

## Blending a field and film



Dana Towns The Paper

Jeff Ace, Four Seasons on Lanier sports park director and homeowners association treasurer, stands on the green space that will become a baseball field for scenes in the movie "Blended," starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. Scenes, at the field, will be filmed in July for the movie's release summer 2014.

## Major motion picture to film in neighborhood

BY DANA TOWNS  
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Scenes for the 2014 movie, "Blended," starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, will be filmed in Flowery Branch in July.

Scott Adams, president of the homeowners association for the Four Seasons residential community, and Jeff Ace, sports park director and HOA, said that Warner Bros. along with Happy Madison Productions will be filming scenes for their new film, "Blended," in a baseball field at the residential community.

The field, located at the entrance of Four Seasons on Lanier, was chosen to be used in the film after Adams received a call saying that the field was one of several being looked at for the movie. "They apparently were driving through the Flowery Branch area and by chance spotted our field," said Ace.

After a brief HOA meeting, all members agreed the field could be used for production.

"The criteria was a 'rural Little League baseball field and they liked our setting with trees on three sides of our ball field," said Ace.

'We assured them that our ball field would be well 'loved' and properly maintained after they leave so that our residents will continue to benefit from the improvements they will be making.'

Jeff Ace, Four Seasons on Lanier sports park director



For The Paper

This digital rendering is what the Four Seasons' renovated field is expected to look like once readied for "Blended" scenes being filmed there in July.

Production crews began improving the existing field, June 10, planting additional trees, improving fencing and backstop and building an announcer's booth. They are also installing an American flag pole behind the picnic pavilion. "Adam [Sandler] likes an American flag on display in his movies we are told," said Ace.

The extra trees that will be planted for the baseball field will cover views from the street as well as electric lines, according to Adams. Four Seasons on Lanier will be able to keep all improvements made to the field after

filming ends.

"We assured them that our ball field would be well 'loved' and properly maintained after they leave so that our residents will continue to benefit from the improvements they will be making," said Ace.

The estimated cost of improvements will be between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

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## Stronger minds through stronger bodies

### Friendship Elementary is named a health hero

BY LISA LASKEY  
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Tucked away on the southern edge of Hall County, Friendship Elementary is quietly gaining national attention for its commitment to health and wellness.

The school has been named as one, among five, 2013 Partner Up! for Public Health Heroes. The recognition is a joint endeavor of the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Partner Up! for Public Health Campaign and recognizes Georgia organizations and individuals who make important contributions to the health of their communities.

Friendship Elementary is a Hall County Wellness School of Choice, and was selected for effectively ad-



ressing public health challenges including seeking to make a local impact on childhood obesity. In addition to its focus on academics, the school seeks to educate students on the importance of good health, and its correlation to improved academic performance.

The school has also been recognized by the Alliance of a Healthier Generation's Healthy School Program and has received the American Heart Association's Fit Friendly School Gold Achievement.

"We take a common sense ap-

proach," said Principal Berry Walton. "We believe in moderation, and taking baby steps every day towards positive, healthy change. Our efforts are geared to fight childhood obesity and our teachers and staff aim to build strong academic minds and able bodies. We hope to

teach eating and wellness habits to our students today that will prove to be positive skills later in life."

Friendship Elementary wellness strategies are researched-based and are considered best-practices

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For The Paper

Friendship Elementary students' curriculum includes the benefits of good health choices and how a stronger body makes a stronger mind said Principal Berry Walton. Students are offered healthy food choices and taught the benefits to both mind and body.