

Western Branch December 2006 News Little League

REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING SOFTBALL!

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS 'TIL DECEMBER 31ST

It's not too early to register for Spring softball! By registering early, you are able to save \$\$\$ and the league is able to identify the number of teams, recruit the right number of managers and coaches, and set the schedule earlier. All girls who will be league age 5-18 (age as of 12/31/2006) and who reside in ZIP code area 23321 are eligible. New players (new to WBLL) must bring a copy of their birth certificate. You can register in these ways:

1. Send in the attached application form with your check to:
WBLL, P.O. Box 9784, Chesapeake, VA 23321, or
2. Download copies of the form at www.wbll.org and mail them in, or
3. Register in person at the locations and times indicated below. *Also, please check the www.wbll.org web site for additional times and info!*
 - o Russell Memorial Library: Saturday, December 16, 9:00AM – Noon
 - o Covenant United Methodist Church, 2004 Dock Landing Road: Saturday, January 13 and 27 and February 3 and 10, 9:00AM – Noon

FEES	T-Ball	Coach Pitch/ Majors	Seniors/ Big League
Until Dec. 31	\$25	\$40	\$50
Jan. 1 – Feb. 16	\$25	\$55	\$65
After Feb. 16	\$35	\$75	\$75

Do you have friends who might be interested in fast pitch softball? Please help us to pass on the word to others in our area! *Thanks!*



BUY YOUR BRICK FOR THE WALL OF FAME!

The dream of a field house/concession stand is at last becoming a reality! In order to fund construction and improvements to the building, we are embarking on a capital campaign through the sale of personalized bricks. For only \$100 you can purchase a brick, which will be engraved and installed on our Wall of Fame in a prominent area on the fieldhouse. See details and order form inside!!!



Western Branch Little League
League ID: 346-06-02
P.O. Box 9784
Chesapeake, VA 23321
www.wbll.org



2006/2007 WBLL BOARD

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM THE PREZ

First I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers that made fall ball a success. Even though we lost a few games to rain (including opening day) the girls still had a great time and in my opinion learned a little more about how to play fast-pitch softball. I want to extend a special thank you to John Rusch who put together and ran our major division clinic. Thanks also to the parents and coaches that helped conduct the clinics. I have received numerous comments from parents on how much their girls learned and enjoyed the clinics. Thanks again to all involved.

I would also like to extend a tremendous thank you to the volunteers that have made our new concessions building a reality and not just a dream anymore. While there have been numerous people involved, three in particular stand out and have given countless hours to making this project a success ... Tom Conter, Paul Warren and Chuck Anderson.

Don't forget to register early for next Spring as it promises to be a season of fun and growth for our league. Also, remember to honor your child or another loved one with a brick on our concessions wall. There's more info in the newsletter so look for it!!

Merry Christmas.... Happy Holidays... and everyone have a safe and joyful New Year and we'll see ya in the Spring!!!!

Woody McLeod
WBLL President



WHAT'S A RE-DRAFT???

Did you know that you can have a different experience with WBLL? Long ago the Little League Board put into place a system called redrafting. We realized that many players and parents want to be exposed to a number of coaches and coaching techniques, and not stay with just one team and coach through their career in one division of WBLL. All that is required to move to another team each year is to put redraft on your application. The league will ask you at some point to tell us your reason why, but every request is approved. Redrafts do not allow you to say which team you want to be on. All players going through the redraft process need to appear at tryouts.

SPONSORS???

If you identify a sponsor for the league, your registration fee is FREE! For more info, please contact Karen Sheeley.

DO YOU STILL HAVE A TEAM UNIFORM AT YOUR HOUSE?

If so, please contact Denise Conter. We need them back!

UPDATE ON THE FIELD HOUSE/CONCESSIONS STAND

If you have been up to the fields lately, you have seen a huge change! Yes, the long-awaited field house/concessions stand is taking shape at A Field, near the parking lot. Lots of labor and money have gone into the two story structure. The first floor will house the Western Branch Little League concessions stand and the WBHS/WBMS softball storage area. The second floor will include meeting space and an area for supplies and will overlook A Field. The building will be topped off with a blue metal roof to match the WBHS Football Concessions Stand to develop a uniform style at the Sports Complex.

We are asking for your support! To complete the structure we are seeking financial contributions.

Your financial contributions are tax deductible and every bit helps! As you may have heard, the WBLL \$2200 field tractor was stolen from a locked storage box at the fields in August. So, your financial assistance will be greatly appreciated.

The enclosed flier on our Wall of Fame tells you about a great way to show your support for softball and the league. For only \$100 you can purchase a brick, which will be engraved and installed on our Wall of Fame in a prominent area on the fieldhouse.

If you have questions on our brick campaign, please contact Karen Warren at warren@wbll.org.

If you would like additional information on the field house or would like to help in any way, please contact Chuck Anderson or Tom Conter.

THE FALL BALL SKILLS CLINIC

By John Rusch

Field "A" buzzed with activity for a couple of hours before the lights went out on Tuesday evenings this fall. Just as our new building has been taking shape, our fall ball program was growing on the inside of the backstop fence. The fall ball program, which has always been focused on learning and player development, took on another dimension this season, with the addition of an individual skills clinic. Over half of the Major division players attended the eight hour clinic, which was held in four two hour sessions. The clinic's focus was on individual development, with emphasis on fun and safety.

The "Barbie box" training aid for sliding was a clear favorite of players, who also enjoyed several stations during each session for hitting, fielding, base running and even beginning pitching.



The girls were tired by the end of the evening, having spent every minute focused on improving their game. During the four sessions they caught hundreds of “high pops” and fielded ground balls. They also bunted, slashed and “hit away” hundreds of balls and made thousands of throws and catches (some into a trash can from the outfield). The old-timers (11 & 12 year olds) shared words of wisdom with next spring’s rookies and everyone had time to laugh and enjoy the great fall weather this year. The last half hour of the day was spent on beginning pitching, which enjoyed tremendous attendance as well. The weather forced one reschedule and the last night was in the mid 50s, so our numbers were down from the other 3 sessions, but those that came out finished us off well.



Though tired, the happy players were “fried” from the field by 8 p.m.



So our new building is progressing well, but it still has a way to go to be completed, with everyone’s help. On the inside of the backstop fence, the players make their pleas of...

“Can we just do five more minutes ... PLEASE?”

... it looks like player development and the individual skills clinic was successful this fall, but the work’s not done. The off season is a great time to work on all those skills that will make your players spring the best season ever. On those warmer than usual winter days, take your ball player outside and have a catch or hit some balls. In addition to those games you may have enjoyed as a kid, there are an unlimited number of websites and thousands of books that have great ideas of things to do with your player that you will both enjoy. If you’re stumped, send me an email johnhenryr@cox.net. My advice is to keep it simple, keep it fun and keep it going during the winter. Tryouts will be here soon.

Special thanks to Paul, Wayne and Missy for all the help...

We’re interested in your feedback and certainly encourage you to share your opinion with your friends and new families considering joining the league.

Please let us know what you think: pres@wbl.org

wbl.org
The place to go for info!