

# The Madison Press

SERVING GREATER MADISON COUNTY, OHIO, SINCE 1842



## **London Parks and Recreation**

Under New Management

Parks and Rec takes over T-ball program

By Sarah Ehrman

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Batter up!

Spring is only a few weeks away; that means it's time to break out the ol' ball glove.

This year, London residents will notice a change when they register for their T-ball and baseball leagues. The Department of Parks and Recreation is taking over the T-ball league. Director Ryan Ladd said his department is excited about the additional responsibility.

"The time has come for us to become more responsible for youth sports," said Ladd. "At this time, we will take over the responsibilities that the former London Area Youth Baseball League held."

The change in league management has prompted changes to the T-ball program. Ladd said the Parent and Me T-ball has been eliminated; additionally, 9-year-olds will no longer be permitted in the coach pitch league. He also said there will be one umpire on the field "at all times."

The London Area Baseball Council (LABC) will continue to host the pitching machine and kids pitch leagues for children 7- to 12-years-old. Both organizations intend to work cooperatively.

Vice Chairman Dave Mabe said he believes the arrangement will equally benefit both groups.

"We're looking forward to working with Parks and Rec for the betterment of the kids. We think with the format that he's going to begin, it'll work for both programs," Mabe said.

Ladd said both organizations "continue to look for coaches, volunteers and umpires."

"This is still a volunteer process," said Ladd. "We cannot host these events without volunteer personnel."

Registration for both leagues continues from 9 a.m. to noon the next two Saturdays, March 17, and March 24, at the council chambers. Residents with additional questions and concerns can reach Ladd at (740) 852-4462. He said he urges people to register soon.

"If your child wants to play baseball or softball this summer, these next few Saturdays are the time to sign up."

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