to cover the project costs.

"The Middle School is our one building that really hasn't had any major work done since it was built in 1985," says superintendent Paul



Much of the proposal renovates structures in the Middle School, such as these doors that have rusted out at their base.

Jenkins. "Making these renovations will help us improve the quality of instruction for our students, and save money in the long run by repairing some structural problems that could get worse if left to deteriorate further," he continued. "This is one kind of sustainable investment that has a direct impact on our educational program."

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, our most recent building conditions survey—required by state education law every five years—showed a need for widespread ceiling, window, and door replacement at the Middle School, due to security and ventilation concerns. The High School's turf field and track are already 4 years past their 10-year life expectancy for safety and durability. Outdated science classrooms need new electrical wiring and hot water access, while old music rooms need better functionality and heating

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 •



Why make these renovations now?

The Middle and High Schools, along with the turf field and track, are in need of some significant renovations and safety adjustments—including new windows, doors, and ceilings, new field turf and track replacement. If the district puts off these projects, it could lose the opportunity to receive state aid to cover 75 percent of the costs—turning a proposal that would have no tax impact to district residents into one that may necessitate raising taxes to pay for emergency repairs at a later date.

“We’ve got infrastructure needs that really cannot go much more time without being addressed,” says Mr. Yusko. “This project was originally scheduled for the spring of 2020, and the pandemic set us back almost two years.” “Down the road, it’s going to cost us a lot more money to fix these items that have really gone bad,” agrees Mr. Jenkins.

Where and how do I vote?

Voting takes place in-person, with enhanced COVID safety protocols and social distancing. All Glens Falls City School District voters, including parts of the town of Queensbury within Glens Falls City Schools will cast their votes at **Sanford Street School**. Voting on the capital project proposals takes place from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14.

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the Dec. 14 vote, be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years of age, and be registered to vote with the school district.

What work is included in the proposal?

HIGH SCHOOL

- Reconstruct Chorus Rooms, Music Wing
- Reconstruct Ramp in Music Wing Hall
- Auditorium Lobby Floor Repair
- Turf Replacement on Main Field - EPDM Infill (State Contract) Includes Goal Posts
- Track Reconstruction (State Contract)
- Replace Hot Water Heaters
- Fitness Room Reconstruction/Expansion
- Repair Sidewalks & Curbs
- Parking Lot Resurfacing - Includes Lighting
- Tennis Court Resurfacing (Morse Field) (State Contract - No Aid)
- Replace Hard Ceilings in Corridors (Includes LED lighting)
- Elevator Replacement
- Exterior Concrete Steps Replacement (HS Cafe)
- Brick Corner Replacement (6 areas)
- Chiller Replacement and Org. MDP Panel

BIG CROSS

- Roof Deck Support Steel Over 3 Classrooms and Asbestos Abatement
- Replace Kitchen Cooler and Freezer
- Crawlspace Abatement

JACKSON HEIGHTS

- Reconstruct Cupola
- Replace Windows
- Replace Roofing
- Replace Kitchen Cooler and Freezer
- Install Digital Sign

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Reconstruct Science Rooms
- Reconstruct Large Group Instruction Room
- Replace Classroom Unit Ventilators - All MS not replaced in previous project
- Construct Basketball Court/Sitting & Fitness Area Behind Cafeteria
- Reconstruct Main Office, Security Vestibule, Nurse’s Office and Guidance Offices
- Replace Exterior Doors
- Repair Sidewalks & Curbs
- Refurbish All Toilet Rooms, Including two by MS Gym (8 Total)
- Window Replacement - 1985 Building Only
- Replacement Window Blinds
- Parking Lot Resurfacing - Includes Lighting
- Flooring Replacement for Moisture Issue - 2nd Floor Rooms
- New Flooring/Painting in All Corridors and Stairwells
- Rubber Base Installation Under Lockers
- Replace Ceilings in Classroom and Corridors (Includes LED Lighting)
- Replace Ramp Wall Coverings
- Replace All Smoke Doors
- Masonry Cleaning

ADMINISTRATION

- Window Replacement

PUTT LAMAY FIELD

- Glare-Controlled LED Stadium Lighting

Project vote is Tuesday, Dec. 14th

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

control. The Middle School's large-group instruction room is under-utilized in its rigidly archaic layout.

"We know that infrastructure does have an impact on the experience the students are receiving in the buildings, and in their classrooms," says assistant superintendent for business Bobby Yusko. "That for us, is a major issue if facility or equipment problems are detracting from their ability to learn."

