

TPA Member Newsletter

April 5, 2023



See the TPA website at tallahasseepickleball.com

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Membership Meeting: May 4, 6:00 PM at Eastside Branch Library

The Tallahassee Pickleball Association (TPA) is beginning our 3rd year of operation in May, and we are excited to get the members together for our first membership meeting. Mark your calendars for *May 4, 6:00 PM, at the Eastside Branch Library, 1583 Pedrick Road, Tallahassee*. All members are encouraged to attend.

It's all about TPA: who we are, what we do, what we are planning, and how you can be involved in the direction of your association.

We will have door prizes, food and drinks!

Market District Park Expanded to 4 Dedicated Pickleball Courts

After extensive discussion between Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (IA) and TPA, the design for Market District Park has been revised to add a 4th dedicated pickleball court, with spacing between courts increased to 10 feet. TPA approached Blueprint IA in June 2022 when early sketches showed a design with three closely spaced courts. Last month, TPA and Blueprint IA reached an agreement for TPA to pay \$10,000 of the cost to build a fourth court, with wider spacing. The TPA Board of Directors voted to finance the \$10K, and our Communications Committee, led by JoAnn

Cox, held a planning meeting to kick off the fundraising activities.

Then late last week we received the unexpected good news that Blueprint IA has identified additional funding and will make the improvements without any contribution from TPA! This is great news, and frees us up to pursue other opportunities. Completion of Market District Park is planned for the Fall of 2024.

Many thanks to those TPA members who made early donations to the cause. It was heartening that members stepped up to help with the fundraising before it had even really gotten underway.

We should note that the Blueprint IA staff have been very encouraging of TPA inputs throughout this process. The Director, Autumn Calder; Design and Construction Manager, Dan Scheer; and Project Manager, Sue Tanski are dedicated and competent public servants. It has been a pleasure for the TPA team to work with them for the past several months. Visit blueprintia.org to see the many community improvement projects the Blueprint IA has already completed and is currently planning.

Early Days of Tallahassee Pickleball

Although the first pickleball games were not played in Tallahassee until 2011, it really began in 2003, when Glen Howe's father in-law dragged him out of bed for a 6 AM pickleball match at The Villages. Glen (now the city Parks and Rec. Tennis Superintendent) played at The Villages for several years while visiting his in-laws before finally bringing the game to the Tallahassee Senior Center in 2011. A decision was made to change from mini-tennis (using a Nerf-style ball) to pickleball, and it was played upstairs on the ballroom dance floor. According to TPA member, Carolyn Allaire, the courts were originally marked only with taped 'X' in the four corners because the dancers wouldn't abide having lines on the floor.

Many of the original group of Tallahassee Pickleball players are still active today, and can be found on courts at the Senior Center, Jack McLean Community Center, and at other area venues.

Watch for a detailed history of Tallahassee Pickleball, coming soon to your email inbox and the [Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook Group](#).

Northeast Park Open House

Several TPA members attended the Northeast Park open house hosted by

Several TPA members attended the Northeast Park Open House hosted by Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency at Montford Middle School on March 30. Randi Schuknecht, Anne Davis, Penny and Craig Isom, and Lynda and Fred Markham were on hand to review the preliminary sketches and provide input. Of course we asked for *more pickleball courts!* We talked to the Blueprint staff and filled out comment forms with our requests for dedicated pickleball courts, including lights and hopefully some covered courts.

The 50-acre park is to be situated on Centerville Road near Anderson Elementary School and Montford Middle School. This part of town has a significant percentage of the area's pickleball players, and yet currently has NO dedicated public pickleball courts.

Take a look at the [Northeast Park page](#) on the Blueprint IA website, especially the [Bubble Diagram](#), which shows the pre-design phase layout of the park. The current plan is to place the pickleball courts in section C, along with sand volleyball and "sports courts." Based on comments by a representative of the design firm, Kimley Horn, section C is about 200' x 360'. If we assume there would be one full basketball court, 8 pickleball courts in two rows of four with a 10' aisle, that would leave room to squeeze in a few volleyball courts. Eight pickleball courts should be considered a bare minimum for this park, given the current shortage of pickleball services in the area. Note that the bubble diagram is preliminary, and these sections can readily be revised to accommodate the public's need for services.

You can voice your opinion on the matter by filling out the Blueprint IA [Project Information and Feedback Form](#) for Northeast Park. The Blueprint IA staff and local government are sensitive to public inputs, and your comment will be read and tabulated with the rest. More pickleball inputs from the public can lead to us getting more courts in Northeast Park.

Hat and Visor Sale

In recent weeks you may have seen some pickleball players wearing baseball caps with the Tallahassee Pickleball Association logo. These hats were purchased by TPA and provided to volunteers at the Capital City Senior Games in March. TPA will be offering similar hats and visors for sale soon in three colors: black, white, and light blue. More news to follow.



Capital City Senior Games Volunteers

A big Thank You to the more than 30 TPA volunteers who helped make the Capital City Senior Games Pickleball event so successful for the second year in a row. As in 2022, Lenin Mongerie requested TPA assistance, and TPA member Joe Kowalski stepped up to recruit, organize, and manage the volunteer assignments again this year. [Kelley Smith Burk](#) and Sue Wagner (in the photograph below), [Vivian Mitchell](#), [Fran Sandon](#), [Barbara Cairns](#), and others kept things moving smoothly at the operations tent. [Winfred S. Langley](#) and [Marlon Mutuc](#) spent hours taking photographs and videos. Vivian Mitchell spent the entire day Tuesday on the phone with the WCOT studio providing commentary for the games being recorded and live streamed by the WCOT video crew. Others spent 3-hour shifts moving players and score cards to courts, ensuring that the scores were delivered to the operations tent, handing out Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals, and doing myriad other tasks that come up during an operation of this type. Lenin Mongerie is very appreciative of our volunteers' efforts, and we expect him to call on us again next year to support the 2024 games. See below for the complete list of this year's volunteers, almost all of whom are TPA members.

TPA Volunteers - Capital City Senior Games 2023

Darcy Bolden	Laurie Brown	Kelley Burk
Barbara Cairns	Judy Chin	Owen Chin
Leroy Crockett	David DuBois	Jane DuBois
Kipp Frohlich	Beverly Go	Eileen Kowalski
Joe Kowalski (TPA Organizer)	Lorraine Henman	Jamila Horabin
Rod Houk	Winfred Langley	Fred Markham
Lynda Markham	Vivian Mitchell	Michele Moore
Fran Sandon	John Sivyer	Ofie Sivyer
Vicki Tauxe	Celeste Tibbetts	Keith Vanden Dooren
Marsha Vanden Dooren	Sue Wagner	Sylvia Yarborough
Denise Zabolski Cover		

Denise Zabeiski-Sever



Membership Status

TPA is growing! We now have 285 active 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 volunteer-only 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 827 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!

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

TPA Board Members

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

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