

**This TPA Member Newsletter will be published monthly beginning
with this June 2022 issue.**

June 2022 Member Newsletter



See the TPA website at tallahasseepickleball.com

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Message from the President

Tallahassee Pickleball Association is now entering its second year of operation. During the first year we formed a board of directors, established the organization as a Florida Non-Profit, 501(c)(3) approved, tax exempt corporation, set up a website and Facebook presence, began accepting memberships (currently at 166 members), and established relationships with both the city and county Parks and Recreation organizations. We have met several times with Parks and Rec to encourage the improvement of courts by adding shade structures, new courts county-wide, and the expansion of league play and formal instruction.

TPA currently has a good working relationship with city and county organizations, and we are increasing the pace of our advocacy for new courts and improvements.

One area where I think we have fallen short is in ongoing communications to members. We haven't published enough member emails, and have relied too heavily on Facebook, which many people do not use. To remedy this, we will begin publishing this *TPA Member Newsletter* on a monthly basis. The newsletter will include standard sections providing association status along with current events. We also solicit member inputs on any topic, which can be done by talking to members of the board of directors in person or by emailing us at tallahasseepickleball@gmail.com. Please contact us if you would like to contribute ideas for an article or write an article of your own. Also feel free to contribute posts to the *Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook Group*.

Membership Status.

TPA began accepting members in August of 2021, and now has 166 paid members. Our Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook Group currently has 282 members. Tallahassee Parks and Recreation estimates that there are 1500 local pickleball players, so TPA membership is at about 11% of the local pickleball population and FB membership is at 19%. We are adding members at a rate of about 12 per month since January 2022.

501(c)(3) Status ... Fundraising

TPA is now officially tax exempt! We received notification of our approved 501(c)(3) status in December. This important milestone opens the door for us to seek sponsors and donors for some much needed projects. We will be looking for help from our members to make this work.

Many potential TPA projects will need financial support beyond what we can provide through our small membership fees and tournaments. Examples include: shade structures at Tom Brown Park and Southeast Park; providing permanent nets, posts, and fencing to encourage conversion of underused tennis courts into 3 or 4 dedicated Pickleball courts at sites around the area; helping to finance light fixtures for courts; water bottle fillers; and other project ideas that TPA members may identify to the board. Future newsletters and Facebook posts will announce projects needing financial support. You can help by providing project ideas and identifying potential sponsors.

TPA Board of Directors for 2022-3

- Fred Markham, President
- Ebo Barefoot, Vice President
- Betsy Lieberman, Treasurer
- Cathy Bedsole, Director
- JoAnn Cox, Director
- Rod Houck, Director
- Oz Uzun, Director

Thanks also to the former board members who helped get TPA up and running during 2021-2: Barb Cairns, Cathy Shoultz, Christian Weiss.

TPA 1st Year Milestones

- May 2021 - Initial TPA planning meetings
- Jun 2021 - Formed TPA as a Florida Non-Profit Corporation
- Aug 2021 - Initial interest survey results (123 favorable responses)
- Aug 2021 - Began accepting memberships (166 members as of June 2022)
- Sep 2021 - Established website www.tallahasseepickleball.com
- Sep 2021 - Established *Tallahassee Pickleball Association* Facebook Group
- Dec 2021 - Obtained Directors and Officers Insurance
- Dec 2021 - Coordinated volunteer support to the Tallahassee Parks and Rec Pickleball Extravaganza
- Dec 2021 - Pickleball Central discount code available to members (CRTPA)
- Dec 2021 - Completed first T-shirt sales (60 shirts sold with TPA logo)
- Dec 2021 - 501(c)(3) approved
- Feb 2022 - Established TPA Event Committee to organize periodic activities
- Mar 2022 - Trained referees for Senior Games support
- Mar 2022 - Provided Senior Games volunteer support and referees
- Mar 2022 - Florida tax exempt status approved
- May 2022 - Purchased general liability insurance (required to use city facilities)
- May 2022 - Conducted pickleball lesson for Leon County employees
- May 2022 - Pickleball Carnival at Winthrop Park (TPA Event Committee)
- May 2022 - Leon County agrees to add 4 pickleball courts at Chaires Park
- June 2022 - Conducted 2nd pickleball lesson for Leon County employees

City of Tallahassee PRNA relationship (Ashley Edwards, Director; Glen Howe and Lenin Mongerie, pickleball leads)

- Rod Houck, Fred Markham, and former TPA board member Barb Cairns are on the city Parks and Rec Community Pickleball Committee. Lenin convenes this committee periodically to discuss ideas for changes to formats of play, leagues, and court schedules, etc.
- TPA has held numerous meetings with Lenin and other PRNA staff to encourage adding services such as additional instruction, ladder leagues, round robins, tournaments, etc. These things began to happen during the Fall of 2021. TPA doesn't claim credit, but we do believe our advocacy helped them along.
- TPA has provided several inputs to improve communication on the city website and the Tom Brown Park bulletin board.