Lights on the field

Separate from the main capital project ballot item is Proposition #2, which would authorize the district to spend up to \$736,072 to install glare-controlled, energy-efficient LED lighting on the High School's turf field. (See page 7 for full details on the proposition.)

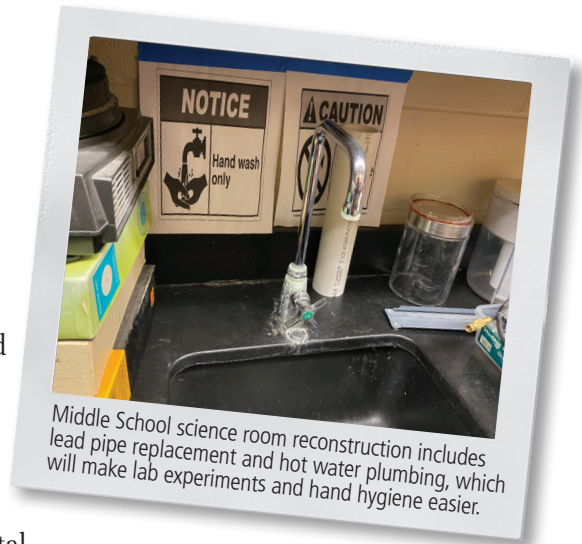
"Because of the pandemic, we held our fall sports in the early spring last

year," says Mr. Jenkins. "That meant most of our teams needed to use the turf field instead of the frozen or muddy grass fields. We found that student-athletes really enjoyed playing on the turf, and the best way to increase their access is to install field lighting."

The actual estimate for purchase and installation of the field lights is \$475,000. But requirements to add contingency, escalation, and incidental costs bring the proposal amount to \$736,072.

"We're asking voters to authorize up to \$736,072 for the lights," explains Mr. Jenkins. "Our best estimate is that we're not going to have to expend that much." In fact, projected building aid on the lights is \$554,262, making the local share of the cost \$181,810.

"We take our community role and



responsibilities very seriously, and have always worked to make the best use of the facilities our collective tax dollars support. There is a balance between school pride and our duty to be a good neighbor to our surrounding residents, and we believe we can achieve that positive outcome."

Concerns from residents in the immediate neighborhood of the High School/Middle School complex focus on the traffic, parking, and sound associated with night games under the lights—and less on the lights themselves. Sound mitigation strategies, parking enforcement, and traffic control are all part of the district's ongoing efforts regardless of the lighting proposal's outcome.

Voting takes place in-person—with enhanced COVID safety protocols and social distancing—at Sanford Street School from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14.

"If the project is approved, we will be moving forward with SED approval in the winter and go out for bids in the spring with a start date of phase one for the summer of 2022. We will have multiple phases of the project that will take multiple years," notes Mr. Jenkins.

NSIME students look to the stars

The Middle School's NSIME club (pronounced like "enzyme" and an abbreviation of the club's official name of National Space Institute of Middle Earth) met up on the back field just before sunset one day in early November to have a detailed look at the Moon, Venus, and other astronomical delights!

The high-powered Meade 10inch LXD telescope allowed students to see individual craters on the moon and multiple planets. GFMS teachers Jason Brechko and Chris McCloud helped facilitate the event.

NSIME students have previously launched several weather balloons to the edge of space — more than 20 miles up — and recovered their payloads to see amazing pictures of the Earth and its atmosphere.





Students enjoyed the Homecoming football game on October 29th. Replacement of the turf field and track are included in the capital project proposal.



The GFMS 5th Grade Turkey Trot returned this fall! Part of the MS' back courtyard would be renovated into a fitness and sitting area in this capital project.



The proposal includes roof deck support steel replacement over three classrooms at Big Cross, along with some asbestos abatement.

National Honor Society: 84 members strong!

Big congratulations to this year's inductees to the Glens Falls Chapter of National Honor Society, who were celebrated at an installation ceremony at GFHS on November 17th! Every one of these scholars has a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better, serves their community in a variety of volunteer roles, and is a recognized leader inside and outside the classroom. Way to go, students!

