

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 4:26 PM Alex Gialanella <agialanella@fordham.edu> wrote:

Dear Southeast Town Board,

I live in the town of Patterson and have been coaching in the greater Hudson valley league since it was founded in 2014. I cannot be there tonight due to business commitments I have in the south, but am sharing this letter in hopes it will be read.

I've coached hundreds of kids from the Brewster, Carmel, Kent, and Patterson areas and not being from this area originally, baseball was a big part of making this our home. I've taught CCD at Saint James for many years, and have coached youth basketball and football as well while my wife has volunteered to coach cheer. Baseball has a way of bringing people together, forging connections and building community.

We've formed lifelong friendships through baseball and I'm proud to have coached kids from tee ball all the way through college level. The only problem we have though, is due to lack of infrastructure in the area. I'm often taking the kids to tournaments on Long Island, in New Jersey, in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and upstate New York.

We have nothing in our area for these kids, and that creates two issues: first: lack of involvement (I believe more kids would get out and play if more facilities existed), and second: economic impact. I've seen the positive economic impact youth sports can have on an area, it brings in spending at stores and restaurants, it brings growth, and it brings much needed visitors to the area.

I am hopeful that this youth sports complex would be approved to serve generations to come, keep kids active, and give the area a much needed boost in what is today a serious gap.

I have been proud to be part of the greater Hudson valley league since the day it was formed, and the work that Dave and Jen have done is unparalleled. I look forward to volunteering and coaching for many years to come, and hope to do so one day on these fields being proposed.

Dr. Alex Gialanella