

**TPA monthly member newsletter.**

October 7, 2022



See the TPA website at [tallahasseepickleball.com](https://tallahasseepickleball.com)

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### **Membership Renewals**

Automatic messages are now going out to TPA members for their annual renewal. The renewal messages come during your anniversary month. Please go to the website to renew you membership so that we can continue our work to grow pickleball in Tallahassee and Leon County. The annual fee is still \$25. You can pay on our website's secure payment portal or by Venmo to Tallahassee Pickleball Association (TPA INC). Optionally, pay cash to any board member or send a check to TPA, 2002 High Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

### **New Courts Coming ... though not as soon as we would like!**

- **Southeast Park** - Construction is slowly coming to completion. The pickleball courts are ready for the nets to be installed, but that can't happen until construction of the park is completed. The shade structure promised for the center aisle between the courts still needs to be installed. Good news: there is a bathroom a short walk from the courts. City Parks and Recreation recently met with the Pickleball Community Advisory Committee to develop plans for playing on the new courts. These recommendations will go to Ashley Edwards, PDNA Director for approval. Committee recommendations include

PRNA Director, for approval. Committee recommendations include Open Play on alternate days from Tom Brown Park Open Play, so that outdoor Open Play will be available every day of the week. Two paddle racks are planned, one on each side of the aisle separating the sets of three courts. The hope is that recreational and competitive players can share the courts in a natural way, with players of similar skill levels stacking paddles together. We also discussed the addition of a challenge court for competitive players, but this recommendation is being deferred for now.

- **Market Square Park** - Construction has begun on the water retention ponds and general site preparation. The current plan is to add three pickleball courts, without lights. TPA has requested a 4th court be added and that lights be installed. Detailed design is still in process.
- **Chaires Park** - Beautiful new lights and new fencing have been installed. The courts should be resurfaced and ready for play by the end of October. We will have 4 painted pickleball courts with roll out portable nets on two of the tennis courts. An additional 4 courts will be "dotted in" on the other tennis courts, to allow us to quickly set up 8 courts for tournaments.
- **Northeast Park** - Occasional survey questions come out from Blueprint.org about this park. Please respond when you get the opportunity, asking for pickleball courts. They really do take these public inputs into account. We will announce the surveys on our Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook Group.
- **Tom Brown Park** - City engineers have been out to assess court damage. No word yet on plans for maintenance actions. TPA installed new windsocks and a door mat at the gate. The windsocks are a bit heavy, so we may need to go to a lighter fabric. They work well when the wind is up, but not so well in light and variable breezes. Suggestions welcome!
- **Ft. Braden Community Center** - TPA member, Dave Zeigler, wrote a letter to Amanda Heidecker, Director of Leon County Parks and Recreation, requesting pickleball courts be developed on the west side of town. Dave specifically requested that the basketball courts at Ft. Braden Community Center be resurfaced and pickleball courts be added. Thanks, Dave, for reaching out proactively! The initial response is that Parks and Rec will look into it, and TPA will continue to follow up on this activity.

Do you have ideas for new court locations? Or ideas to improve play at the

existing courts? Please reach out via email to [admin@tallahasseepickleball.com](mailto:admin@tallahasseepickleball.com) or by posting on the Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook Group.

### **T-Shirt Sales**

TPA is offering a new T-shirt sale for 2022. We had a successful sale of about 70 shirts in 2021, and hope to repeat this year, with perhaps even more shirts sold. We haven't yet finalized the pricing, but it will include a discount for TPA members. This year's sale will offer more colors, including at least one shade of blue, a pink, teal and gray. The gray may be offered in cotton and dri-fit materials. Please provide input via email or on the TPA Facebook Group if you have color preferences. The TPA logo will be enlarged and simplified for improved readability. Rodney Houck and Oz Uzun are managing the sale this year, and will be reaching out soon with details.

### **Deerlake Middle School Pickleball Program**

When Jeff and Cathy Schroepfer found out that the Deerlake Middle School sport courts were being redone last year, they lobbied to Principal, Steve Mills, and Activities Director, Alex Stemle, to put in pickleball courts along with the planned basketball courts, tennis courts, and running lane. Once Mr. Mills and Mr. Stemle were on board with the idea, they made it happen and now we have 4 dedicated pickleball courts that students, faculty/staff, and the neighboring community have come to love and use regularly.

Each week we have 2 after school training sessions for Deerlake Pickleball.

- **Faculty/Staff meet on Mondays 4:00 – 5:30 pm, October through April**
  - Coach Jeff Schroepfer has trained 26 faculty/staff at this time. The number of teachers who play each Monday varies depending on teacher schedules. We usually have 8 – 12 per week.
  - The faculty/staff love the opportunity for collegiality, exercise and pickleball fun!
- **The student Deerlake Pickleball Club meets on Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:30 pm, October through April**

- Club Sponsors are Cathy Schroepfer and Jen Schwartz.
- We currently have 24 students who have joined the Deerlake Pickleball Club.
- Last year we had 14 students join the Pickleball Club, so we have grown quite a bit this year.
- Students have a blast with their club play. They learn the basic skills of pickleball while Coach Jeff makes it fun by including competitive games where the students can hone their skills while having a great time and getting exercise.
- PE teachers teach a Pickleball Unit in the PE classes during the school day. We have had several students join the club because of the interest that was sparked in PE.
- We are also starting a monthly “during school” Pickleball Club that will meet each month to play during club time at school. Our Club Rush is tomorrow so we will know more later this week.

We are planning our Pickleball Fundraiser called, “Dink at the Deer”, scheduled for the weekend of February 11th - 12th, 2023 here at Deerlake. This will be open to the public and more information will be forthcoming as time gets closer.

### **New TPA Communications Committee**

TPA has formed a new Communications Committee with JoAnn Cox as the committee chair. The committee will lead our outreach to local government and private organizations, as well as conducting research for available grants and publicizing pickleball activities in local media, etc.

### **Volunteers Needed**

TPA needs a volunteer to spend a few hours each month adding and updating content to our website, [www.tallahasseepickleball.com](http://www.tallahasseepickleball.com). Approximately 4 hours per month is expected. Mainly, need to refresh the photographs on the website and occasionally on the Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook Group. If interested in helping out, please reply to [admin@tallahasseepickleball.com](mailto:admin@tallahasseepickleball.com).

**NOTE:** We also welcome photographs of Tallahassee area pickleball players to be posted on our FB group at any time; group members can just submit posts. Send photographs to [admin@tallahasseepickleball.com](mailto:admin@tallahasseepickleball.com) if you would like them added to the website home page.

## **October Tournament Reminders**

- [PB&YAY! Great Pumpkin Edition - October 15-16](#)
- [Rose City Tournament in Thomasville, October 22-23](#)

## **Membership Status**

TPA is growing! We now have 194 members. Part of the growth is due to the member discounts for PB&YAY! tournaments and TPA events. TPA is also beginning to organize "member only" events. Based on demographic data maintained by the City of Tallahassee, there are approximately 1500 pickleball players in the Tallahassee/Big Bend Area.

## **501(c)(3) Status**

TPA is a Florida tax exempt, nonprofit corporation. We also have IRS 501(c)(3) status.

## **TPA Facebook Group**

Our Facebook group is [Tallahassee Pickleball Association](#), a public group that now has 440 members. Take a look, join the group, and add your Pickleball related posts and comments. (No marketing or soliciting, please.)

## **Pickleball Central DISCOUNT CODE (Use code **CRTPA** at checkout)**

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

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 TPA 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: [admin@tallahasseepickleball.com](mailto:admin@tallahasseepickleball.com)

### **TPA Board Members**

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

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