

NEWS TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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Iselin Practice Field to Remain Closed Pending Additional Clean-Up and Ground Repair

Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that Pocheck Field #2 – a practice baseball/softball field located behind the Route 35 ShopRite in Woodbridge - will remain closed pending further reconstruction and the removal of tainted fill dirt used to level the outfield area.

“Even though the Pocheck practice field #2 had already been closed for reconstruction, it will remain closed pending additional ground repairs and the removal of tainted fill material used to level the right field playing area,” Mayor McCormac said. “We are extremely disturbed to find out that the fill material placed at this field – and only this field – is less than clean and we have already begun the process necessary to safely remove the tainted fill material from the outfield area of Pocheck practice field #2.”

According to Mayor McCormac, the Municipal Attorney has initiated a review after fill material believed to be clean and free of contaminants tested positive for low-levels of chlordane - a historic pesticide used in the residential treatment of termites - after being placed at the Pocheck practice field #2.

Mayor McCormac noted that the Department of Public Works was actively monitoring the reconstruction project at the Pocheck field to make certain that the practice baseball/softball field was undergoing proper reconstruction and repairs. When it was learned that questionable fill material was used to level the right field playing surface, the Township engaged environmental consultant Birdsall Engineering, Inc. to conduct immediate tests of the fill material which uncovered the presence of chlordane in the fill dirt.

“After the test results of the fill dirt showed a level of chlordane contamination slightly above New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection clean-up standards, the Township determined to immediately remove the tainted dirt and replace with certified clean fill. To our knowledge the field has not been in use this spring, as it remained under construction for grading and leveling of the entire outfield area.” McCormac said.

Mayor McCormac noted that the Department of Public Works is responsible for monitoring the repair and reconstruction of Township infrastructure, including recreation fields and immediately raised questions regarding the origin of the fill dirt. The primary mission is to make certain that there is no public health concern and to get the tainted fill removed as quickly as possible.