Senior Members

Sarah Backus
Kate Barber
Cate Barclay
Jack Barry
Camden Barry
Natalie Baxter
Jack Bordeau
Heath Borgos
Ashley Bordeaux
Owen Burr
Peyton Catarelli
Rowan Davidson
Trevor DiMezza
Catriona Dobert
Kailey Gayton
Robin Gorton
Sylvia Guillet
Avery Hill
Ava Hubany

Sydney Jones
Jackie Layden
Wyatt MacPherson
Hudson McTiernan
Aidan Murphy
Massimo Nassivera
Andrew Nelson
Eli O'Sick Johnson
Durant Poole
Jack Putnam
Averielle Roberts
McKayla Roberts
Luke Skellie
Tanner Sokol
Alex Sperry
Faith Stone
Paige Sylvia
Helena Trackey
Kiley Trombley
Nick Westfall

Inductees

Clara Avery
Ava Lily Bell
Cole Bennett
Fiona Bombard
Hilary Burns
Tyler Burrows
Sophie Campopiano
Rosalie Carlsen
Madison Clifford
Madeline Clouse
Patrick Collins
Kate Crandall
Nathaniel Donlon
Logan Drino
Eloise Duggal
Grace Fenton
Aiden Gormley
Christopher Haggerty
Aidan Harrington
Ryan Healy
Ciara Hirsch
Julia Kress
Avery Lanfear

Karsen LaPoint
Jonah Levin
Katherine Lieberth
Macey Logan
Charlotte
MacPherson
Peyton McClenning
Lily Mulholland
Morrison Northrop
William Patton III
Ava Pirozzolo
Carson Rath
Emylou Richards
Claire Seleen
Julian Stedman
Olivia Teta
Aubrey Versailles
Holly Walton
Lauren Weil
Jillian Wendling
Vincent Westfall
Cullen Wright
Timothy Zimmerman

Supply drive benefits ADK Vets House

GFHS and the SoroptiMISS club collected all kinds of household items in honor of Veterans Day in November.

Assistant Principal Liz Collins and School Resource Officer John Norton delivered jelly, peanut butter, pasta, coffee, muffins, paper towels, and cleaning supplies to ADK Vets House Executive Director Jeff Varmette—who also happens to be a GFHS graduate.

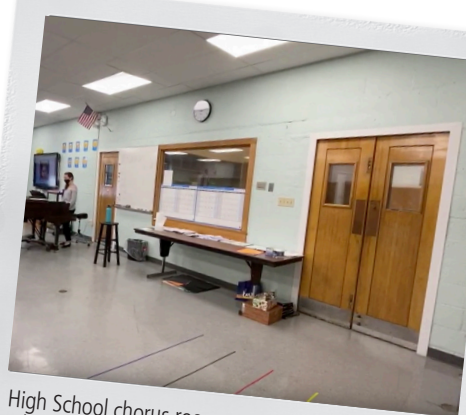
In fact, Mr. Varmette and Officer Norton served together in the Marines during the mid-1980s. Their service aboard the aircraft carrier USS America brought them to Norway, France, Spain, Italy, and other countries overseas.

All of GF Nation appreciates the service of our Veterans, both near and far!

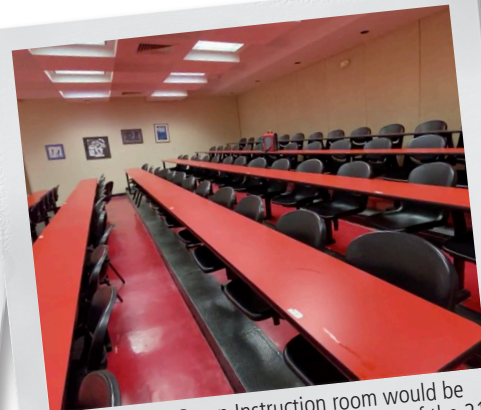




Students have gotten 14 years out of a 10-year turf field, with elementary field days, senior celebrations, sports, and even graduation held on the turf.



High School chorus rooms within the music wing are scheduled for a full renovation, improving the rooms' acoustics, layout, and concert attire closets.



The MS Large Group Instruction room would be redesigned to incorporate more features of the 21st Century classroom space now enjoyed at the HS.

Isn't there a reserve fund to offset the turf field replacement?

Yes. When the district first installed the turf field, a special reserve fund was established by the voters, in the amount of \$250,000 (plus interest earned), to help save for its replacement down the road. This reserve fund now has \$250,000 in it, as a result of saving \$25,000 per year over the expected 10-year life of the turf.

If the capital project proposal passes, the reserve funds would be released by public vote, and applied to the cost of turf and infield replacement.

Bare spots in the field and deteriorating levels of infill create an inconsistent surface for athletes to practice and compete—and could pose a risk of injury if not replaced soon.

Where can I find videos and more details about the items up for reconstruction?

The capital project page on the district website (www.gfsd.org) contains several videos showing each major aspect within the proposal.

Residents can see exactly what repairs would take place if the proposal were to pass, and hear from students, teachers, and those in building and district leadership on why the renovations are necessary, and how they hope our school community would benefit.