- Tom Brown Park courts. TPA offered to provide shade structures out of TPA funds, up to \$5K (fundraising needed), but the structures preferred by Parks and Recreation cost \$15K to \$20K, which is out of reach. We are still working with the city, but for now individuals are bringing our own popup shelters. Having shade is important to extend play time during hot summer afternoons.
- TPA is donating \$300 this month to the city Friends Of Our Park program for new windsocks and a high quality mat at the court entrance. These items have been requested by players at Tom Brown Park.
- Winthrop Park courts. TPA advocated unsuccessfully to replace one of six tennis courts with 4 dedicated pickleball courts and permanent nets. Instead, the city painted pickleball court lines on all of the tennis courts and provided net tiedown straps. Please take advantage of these new courts.
- Southeast Park courts. Six new courts on Four Oaks near Southwood. Some good news - the city has decided to add a shade structure over the center aisle between the courts. Some not so good news - the courts probably won't open until the park is completely finished, which now looks to be during October. No firm date is scheduled for completion at this point. We are continuing to discuss options for early opening with the city.
- Capital City Senior Games. TPA provided 25 volunteers who worked approximately 300 hours during the 3-day Pickleball events held at Tom Brown Park and Jack McLean Community Center. Volunteers provided various services including check-in, maintaining scores and updating brackets, refereeing matches, distributing t-shirts and goodie bags, helping injured players, getting players to their courts, and even providing live commentary for the WCOT videos of several matches.

Leon County Parks and Rec relationship (Amanda Heidecker, Director)

Chaires Park courts. TPA advocated for dedicated pickleball courts at Chaires Park to replace one of the four tennis courts. The courts are being resurfaced this summer, presenting an ideal opportunity. Partially as a result of our meetings with Amanda Heidecker, the county has decided to paint pickleball lines for 8 pickleball courts. There will be one court on each side of all tennis nets, and portable pickleball nets will be provided. Four of the pickleball courts will be fully painted and four will be "dotted in" so that we can tape them when additional courts are needed for tournaments or leagues.

Leon County Employee Pickleball Training. TPA provided volunteer instructors for two introductory pickleball training sessions for Leon County employees, with 16 total participants. The sessions were sponsored by the Leon County Human Resources Dept., and were held at Chaires Park and at Canopy Oaks Park. We hope to see these new players on the courts soon!

Advocacy Campaign for Additional Courts in Tallahassee and Leon County

Our most recent addition to the TPA board of directors, JoAnn Cox, has taken the lead on a campaign to advocate with the city and county to add pickleball courts. We recently met with the BLUEPRINT Intergovernmental Agency about Market District Park. As a result of our meeting, BLUEPRINT will look into the feasibility of adding a fourth pickleball court and adding electrical service to expedite future lighting. TPA is considering starting a fundraising campaign to defray the costs of a fourth court. The next meeting will be in early July.

Our next steps include a series of meetings with the city, county, and the BLUEPRINT Intergovernmental Agency to discuss opportunities for pickleball courts in all planned new parks, as well as opportunities to add courts to existing parks. If you know of any opportunity for adding pickleball courts to a park, please contact us via email at tallahasseepickleball@gmail.com or by posting on the Facebook group.

TPA Facebook Group

Our Facebook group is [Tallahassee Pickleball Association](#), a public group that now

Our Facebook group is [Tallahassee Pickleball Association](#), a public group that now has 282 members. Take a look, join the group, and add your Pickleball posts and comments. (No marketing or soliciting, please.)

See also the [Big Bend Pickleball \(Tallahassee, Florida\)](#) group operated by Barbara Cairns. Barb's group currently has 556 members.

Pickleball Central DISCOUNT CODE

Pickleball Central's Rewards Program (Use Code CRTPA)
Save 5% and 5% comes back to TPA in an annual Pickleball Central gift card!

This is a great way to save money on your purchases from Pickleball Central and support TPA at the same time!

You get a 5% discount and TPA gets a 5% credit when you order from [pickleballcentral.com](#) using order code CRTPA. For every purchase using the discount code CRTPA, Pickleball Central will credit TPA's account with 5% of the purchase price. Each year TPA can use the funds on account to purchase nets, balls, and other equipment. So you get a discount and contribute to your Pickleball association at the same time. Sweet!

Update Your Profile Data

Help us improve our communications by making sure your email and telephone number are up to date on the [TPA website](#).

Reach Out!

Give us your comments, suggestions, and questions via email or via post/comment on the Facebook group, or simply talk with one of our board members at the courts.

Email: tallahasseepickleball@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

We need someone familiar with online word processing tools to format and distribute this monthly newsletter. Content is provided by others. Training will be provided. Estimate 3 to 5 hours per month. Task is to format content provided by the TPA board, prepare and distribute a test message to the board, edit to incorporate board member comments, and distribute the final product to the TPA members.

TPA Board Members

Current board members are listed on the [TPA website](#) About page.

This message was sent to you by [Tallahassee Pickleball Association, Inc.](#)

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