



Party on Nov. 21st!

LHA Parent Party to Support Youth Development!

Clear your calendar for November 21st for an evening filled with fun, food, and music. The Legends Golf Course has generously donated space for LHA to hold a parent party for all members. Proceeds from the night out will be put toward youth development. Appetizers, beer, wine and music will be provided. Tickets may be purchased in advance (\$20 for a single or \$30 for a couple). Tickets will also be available at the door. Please contact your team manager for ticket information.

Early Bird Hockey

On 11/11 board members passed a motion creating before-school hockey clinics for Mite/U8 and Squirt/U10 age players. John Barger will coach these weekly **FREE** clinics to be held at Ames, 6:45-7:30 AM starting 11/17 and ending mid-January. Please e-mail Dave Rucki dvrucki@yahoo.com for details.



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Outdoor Ice Times Cut Volunteer System Working

The City of Lakeville, in an effort to reduce costs, made the decision to close five area skating rinks this winter. Rinks no longer open are: Rolling Oaks, Quail Meadows, Highview, Cherry View and Bunker Park. The LHA has been given an allotment of ice and the result will be fewer teams getting "free" ice this winter.

On December 5th there will be an ice draft for outdoor ice. Teams desiring outdoor ice will all get together with the ice director and they will draft from the available ice hours given to the LHA by the City of Lakeville.

The City of Lakeville hopes to have the ice available for use on Dec. 19th. Mother Nature must cooperate for this target date to be a reality. A schedule of all rinks can be seen at: <http://www.ci.lakeville.mn.us/departments/departmentspdf/hockeyschedule.pdf>



The new volunteer system is working wonderfully! There has been a lot of positive feedback from the volunteers and those who need volunteers to help with projects. Many have been anxious to help, but just didn't know when or how, and love the user-friendly website. Those needing help say that it saves them a large amount of time they would otherwise spend on the phone recruiting and organizing volunteers. So far, about 30% of families have completed their volunteer time. Several volunteers have done more than their required four hours! Thank you, everyone!!

Just as a reminder, all families in LHA, from Mite Prep to Jr. Gold, are required to volunteer four hours for the association. This doesn't include your concession time or other time at your team level, e.g. clock or penalty box during games. Rostered coaches, team managers, and board members are exempt from these four hours. The hours put in by these volunteers amount to much more than the LHA requirement. There are many opportunities to come! Watch for new shifts to be posted.

Thanks to Robin Lundberg, Volunteer Coordinator, for her dedication in getting this system up and running!



Lakeville Hockey Association



Face-Off to Fall Fundraiser a Huge Success

The Face-Off to Fall Hockey Festival, held the weekend of October 10th was a huge success. Mother Nature did not cooperate, but even with the less than stellar weather, the LHA raised a total of \$3,183.65. Many thanks to the many volunteers who worked "rain or shine" to make this event a success!

Raffle Ticket Sale Reminder

Please remember to have checks made payable to LHA for the raffle ticket sales. This is a change from last year.

Tires Plus Fundraiser over

The Tires plus fundraiser has now come to a conclusion. A total of 85 families participated in the project. They earned a total of \$18,000 off their player's hockey fees. The money earned will be credited towards their next team payment.

One Team's Sponsor Story

The LHA will again be offering team credit to those that recruit sponsors for the LHA. For each sponsor you or your team recruits, your child's team will get 30% of the credit. A good example of this is the North PeeWee B2 Black team, coach Rob Kirk. Rob spoke to his employer, Rock Hard Landscape Supply, and asked them to be a sponsor of his team. Rob didn't stop there because he knew that his team would receive 30% of the total sponsorship dollars he gets for his team. Rob decided to speak to four other companies that purchase their supplies from Rock Hard Landscape and asked

them to also be a sponsor. When this is all finalized, Rob's team will receive 30% of what those 5 companies decide to pay for sponsorship with the LHA. This could help pay for a tournament, a pizza party, a banner or whatever you as a team decide to use it for. If you would like to find out more about the levels of sponsorship or have a company interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact the sponsorship director at: sponsorshipdirector@lakevillhockey.org.

Steve Papacek,
Sponsorship Director

Junior Gold Tryouts Scheduled

Junior Gold tryouts will be held at Ames on November 24, 25 and 27th. At this time, there are plans to have both a Jr. Gold A and B team. The A team will play in the Metro Hockey League and the B team will play in District 8.

Players trying out or Jr. Gold must register on-line through the LHA web page prior to tryouts. Players contemplating whether or not they want to play may opt to do a partial registration.

Please contact Steve Burns regarding questions about partial registrations or questions about Jr. Gold in general at scrb2458@aol.com.

LHA Sponsors Thanks for Supporting our Student Athletes!

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Cosmopolitan Ortho.
Fowler Construction
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Moore Fun Party Rental
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Blue Line Medical Svcs.
Jonathan Zweber Ins.
Rink Rat Skating School
Rock Hard Landscape

These sponsors have graciously sponsored the LHA. Please support their loyalty with your business.



LHA Cuts Costs Responding to Pleas from Members

The LHA board has heard from members that they're desperate to lower the overall price of hockey so that they can afford to have their children continue to play. In an effort to be responsive to our members' requests, many cost saving/revenue generating measures have been instituted.

Each department head was asked to cut expenses in their area of responsibility. Registration cost were lowered by chopping outside player and goalie development, cutting warm-ups, forgoing coach jackets, and even how evaluators were fed.

Increased LHA volunteerism has reduced the LHA's need to pay for some services. Improved vendor negotiations on equipment and jersey purchases saved additional money. Equipment return policies were fine tuned in an effort to reduce the need to replace jerseys and goalie equipment.