Watch these videos to see:

- A walk-through of Middle School science rooms, with cracked lab tables, burnt-out electrical outlets, and inefficient storage.
- A drive-through of the HS/MS parking lots, with cracking pavement, lack of lighting, and crumbling curbs and steps.
- Discussion about the field lighting proposal at the High School.
- An abstract of what the Middle School's fitness/sitting area outside the cafeteria could look like, and the problems it could solve for students.
- And much more!



Use a QR scanner app, or simply the camera on your smartphone to access the district's capital project page now!



How would the district pay for the work?

Glens Falls City School District is eligible for state aid that would cover 75.3 percent of the costs for the proposed \$32.1 million capital project (Proposition #1 at \$31.3 million for the main repairs, plus Proposition #2 at \$736,072 for the field lights).

That state money, combined with up to \$5.5 million from the district's unassigned fund balance, would cover the full costs of the proposed capital improvements **without raising local taxes**.

Voters will notice that the technical wording on the ballot proposition says up to \$31.3 million "shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District." Even though the district **will not levy a tax** to pay for the projects, bond counsel requires the language to be included to reassure bond holders that the money will be paid back. It will not be necessary to raise taxes because state building aid and funds from the district's undesignated fund balance (once transferred to the capital fund) would be used to pay for the work.

What happens if one of the propositions fails?

Both propositions would need to pass in order to install lights on the field.

If the main capital project proposal (Proposition #1) fails, then the results of the field lighting proposal (Proposition #2) become moot.

The field lighting proposal only exists as work to be completed within the overall capital project in the event that voters approve **both** propositions.

What's actually on the ballot?

Voters will be deciding on two ballot items on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. The actual ballot language is as follows:

Proposition #1

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Glens Falls City School District, Warren County, New York, is hereby authorized to engage in the construction, reconstruction and alterations to the School District's High School building, Middle School building, Jackson Heights Elementary School building, Big Cross Elementary School building, Administration building, and athletic fields, including the turf field, track, parking lots, outdoor basketball court, and Morse Field tennis courts, and to acquire original furnishings, equipment or apparatus required for the purpose for which the School District buildings are intended to be used in said School District and related site work at a total cost not to exceed \$31,383,413 and that the sum of \$31,383,413 or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

Proposition #2

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that if Proposition #1 above is approved by the qualified voters of the School District, the Board of Education of the Glens Falls City School District, Warren County, New York is hereby authorized to construct lighting additions to the athletic field adjacent to the High School, and related site work, and to acquire original equipment or apparatus required for the purpose for which the site is intended to be used in said School District at a total cost not to exceed \$736,072 and that the sum of \$736,072 or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

What if I can't get to the polls on Tuesday, December 14th?

The capital project vote will take place in person, using the traditional format of voters filling out paper ballots and depositing them into optical scan machines. Extra COVID safety precautions will be in effect, such as mask-wearing, sanitization of pens, and cleaning of ballot completion areas frequently throughout the day.

Residents who will not be able to go to the polling location on Dec. 14 may apply for an **absentee ballot** at the district office. If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote.

If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until Dec. 13, 2021. Call Amy Towers at 518-792-1212 for details.

Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5 p.m. on December 14.

Why does the field lighting proposition cost \$736,072?

The actual estimate for purchase and installation of the field lights is \$475,000. But when the district pulled the lights out of the project as a separate voting item, it became necessary to add in contingency costs of 20 percent, escalation of 10 percent, and an additional 22.5 percent for incidentals that may be experienced.

Proposition #2: Scope

LED Field Lighting		\$475,000
Contingency	15%	71,250
Escalation	10%	54,625
Incidentals	22.5%	135,197
Proposition Total:		\$736,072

“Our architects do that on purpose so in case there are any issues that come up during the construction of any of these pieces of the project, that we have some contingency to fall back on,” says Superintendent Paul Jenkins. “We’re asking voters to authorize up to \$736,072 for the lights. Our best estimate is that we’re not going to have to expend that much for the lights.”

In fact, projected building aid on the lights is \$554,262, making the local share of the cost \$181,809. When this cost is amortized over the state-required period of probable usefulness—15 years—the annual local share drops to \$12,120.

Are there other local schools with lighted fields in residential areas?

Several area schools have installed lighting on their athletic fields, in close proximity to neighboring residential properties.

Saratoga Springs High School, for example, has homes and businesses with their backyards situated directly adjacent to the high school playing fields. The district recently completed installation of advanced, glare-controlled LED field lighting that reduced light spill into neighboring properties.

