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Northboro man hoofing it to Fenway for Assabet Park

By Amanda Roberge/CORRESPONDENT



If you think a daylong trek is going to be walk in the park for Mr. Beyranevand, think again. Except for daily strolls, he says he isn't exactly a stellar athlete. (T&G Staff/TOM RETTIG)

NORTHBORO — It's not uncommon to walk for a cause. On any given weekend, you can find throngs of charitable enthusiasts lacing up their sneakers to walk their way to a cure, walk for hunger and walk for any number of worthy causes.

They are fired up and they are ready for change, but they aren't usually all by themselves.

On May 6, Northboro resident Michael Beyranevand will be hitting the pavement, solo. Donning only comfy walking clothing, reliable sneakers and enough cash for pit stops, he will walk Route 20 all the way from his hometown straight to Fenway Park in Boston.

"I have already figured out that there are 19 Dunkin' Donuts along the way, so I should stay well hydrated," he quipped.

The cause is not your standard fundraising effort, and yet it is one in which Mr. Beyranevand is completely invested. His 30-mile walk, a path and pledge of his own design, is his way of raising money to supply some shade for families at Assabet Park, a lovely South Street playground and splash pad that attracts babies and toddlers with their caregivers all summer.

"Every day when I go for a walk during the summer, I see all the children and parents huddled up against the stone

wall since there is no shade available," he said, adding that he has raised this issue with the town many times and has received word that there is not enough money in the budget to fix this problem.

"And instead of sitting around waiting for the town to come up with the money, I decided to take action."
As owner and property manager at Northborough Property Management, a company that oversees 24 condominium associations in Worcester County, Mr. Beyranevand is using his connections in asking each association to sponsor him \$40 for the walk. Funds raised will more than cover the \$800 price tag on the six large umbrellas/stands he will purchase as soon as May 6 has come and gone.

And if you think a daylong trek is going to be a walk in the park for Mr. Beyranevand, think again. Except for daily strolls, he isn't exactly a stellar athlete.

"I've never done anything like it," he laughed, "which is what makes it so interesting and sort of ironic."

While enough money has been procured to get the ball rolling on adding shade to the park, Mr. Beyranevand encourages people to get involved in improving the amenities at the park. With limited funds in the municipal budget for recreation, community members can take control of their own parks.

"Now when I walk by, I will know I played a small part in making it a better place," he added.