

# Devine intervention completes playground landscaping

Fund-raising efforts for Caryl Park Playground became easier as Dover native John Devine, president of Strawberry Hill Landscaping, offered to donate the landscaping design, material and services of the

## GUEST COMMENTARY

CORYN SARDELLI HALL

newly built playground.

"I remember using this playground all the time when I was a kid," said Devine, whose wife, Jeannie, is expecting their third child. "My kids love the new playground, and I want to give back to the community that has given me so much."

"John is like a dream come true. He came to me and offered to help with the playground in any way possible," said Kim Tiano, chairman of Caryl Park Project Playground. "We immediately gave him our wish list. We needed the

entire playground mulched, the walkways swept and the whole front area landscaped. He not only agreed to our request but offered additional help with trucking our engraved walkway bricks and maintaining the playground landscaping on a weekly basis."

Devine will be implementing his design this spring. Pear trees will mark the entrance to the playground; ornamental grasses will flag the water fountain; flowers and shrubs will surround the dedication rock; and grass will line the new walkway. "He's truly dedicated to the playground, generous and sincere," said Tiano.

Dedication to the community is a tradition in the Devine family. For generations, the Devines have worked to support the town of Dover. In the 1950s, John's grandfather was part of the warrant committee that built Chickering School. In 1957, John's father, Jack, worked for Dover's planning board and after 15 years he had to resign when he was appointed by the gover-

nor to the Dedham District Court as clerk magistrate.

Jack also coached baseball for

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Dover's Park and Recreation Department for 15 years. John's mother, Eileen, has been an active volunteer serving the town for 20 years. In honor

of Jack Devine, who died in 1997, Eileen, John and his five sisters set up the Jack Devine Charity Golf Tournament. The sixth annual tournament, which benefits juvenile diabetes and the Dover-Sherborn Scholarship Fund, will take place on Sept. 24 at the Sandy Burr Country Club in Wayland.

"They're a very well-known family," said Craig Hughes, who has worked for Dover's highway department for 18 years and plays in the Jack Devine Golf Tournament annually. "John approached me this winter and offered to donate and maintain the plants on the traffic island at the intersection of Hartford and Walpole Street and at Dedham Street rock. "He's a great guy and has done very well with his business."

Jeremiah Cronin first established the company in 1960. He named the company Strawberry Hill Landscaping after a book his wife Delia wrote based on a town in Ireland where she was raised. After working summers through high school and college for Cronin,

John bought the company in 1988 when he was 21 years old.

Today, the business has grown from a simple mowing and maintenance company to a full-service landscape and construction company. Strawberry Hill Landscaping builds stone walls, patios, walkways and provides tree work, irrigation, excavation, deck and fence installation, snow plowing and property maintenance. Strawberry Hill Landscaping trucks are seen everywhere in Dover. As the business has grown, the company's clientele has expanded statewide servicing the Cape, Weston, Wellesley, Needham and surrounding communities.

With such a great work ethic and interest in serving the community, Strawberry Hill Landscaping will certainly be around to contribute to the next Dover Playground project in 15 or 20 years. We have to wonder, will John and Jeannie Devine's son, Shane, be running the company then or could it be their daughter, Sierra?