“Some of the other districts such as Johnstown and South Glens Falls are more similar to our setup, where we have a street right next to the field, and then homes on the other side of the street,” says Mr. Jenkins. “In districts using older technology for lights, the spill of those lights actually does reach towards the homes. Our proposition uses the newer technology in light design, and wouldn’t be an issue for neighbors, as far as the light itself is concerned.”

How will the district address any concerns of neighbors over installing lights on the field?

Concerns from residents in the immediate neighborhood of the High School/Middle School complex focus on the traffic, parking, and sound associated with night games under the lights.

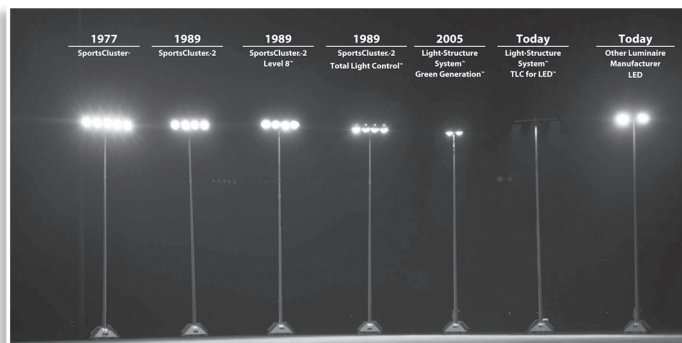
“If we have a track meet or football game on a Saturday afternoon, our neighbors are going to hear sound from the games—cheering and the loudspeaker,” says Mr. Jenkins. “We have talked with the company who installed the sound system, and we’re looking at ways to angle the speakers back towards the crowd some more, and adjust the sound system to be able to turn it down at night.”

The district has options to address parking and traffic concerns by utilizing alternative areas for parking during heavily-attended games. “We have the High School and Middle School parking lots, which will be re-paved and well-lit if the main capital project proposal passes,” notes Mr. Jenkins. “We could certainly use Morse Field with a shuttle, as we have in the past. The district owns a field on the other side of the Calvary Assembly of God church, where we could certainly direct some parking.”

In partnership with the Glens Falls Police Department, extra security and traffic patrols are used during games.

“So there are things we’re doing to hopefully alleviate some of the concerns the neighbors have.”

Glare and shine from the lights into neighbors’ homes and property has not been expressed to the district as a top concern with the field lighting proposal.



This vendor-provided example of the evolution of field lighting technology shows a decrease in glare and light spill onto adjacent properties when newer lights are utilized.

Board of Education

Timothy Graham, Pres.

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Kelly Culliton

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Jason Rivers

Superintendent – Paul Jenkins

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Glens Falls CITY SCHOOLS

mark your
calendar



VOTE on Dec. 14!

For more capital project information, see:
www.gfsd.org



During Education Support Professionals week, we celebrated all the “superheroes” in our schools—our teacher aides, teaching assistants, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, lunch monitors, and other team members—who play crucial roles in every school building, every day.

Holiday concerts are back!

The GFSD Music Department is pleased to welcome back families and friends to enjoy live concerts with enhanced health and safety precautions! All members of the community are invited to attend these delightful, free performances featuring our talented student musicians. **Every concert will be held in the High School auditorium, and begin at 7 p.m.**

As of this time, our district has not set a limit on the number of audience members allowed at each of our winter concerts. However, it will be mandatory that EVERY person wear a mask over their nose and mouth—regardless of age or vaccination status—upon entering the building. Masks must be worn throughout the concert's entirety. This winter, we ask that families please not congregate in the auditorium lobby before or after concerts.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15th: High School Band and Jazz Band
- Thursday, Dec. 16th: Sixth Grade Band
- Tuesday, Dec. 21st: Junior Band
- Tuesday, Jan. 11th: Junior Chorus and Select Chorus
- Wednesday, Jan. 12th: Sixth Grade Chorus
- Thursday, Jan. 13th: Fifth Grade Chorus
- Tuesday, Feb. 8th: Fifth Grade Orchestra
- Wednesday, Feb. 9th: Fourth Grade Orchestra (All Elementary Schools)
- Tuesday, Feb. 15th: Fifth Grade Band
- Wednesday, Feb. 16th: Fourth Grade Band (All Elementary Schools)

SEE INSIDE!

2021 Capital Project:

- **On the ballot Tuesday, December 14, 2021**
- **\$32.1 million proposal**
- **No tax levy increase**
- **Bulk of project: renovations at Middle School**
- **Secondary proposition for Putt LaMay field lighting**