One large savings will be the new ice drafting process. This should eliminate money paid for ice not assigned to teams. Tournaments were more strictly monitored so that we have enough teams "home" every weekend to use all the available ice. At the team level, 3 tournaments are now the standard rather than 4. Teams have been instructed that a 4th tournament cannot be added if there are 3 or more "no" votes per team.

The LHA introduced an individual revenue producing fundraiser (Tires Plus Cards) that helped 85 families cut more than \$18K from their hockey expenses. Gambling oversight has been improved to cut labor costs, concession stand price have been increased, and we're currently working on the raffle. Proceeds from the raffle help pay the rent!

Our board members have heard loud and clear from members that families are hurting and cutting corners wherever they can. Our intention has been to follow suit and to make cuts; realizing that some of them hurt. Nobody wants to cut goalie training, but hard decisions must be made. The best outcome from these painful cuts will be making hockey more affordable. The goal? To have more of our young men and women continue playing the great sport of hockey.

Podcast Coming!

A motion was passed at the 11/11 board meeting to make an audio file available via the LHA website. Members will soon be able to listen in on LHA board meetings. Look for updates soon!

No Stick Handling! Parents, We Need Your Help!

It isn't often that we ask the kids not to stick handle, but off-ice at Ames and Hasse, the answer is a definitive "No." We're asking every parent to cooperate and help enforce a rule that has been in place, often ignored, for years. The reasons behind the ban are safety and cost.

Game disruptions and balls hitting bystanders are commonplace. It doesn't take a rocket scientist figure out it could be dangerous. The City of Lakeville has had expenditures exceeding \$5K over the past two seasons needed to repair damage due to sticks, balls or pucks shot from the lobby or bleacher area causing damage.

A "designated" stick handling area would be desirable to both the city and the LHA, but unfortunately, our arenas were not built with this in mind. Please help us by reminding your kids or your players that it is not OK to stick handle anywhere other than on the ice.

This Month's Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the LHA now selling apparel in the concession stand? Who profits from this and how is the money used?

A: In the past, the City of Lakeville has not allowed the LHA to sell apparel in the concession stand. The City has now made the decision that the LHA should pay rent for this space to the City. In an effort to give the LHA additional revenue sources, the City agreed to let apparel be sold in the concession stand. It is quite an undertaking to decide how much money to invest in apparel stock, so the LHA decided to purchase some existing stock



from a local company to "test the waters". The profits will go towards paying the \$800/month rent to the City for using the concession stand space.

Q: How can I help the LHA and the kids without a huge commitment?

A: The answer to this is "shop, shop, shop." It is the Holiday season and many of us will be purchasing presents on-line. Please remember to go to the LHA website and access your on-line shopping through our Giving Site. Doing so will not increase your cost to purchase, but a small percentage will come back to the LHA.. Remind family members to do the same!

LHA Reps Attend Eden Prairie Ice Draft



Lakeville hockey sent three representatives to the Eden Prairie ice draft on October 24th to observe an actual ice draft in action. Eden Prairie has been using this method of ice allocation with great success for many seasons. The hope is that the representatives sent can convey helpful tips to pass on at the mock ice draft that is scheduled for November 12th. The first ice draft will be held at Lakeville South High school on 11/21 at 8:00 AM. Because it will be a new experience for most involved, it is expected to take about 6 hours to complete. Each team will be allowed 3 representatives. These three will need to keep track of times picked by other teams and have their next pick ready. The drafting team is only allowed 30 seconds to make their pick, so a bit of organization is needed to keep things running smoothly.

The purpose of the ice draft is to more fairly allocate ice to the traveling teams. The process will give teams a chance to look at all of the ice that is available for the rest of the season and plan their practice times around other scheduled events. School concerts, planned games, scrimmages, dry land practice and other previously scheduled events will all be taken into account by the teams' representatives. If coaches have unusual work schedules or other commitments, a team can more easily work around them with the new system. All ice drafted will be "full sheets". It is expected that teams will make alliances with other like-skill teams and work out some proportion of shared practices.

The ice draft should also eliminate ice that in the past has not been allocated but was still paid for. The Joint Powers and Facility Use Agreement specify the hours that the LHA is responsible for purchasing ice. The draft will go on until each of these hours is assigned to a team. In the past, the LHA has had to pay a relatively large chunk of money out to the City of Lakeville to cover these unclaimed ice hours.

LHA in the Crease Issue 9 November, 2009

Cosmopolitan Orthodontics Offers Free Mouth Guards to All Members!

Great news for the players participating in Lakeville Youth Hockey! **Cosmopolitan Orthodontics** in Lakeville is offering custom-made mouth guards for all LHA youth hockey players. A custom mouth guard is made by taking a mold (impression) of your player's teeth and designing the guard to fit exactly to their mouth. These custom mouth guards are far superior to those that you buy in the store, boil and mold yourself. Typically, a high quality mouth guard costs upwards of \$60.00 to purchase, but as **Platinum Sponsors** of the Lakeville Youth Hockey program, Cosmopolitan Orthodontics is offering them at no charge! These custom made mouth guards are safer, protect your teeth better, and allow for easier breathing while skating. The custom fit mouth guards stay securely in place, allowing players to talk and even drink water without removing them.

An often overlooked benefit of wearing a mouth guard is that they offer protection to not only your teeth, but also your brain. Mouth guards are an important tool that can be used to help prevent or lessen the severity of a concussion. The extent of the benefit is a hot topic of debate in the sporting world! Most would err on the side of caution and the custom mouth guards offer the best protection.

To get a custom mouth guard made for your player, contact Cosmopolitan Orthodontics at 952-469-3333. Appointments for fittings are now being taken. It's a simple, convenient way to help keep players safe and protect their smile!