



Black Knights Athletic Club

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CHS TRACK LIGHTS PROJECT ACHIEVES FUNDRAISING GOAL: A WIN FOR STUDENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Black Knights Athletic Club (BKAC) proudly announces its "CHS Track Lights Project" achieved its fundraising goals to provide outdoor lighting at the Curtis Elder Track and Field Facility at Charlottesville High School. The track lights are scheduled for installation by the City of Charlottesville during the first week of June 2025.

"We are excited to announce the successful completion of our fundraising efforts, and we celebrate the news that Charlottesville High School will have track lights installed this summer," stated Dan Zimmerman, lead volunteer of the CHS Track Lights Project. "CHS athletes and Charlottesville community members will be much safer at the track, especially during the dark winter months," according to Zimmerman.

For years, CHS track athletes were forced to curtail winter practices at dusk, which occurred as early as 4:54 pm during the darkest days of winter. This provided essentially no time for the award-winning Charlottesville High School track team to practice their sport outdoors. The installation of outdoor lighting also will allow the CHS track team to host regional track meets, which the school has not been able to do in many years.

"Hosting regional track meets at Charlottesville High School will give us a chance to showcase our school while providing additional revenue for our school and our local community," stated Andy Jones, Charlottesville High

School's Director of Athletics and Student Activities. "Charlottesville High School is grateful for the overwhelming generosity of everyone who contributed to this important endeavor."

In addition to supporting the CHS track team, the soon-to-be-installed track lights will facilitate full and complete practice schedules for the CHS football team and other athletes who use the infield grassy areas. Furthermore, outdoor lighting also will increase availability and usage of the CHS track for the numerous community members who utilize the facilities for running and walking.

"The Charlottesville Track Club strongly supports the CHS Track Lights Project," stated Tim Wendel, club President. "The CTC donated to the project in honor of local hero Mark Lorenzoni of the Ragged Mountain Running and Walking Shop, and we congratulate everyone involved in making this happen."

Support from the Perry Foundation was instrumental in facilitating the CHS Track Lights Project fundraising. In July 2024, the Perry Foundation committed a matching grant of \$30,000 toward the track lights. Since then, substantial donations of \$30,000 from Flow Automotive companies and \$10,000 from the Charlottesville Track Club, as well as numerous contributions from individual donors brought the track lights project to fruition.

"We are thrilled to support the Black Knights Athletic Club and the City of Charlottesville in this important project," said Jason Keranen, General Manager of Flow Motors in Charlottesville. "The new track lights will significantly enhance the usability of this valuable community resource, providing expanded access for student-athletes, community members, and local organizations."

The Black Knights Athletic Club (the CHS Athletic Boosters 501(c)3 Organization) thanks Charlottesville City Schools, Charlottesville School Board officials, and the City of Charlottesville for their support and for recognizing the importance of student and community health and safety at the CHS outdoor track.

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