

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

REQUEST TO NAME A BALL FIELD AT THE JAMES WOODY PARK

Summary Statement:

A presentation was made by Councilman Bob Sagona at the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting on February 5, 2009 regarding a request to name a ball field at James Woody Park after Mr. Don Ferrarese. A Park Naming Committee originally selected and recommended naming a park after Don Ferrarese; however, that park has been locked since July 2005 and officially closed since June 2008 as part of the Park and Recreation Analysis. Mr. Ferrarese was a legendary major league ball player and his family has lived in the area for over 40 years.

The Park and Recreation Commission unanimously recommended approval of the request and recommended that this item be forwarded to the Town Council for approval.

Recommended Action:

That the Town Council approve the recommendation of the Park and Recreation Commission to name Field 1 at James Woody Park "Don Ferrarese Field" and authorize staff to place appropriate signage as needed.

Proposed by: **Councilman Bob Sagona** **Item Number** _____

T. M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item** **Yes** **No** **N/A**

About Don Ferrarese

Don Ferrarese, Married to Betty for 58 years, has called Apple Valley home for the past forty years. Growing up in the Bay area of California, in a first generation Italian family, Don learned the value of hard work early on, working in his families market and Deli, until he was recruited to play major league baseball in 1948. **Don** pitched for 18 years professional Baseball, achieving unforgettable milestones, such as striking out **Mickey Mantle**, tossing out the Ten Millionth Baseball with **President Eisenhower**, being a special guest on the **Ed Sullivan** show and not the least, sharing hitting records with the King of Swat himself, **Babe Ruth**.

After a rewarding career in the Major leagues, **Don** Moved to Apple Valley where he owned and operated Hugo's, an Italian Deli widely known and recognized even today. After Hugo's, **Don** opened Ferrarese's, an Italian restaurant that quickly gained in popularity for its authentic cuisine and friendly service. To this day, **Don** continuously receives requests for his recipes, which he gladly offers to those asking. Rightfully, after two successful careers, **Don** could have afforded himself a much deserved retirement, enjoying days on the golf course with friends and family, without worry or need. However, this was not in **Don's** character as he embarked upon offering his energies and talents to charitable causes, volunteering wherever he could, and whenever he was asked.

One of the more prominent charitable services in which **Don** has been involved is with his partner Jack Fales. Together, **Don** and Jack, holding over 100 auctions, have raised nearly \$2 million with their infamous Wine and Memorabilia auctions, dedicating hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars, all for the benefit of local non-profit groups needing to raise monies to support the local community.

Don continues his generous spirit of giving with his day to day efforts in ensuring the long-term success of **The Don Ferrarese Charitable Foundation**
(Information from www.don-frse.com)