



RINK RATS NEWSLETTER – FROM THE MCFARLAND COMMUNITY ICE ARENA

Welcome to the April 2026 edition of the Rink Rats Newsletter, from the McFarland Community Ice Arena board of directors. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions at: mcfarlandice.president@gmail.com

ICE OUT!

The Spartan Rink will be closed beginning May 21 through June 28, 2026. Facilities Manager Rob Nixon and our staff will melt the ice, make repairs to the cooling system and boards, and put down fresh lines under the ice. Of course, we'll still have ice available on the Starion Bank Rink!

WELCOME CULVER'S OF MCFARLAND TO THE RINK

We're excited to announce that Culver's of McFarland is now a major sponsor of the McFarland Community Ice Arena. We'll be placing their logo in our Spartan Rink under the ice, as well as adding a dasher board ad. Watch for Culver's coupons and giveaways next hockey season.



KEEPING ICE AFFORDABLE

At the McFarland Community Ice Arena, our board of directors has always been committed to offering the most affordable ice in Dane County. For more than a decade, we've been proud to have the lowest — or tied for the lowest — rates in the area, and that commitment isn't changing as we head into our 2026–27 Fiscal Year beginning August 1.

That said, the cost of just about everything keeps going up. Since our last rate adjustment in August 2024, our core operating costs have risen more than 6% annually. We've worked hard to offset those increases wherever we can, including reducing electricity costs through our rooftop solar panels and finding savings across other areas of our operations.

We'll continue exploring new revenue streams, sponsorships, and creative ways to keep costs down. Even so, to stay financially healthy and continue delivering the quality experience you expect, we do need to increase our fees by approximately 5% this coming season. We don't take that lightly, and we're grateful for your understanding and your continued support of our rink and community.

GIRLS HOCKEY RULES



Congratulations to the McFarland Youth Hockey Association (MYHA) for helping to pull off the biggest Girls Hockey event in the state! Both rinks were in action for the second annual Junior Icebergs 8U Jamboree. More than 150 athletes from 13 associations participated.

Here is some great news coverage of the event:

[WKOW 27 News](#)

[WMTV 15 News](#)

[Leader Independent Newspaper](#)



WINTER OLYMPIC SPOTLIGHT ON MCFARLAND

The Winter Olympics stirred interest not only in hockey (congrats to the Men's and Women's teams), but to our area figure skating and speed skating clubs, which the McFarland Community Ice Arena hosts. WMTV 15 News gave the rink and our partners a lot of Olympic love on the air and online.

- [Madison Speed Skating Club](#)
- [Wisconsin Inspire Synchronized Skating team](#)



On Friday, March 27, the Madison Speed Skating Club hosted "Skate with the Olympians". Photos posted here: [Skate with Olympians](#)

MCFARLAND FLURRY

Southern Wisconsin Figure Skating Club (SWFSC) hosted its 3rd Annual McFarland Flurry competition on February 28 and March 1. About 100 skaters from Wisconsin, Illinois, and even Florida, participated in this year's event. This is a huge fundraiser for SWFSC.



CONGRATULATIONS TO MCFARLAND YOUTH AND HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Another hockey season has come to an end. Congratulations to all our athletes and their families. Here are a few highlights:



MYHA's Bantam B Team won the state championship

The Squirt A team brought home the State Runner-Up title





McFarland High School Hockey beat St Mary's Springs in a triple overtime thriller in the state sectional semifinals.

Unfortunately, McFarland lost to Waunakee in the sectional final. Another amazing season for this program.

Congrats to head coach Beau Brezenski, named Division 2 / Section 4 Coach of the Year!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMING TO AN END



- Our fundraising for the expansion is coming to an end soon.
- We still have room for you to be honored on the donor wall.
- For as little as \$500, your name will be added.
- Contact Amy Paulios, Capital Campaign Coordinator at mcfarlandice.advertising@gmail.com or call (507) 272-3128.

SUMMER EDGE REGISTRATION



Summer is a great time for hockey athletes to raise their game to the next level. The Hockey Factory Summer Edge Camps focus on skating skills, stick handling, puck shooting, and body contact. Both rinks and our Training Center will be incorporated into these camps. [Watch this space.](#)

NEWS AND NOTES

- A big thanks to Rob Nixon and Steve Chvala for their quick action to repair a small leak in the Starion Bank Rink cooling system.



- Our new Customer Handbook [is now online.](#)

- The SWFSC “Learn to Skate” program, and the MYHA “Intro to Hockey” program continues to bring in record-setting numbers of new kids to the ice. A huge thanks to both organizations for their hard work and dedication to launching the next generation on their ice adventures.



If you have anything to contribute to the next newsletter, please let us know: mcfarlandice.president@gmail.com