

A Westerville Tradition

For more than sixty years, recreational baseball and softball has been a part of the cultural fabric of Westerville. Tens of thousands of boys and girls have played in the JBBL, JGSL and JTBL – now a part of the WYBSL.

A more recent tradition in our community has been the placement of sculptures depicting people at play at a variety of locations around town – including the Community Center, Senior Center and Sports Complex.

Remembering the Past, the Present – and Times to Come

As a part of the WYBSL 60th Anniversary Year, the League dedicated six sculptures, symbolic of the rich history of recreational ball in Westerville, in three locations – the three main youth baseball and softball complexes at Metzger, Towers and Huber Village Parks – and presented them to the City as gifts.

The sculptures are similar in character to those placed in other locations around Westerville.

The Memory Walls at Huber Village

In addition to the six sculptures installed, Huber Village Park is the site of two Memory Walls representing the history and tens of thousands of players that have played youth baseball and softball in Westerville.

These two Memory Walls, depicted on the cover of this brochure, are located just north of the center circle in the middle of the baseball complex and are composed of two sweeping 4' high walls (each approximately 20' long) with a series of plaques (highlighting the history of youth baseball and softball in Westerville). Current and alumni members of the WYBSL family began placing engraved, adopted “balls” dedicated to previous or current players and families onto the walls.

Become Part of this Permanent Historical Exhibit

Please consider donating to this project and having the name of your player or family added to this permanent part of Westerville baseball and softball history.

Six Sculptures of Players In Three Parks

At three times during our 60th anniversary year, we installed sculptures of baseball and softball players in our parks.



Metzger Park. A single, limited-edition sculpture titled *Fast Pitch* of a Softball Pitcher with a dedication plaque are installed in a landscaped “pitching circle” near the entrance to the softball complex at Metzger Park.

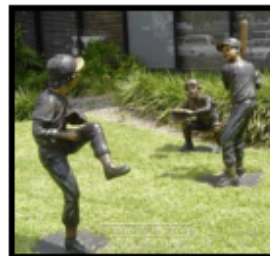
Towers Park.



Two sculptures – one titled *Sandlot*, of a very young boy batter, and the other titled *A League of Their Own*, of a young girl throwing – were placed with a dedication plaque at Towers Park at the center plaza.



Huber Village Park. With the Memory Walls and historical plaques at Huber Village Park, three sculptures of baseball players – titled *Pitcher*, *Catcher* and *Slugger* – are installed in the front of the walls near the center circle of the complex in game positions.



The Memory Wall Plaques

JBBL 1951

Alden Bennett led several volunteer coaches in forming the Junior Boys Baseball League of Westerville with four teams and 64 young men. Incorporated in 1966 with the Westerville Jaycees as its initial sponsor, JBBL has grown to be one of the largest recreational baseball organizations in Ohio.

JGSL 1975

To serve the growing need for recreational opportunities for young ladies, JBBL added girls' softball to its program and formed the Junior Girls Softball League. A few years earlier, Westerville had offered neighborhood softball teams as a part of the City's summer Fun Centers. The first JGSL Commissioner was Frank Dustman.

JTBL 1986

As Westerville grew, so did the number of children. The Junior Tee-Ball League was added to provide activities for the youngest baseball and softball players, and quickly grew to be one of the largest groups in JBBL. Tee-Ball in Westerville had begun as a part of the City's summer Fun Centers.

WYBSL 1992

To show unity of purpose and provide common leadership, all programs were consolidated into a renamed organization, the Westerville Youth Baseball and Softball League. By this time, League programs had grown to serve almost 2,000 boys and girls from ages 5 through 18. JBBL and JGSL became divisions of the overall program.

FALL BALL 1996

In order to allow more area young people to play and to utilize facilities more fully, WYBSL began a Fall Ball program – in 1996 for girls and in 1997 for boys. Fall leagues grew swiftly and in nine short years, more than 1,000 boys and girls from ages 4 through 17 were playing baseball, softball and tee-ball in the Fall.

Adopt-a-Ball Order Form

"Balls" can be donated by past or present WYBSL families and fans. Please use capital letters when filling in your form below.



Top Designation: JBBL JGSL WYBSL

Engraving limited to 3 rows of 11 spaces:

Payment: Cash, Checks or Debit/Credit Card

Please make checks payable to: WYBSL

(\$75 Payment per "ball" must accompany order)

Card: VISA Mastercard Discover

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Exp. Date:

Month Year Security Code

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Please use a separate order form for each ball, but payment may be combined into one check or charge.

Order forms should be mailed with payment to:

WYBSL
c/o Adopt-A-Ball
PO Box 1198
Westerville, OH 43086

To become a part of the WYBSL, the Memory Walls and Sculptures Project – or for further information, contact:

Westerville Youth Baseball and Softball League

WYBSL Website

www.wybsl.org

Click on Adopt-A-Ball

E-mail

wybsl@wybsl.org

WYBSL Sixtieth Anniversary Steering Committee

Bob Crain – Chair	Ken Sahlin
Heidi Wilson – Secretary	Scott Wells
Brent Hendricks	Andy Wilson
John Hesson	

Sixtieth Anniversary Advisory Group

Randy Auler	Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Cocuzzi	Mayor
Dave Collinsworth	City Manager
Cindy Crowe	School Board Member
Jeff Hartnell	Visitor and Convention Bureau Exec. Dir.
Lauren Hoffman	Parks Foundation President
Suzanne Kile	Schools Community Relations Director
Jim McCann	Recreation Advisory Board Chair

WYBSL thanks our partners, without whom our young people would be unable to play:

City of Westerville
Westerville Parks & Recreation Department
Westerville City Schools



Westerville Youth Baseball and Softball League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations to WYBSL are appreciated and are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

WESTERVILLE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUE



Adopt-A-Ball Program Memory Walls and Sculptures Project Family Commemorative Engraved Balls



Memory Walls and Sculptures at Huber Village Park

Join fellow families and friends in supporting permanent reminders of our fun playing youth baseball and softball in the parks and schools of Westerville in the JBBL, JGSL and WYBSL