

# UTLL OPENING PITCH

**Celebrating a half century of organized baseball in the UpperTonka area.**

**Volume 3, Issue 1**

**Spring 2005**

## STARTING LINES

On behalf of the Board of the Upper Tonka Little League, we'd like to welcome all new and returning players and their families to the 2005 season!

The following is an update of the projects that were completed last year along with our goals for the upcoming season.

*The Twins grant was completed and used for the following items:*

- Yellow fence guard
- Warning track with new ag-lime added
- The outfields were aerated and re-seeded.

*Our goals for the 2005 Season are:*

- Remodel Concession Stand to improve the working and storage space.
- Cement will be added under the bleachers on field #2.
- Bathrooms to be updated to become wheelchair accessible.
- The addition of picnic tables between fields.
- Upgrade parking lot and resolve drainage issues.
- Provide Trophies for all participants (see page 3).
- Provide parent manual for all participants parents (see page 3).

Our most exciting goal is we are about to unveil our new website.

Our new address is [www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org).

Log on and see what kind of support it will give everybody from coaches to parents to players.

### **Calling all Artists**

Our Little League needs a logo and we need your help.

Please submit your design\* to our P.O. Box by February 25, 2005 and you could be the lucky winner.

Grand Prize \$100 Cash.

\*The winning logo will be fine-tuned by a graphic artist to conform to a digital format for use on the website, etc.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### REGISTRATION DATES

Saturday, February 26, 9:00am to 1:00pm,

Monday, February 28, 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Saturday, March 5th, 9:00am to 1:00pm

**at Grandview Middle School**

### SOFTBALL & BASEBALL COACHES' CLINIC

To be announced

### PLAYERS' CLINICS

**Saturday, March 5**

9 -10 year olds 1:00 to 2:30pm

11-12 year olds 2:30 to 4:00pm

**Saturday, March 12**

9 -10 year olds 1:00 to 2:30pm

11-12 year olds 2:30 to 4:00pm

**Saturday, April 9**

5-6 year olds 9:00 to 10:30am

7-8 year olds 10:30 to 12 noon

**Saturday, April 16**

5-6 year olds 9:00 to 10:30am

7-8 year olds 10:30 to 12 noon

**at Mound Westonka High School**

### TRY-OUTS\*

Saturday, March 19

**at Mound Westonka High School**

### OPENING DAY

9-12 year olds, Saturday, May 7st

5-8 year olds, Saturday, May 21st

**both at WOLNER FIELD**

*\*Will receive more information at registration or check the website.*

(CLIP AND SAVE)

## Upper Tonka Little League: *who we are, what we do*

Upper Tonka Little League (UTLL) is a member of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. Our baseball/softball program runs independently of the local school district and the community education program.

If, after Little League, your player wishes to advance to the next level of baseball or softball, you may contact Loren Davis (952-472-1262) for information about the Whitehawks

Youth Baseball Association (WYBA), which provides opportunities for play for boys aged 13-15; or Steve Sandler (952-471-0429), coordinator of WYBA's softball program for 12-18 year old girls.

The UTLL Board meets monthly, contact a board member or check the website for date, time and location.

### DIRECTORY OF PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES, WEB PAGES

#### LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

[www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org)

#### DISTRICT WEB SITE

[www.eteamz.com/MND1](http://www.eteamz.com/MND1)

#### UPPER TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE

[www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org)

#### WOLNER FIELD

INTERSECTION OF CYPRESS LANE AND MAYWOOD ROAD  
(BEHIND SUPER AMERICA)

INFORMATION/RAIN OUT 952-472-3541

#### UPPER TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD 2005

##### President:

Darcy Arone 952-472-8000  
[darcy@utll.org](mailto:darcy@utll.org)

##### Treasurer:

Martine Hewitt 952-472-6708  
[martine@utll.org](mailto:martine@utll.org)

##### Secretary:

Deb Bennyhoff 952-472-4941  
[deb@utll.org](mailto:deb@utll.org)

##### Coaching Coordinator:

Bill Johnsen 952-472-1549  
[bill@utll.org](mailto:bill@utll.org)

##### Softball Coordinator:

Betsy Brady 612-472-3866  
[betsy@utll.org](mailto:betsy@utll.org)

##### Safety Officer:

Jim Ihli 612-619-6197  
[jim@utll.org](mailto:jim@utll.org)

##### Player Agent:

Dick Kunz 952-472-4213  
[dick@utll.org](mailto:dick@utll.org)

##### Communications' Coordinator:

Andrea Nelson 952-472-2114  
[andrea@utll.org](mailto:andrea@utll.org)

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All the excitement of baseball season begins with registration, so before your player can pick up a bat, pick up your pen and head to Grandview Middle School, 1881 Commerce Boulevard (see page 1 for dates and times).

To comply with Little League rules, **first-year players and players who have not registered with our league before must provide a birth certificate to validate that their birthdays are between August 1, 1992 and July 31, 2000.**

UTLL is pleased to inform parents of new and returning players that 2005 registration costs for players in both leagues remain the same as they were for 2003. Fees will be reduced by \$20.00 for the third player in the the family.

After March 5th , players may get late-registration information via our new website at [www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org), or they may sign up at a player clinic. A \$10.00 late fee will be added, and players will be placed on a team if there are openings, or put on a waiting list. Only one late fee will be required per family.

Registration fees go far to ensure that every player has a baseball season that is both exciting and safe.

