



RINK RATS NEWSLETTER – FROM THE MCFARLAND COMMUNITY ICE ARENA

Welcome to the first edition of the Rink Rats Newsletter, from the McFarland Community Ice Arena board of directors. This newsletter will deliver quick rink updates that take just a minute to scan. Please share this newsletter with your members and feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions at: mcfarlandice.president@gmail.com

NEW LEADERSHIP – NEW BOARD MEMBERS

- Following the resignation of former board president Brian Osterhaus, the board elected vice president Tod Pritchard to take over as president. Kristin Gullickson was also elected as vice president. Barb Rosten remains treasurer, and Dave Hinrichs is secretary.
- Also elected to the board, Aaron Babcock, Jeff Blattner, and Amy Paulios. Pat Babcock was re-elected to the board as well.
- One board position remains open. Please contact Tod if you would like to be nominated, or know someone who might be interested: mcfarlandice.president@gmail.com

CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- With the help of rink manager Christian Blick and rink operations manager Rob Nixon, the board moved quickly to make health and safety improvements including:
 - A new first-aid station just to the left of the front doors (while standing inside the lobby) is stocked with instant ice packs, bandages, and other supplies which will be replenished on a regular basis.
 - A new Automatic External Defibrillator which will be serviced on a regular basis. This AED is located just below the first-aid station.
 - The board purchased First-Aid, AED, and CPR training for all employees. Any rink customers interested in attending a November 10th training session should contact Tod at: mcfarlandice.president@gmail.com
 - New safety procedures including an updated Incident Report system is in the works.
- The board also approved new rink cleaning protocols including deep cleaning and sanitizing of the bathrooms and locker room showers, provided by Cintas.
- New lobby mats are now cleaned and serviced by Cintas on a regular basis.

RINK IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSION

- As the McFarland Community Ice Arena enters its 30th year of operation, the board has approved several upgrades and improvements, and continues to press forward on the rink expansion plan.
- Upgrades and improvements:
 - Digital Ice Control System – This replaces an antiquated and unreliable analog control system. This will allow rink operations manager Rob Nixon to remotely monitor and more closely control ice temperatures which will lead to a better ice surface and energy savings.
 - Solar Panels – SunPeak (<https://www.sunpeakpower.com/>) is now our solar energy partner. The company will install solar panels on the rink's roof this spring which will lead to substantial savings in operating costs. McFarland Community Ice Arena will become the first rink in southern Wisconsin to use solar power.
- Expansion:
 - Includes a new studio ice sheet, an expanded high school hockey locker room, a workout area, additional restrooms and a larger conference room with a mini-kitchen.
 - The board continues to work closely with general contractor Bachmann Construction to refine design plans in concert with subcontractors.
 - Watch this space for updates on new fundraising efforts and on groundbreaking timing.

NEW RINK LOBBY RESERVATION PROCEDURE

- The rink lobby is offered as a courtesy space during practice sessions. We welcome the families and friends of athletes on the ice at that time to watch practices, get some work done on your laptop, etc.
- However, on special occasions a different customer group may want to use the lobby space while another customer group is on the ice. Examples include:
 - SWFSC setting up space for an exhibition the following day while MYHA is on the ice for practice.
 - McFarland High school hockey team holding a pasta dinner while SWFSC is on the ice for practice.
 - MYHA holding a clothing sale while McFarland High School hockey team is on the ice for practice.
- Starting November 1, 2023, the board is implementing a rink lobby signup procedure to handle such requests.
- Please see the letter and procedure document attached to this email for more information.

- Important notes:
 - If another group has reserved the lobby while your athlete is on the ice, the board recommends that families and friends make alternate plans during that time due to limited space. You may want to consider watching practice from the bleachers or simply drop your athlete off and return after practice for pickup.
 - This policy does not include hockey games, tournaments, camps, or figure skating exhibitions. It is only for practice sessions.
 - All reservation requests are assessed before they are confirmed by the rink operations manager to ensure there are no conflicts with other rink activities or operational needs.
 - This is only for special occasions. User groups are asked not to request the lobby for every ice practice time they have reserved.
 - We have many user groups, but only one lobby and one rink. Let's work together as an ice community to share the space for everyone's benefit.

RINK RATS NEWSLETTER – FINAL THOUGHTS

- Reminder... please don't tape fliers to the glass doors leading in and out of the rink. Use your designated bulletin board areas first. If you have special requests, please see Facilities Manager Rob Nixon.
- Good luck to our new McFarland High School hockey coach Jack Winger, his staff and players, as the JV and Varsity teams start the 2023-24 campaign at home on Saturday, November 18th.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions at: mcfarlandice.president@gmail.com