#### INSTRUCTIONAL (AGES 5-8)

<b>COSTS PER PLAYER</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>5 OPENING DAY</b>	
<b>TICKETS*</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$85.00</b>

#### MINORS AND MAJORS (AGES 9-12)

<b>COSTS PER PLAYER</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>5 OPENING DAY</b>	
<b>TICKETS*</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>

**\*OPENING DAY FUNDRAISING TICKETS:** Tickets can be exchanged for a hot dog and pop on either league's opening day, May 7st or May21st . Proceeds from the players' purchase of these tickets will fund field and parking lot improvements. *Players have the option of keeping the tickets or re-selling them for their face value of \$2.00 each.*

## TEAM INFORMATION

### Baseball

We need coaches due to the increased number of teams, so we encourage parents to attend the coaches' clinic. It's a great way to determine if coaching is right for you.

Eight-year-olds may play with teams of 7-8 year olds, or they may try out to qualify to play with 9-year-old boys' baseball teams, or 9-10 year-old girls' softball teams. Nine-year-old boys play in a league of their own and their teams play against one another. Some of the 8 year-olds who try out will be moved up to fill out those teams. Coaches will draft 10-12 year-old players into Major League teams after try-outs in March. The remainder of 10-12 year old players will play on Minor League teams.

### Softball

The girls' softball teams will play in a traveling league against Chanhassen as they did in 2004. Last year, there were two 8-10 year-old teams and two 11-12 year-old teams, and we hope to increase those numbers this season. Try-outs will be held to divide players into evenly matched teams. This year 8 year old girls have a choice between playing on a softball or co-ed baseball team. Get more information at registration.



## MAKE 2005 THE YEAR YOU GET IN THE GAME!

Sharing your time and skills will help UTLL make this a great season for our players, as well as a strong program for the seasons ahead. Can you help in any of the following areas? Please read our wish list and come and join our team!

### Organization Positions Open:

Assistant Equipment Manager  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Recycling Manager

**Any Professional recommendations for repairing Wolner Field parking lot are welcome.**

### Are you a construction trade professional or a skilled re-modeler?

At registration you will have the opportunity to pick an area to volunteer in addition to your time spent in the concession stand. Below are some of the opportunities:

- Carpentry work
- Dry-walling
- Re-tiling
- Electrical
- Painting
- Plumbing
- Roofing

### Little League Day at the Dome ? Upper Tonka Little League Day at a Saint Paul Saints Game? Interested?

Volunteer(s) needed to organize Little League Day at the Dome to watch the Twins play ball and/or our own Upper Tonka Little League Day at a St Paul Saints baseball game.

You would work with a representative from the Twins and/or the Saints. If you're interested in helping out, let a board member know at registration.

### AN IMPORTANT "UMP-DATE"

UTLL will schedule another Umpire's Clinic for 2005. If you are at least 13 and interested in umpiring at minor league games this season, **attendance at the clinic is encouraged.** Check [www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org) or watch the **Laker** to learn the clinic's date and time. Call Darcy Arone at 472-8000 with any questions.

## Parent Manual Information Booklet

New in 2005, the Upper Tonka Little League has prepared an information booklet for parents and volunteers to learn more about the league. The intent of the booklet is to provide information regarding commonly asked questions, expectations of parents and participants, specifics about how the league is organized, and the volunteer opportunities needed to help improve the league. Copies of the information booklet will be available at the registration events and also will be available for review and downloading from the new Upper Tonka Little League website.

[www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org).

## Trophies, Trophies, Trophies

New for the 2005 season, the Upper Tonka Little League will be providing trophies to all participants in the league. This will be done at no additional cost to participants. Currently, each team has individually decided whether to take a collection to purchase trophies. Based upon feedback from coaches, it was decided to have the league uniformly provide a small trophy to all participants to avoid a situation where some participants received a trophy and some didn't. This was especially evident amongst families with multiple players on different teams where one sibling received a trophy and another did not. We will try this for 2005 and evaluate how it is received.

## Upper Tonka Little League

P.O.Box 53  
Mound MN 55364

### ***Thanks for a great season!***

The Board of the UTLL wishes to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support during the 2004 season.

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**GMAC-RFC**  
**MICHAEL AND SHEILA SEATS**

**AMERICAN LEGION, POST 398 MOUND**

**TALON MAUFACTURING, INC**

**POHLAD FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**TOM BRANDABUR**  
Providing and installing the sound systems in both announcing booths.

**MATT HOY**  
Contributions from the Twins

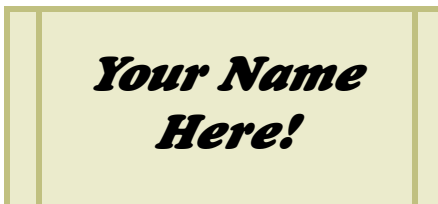
**JOHN ECCLES**  
Winterizing Fields

**LOREN DAVIS**  
Managing equipment

**All of our Team Sponsors**

**BRANT AND ANDREA NELSON,**  
**DOCUNET**  
Printing

**VOLUNTEER MAJOR LEAGUE UMPIRES**  
Bob Brown  
Al Schmidt  
Jack Mattefy



**Is your business interested in sponsoring a sign on our improved fencing? For more information, contact any board member.**

We would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions during registration 2004:

Chris Naylor-Sheehan  
Tim Sheehan  
Mark and Darcy Pouti  
Keith Randklev  
Jason and Carmen Aufderheide  
Lance and Rhonda Vicknair  
Paul and Debi Wanous  
Kenneth B Eckstrom  
Greg and Linda Forseth  
Kim Marinac  
Mike Schoephoerster  
Jodi and Andrew Weinzierl

We would also like to thank all those people who gave their time to make last season a success!!