

**TPA monthly member newsletter.**

January 27, 2023



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

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## **Membership Renewals**

TPA memberships are for one year, and are renewable each year for \$25. Our website software automatically sends out renewal reminders via email. If you haven't seen that email, it may be in your *Spam* folder. When you're due, please renew at our website ([www.tallahasseepickleball.com](http://www.tallahasseepickleball.com)) to help continue our work to grow pickleball in Tallahassee and Leon County. 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.

## **Drill/Practice Sessions Coming Soon**

TPA will begin scheduling regular Drill Sessions for Beginner/Advanced Beginner and Intermediate players starting in February. These sessions will be facilitated by TPA volunteers (not instructors), who will introduce a sequence of drills and provide some guidance and the necessary equipment. TPA members will receive early email notification and a discounted fee. Fee per session is \$5 for TPA members, \$10 for

discounted fee. Fee per session is \$5 for TPA members, \$10 for nonmembers. Location has not been decided yet, but we are considering Tom Brown Park and Laverne Payne Park on 4th Avenue.

### **Beginner/Advanced Beginner Round Robin Tournaments**

TPA board members, Cathy Bedsole and Ebo Barefoot, initiated this monthly tournament in October and it is very popular. The roster fills within a day or two of announcement each time. This is a great opportunity for beginners and advanced beginners to get the feel for tournament competition in a fun, low pressure, and non-threatening atmosphere. Look for the monthly signup announcements in your email.

### **Volunteers Needed for Senior Games**

TPA member, Joe Kowalski, is once again organizing TPA volunteers for the 2023 Capital City Senior Games pickleball events on March 7-9. Last year TPA provided dozens of volunteers for the 3-day games. A volunteer request email will be coming your way soon. If you can make the time, it is guaranteed to be a fun way to spend a few hours with your fellow pickleball players.

### **Paddle Labels**

TPA is providing free pickleball paddle labels for anyone who wants them. These are invaluable for when you accidentally leave your paddle. With your name and number on it, someone can easily reach you. The labels are also helpful during open play when it's your turn to go on the court. We are bringing the label kit to community centers and outdoor courts to make the labels, but it is hard to reach everyone this way. If you have a group who gets together to play regularly, just send us a list of names and phone numbers of people who want labels. We will make them and arrange to get them to you so that you can distribute them. Please email the list to [admin@tallahasseepickleball.com](mailto:admin@tallahasseepickleball.com).

### **New Courts Status**

- **Chaires Park** - Courts are finished! A beautiful new court surface, new fencing, and modern lighting have been completed on the old tennis courts. One side of the site has four pickleball courts with portable nets. The nets are high quality SwiftNets, locked in a strongbox in the aisle. We have been enjoying these courts since December. We used temporary lines on 4 courts for the *PR&YAY! XMas*

Temporary lines on 4 courts for the 7-20-23-2023

*Edition Tournament* in December, for a total of 8 courts.

- **Southeast Park** - The park is (finally!) nearly complete and Parks and Recreation is planning a Grand Opening soon. They have also announced that the 3-day Capital City Senior Games pickleball events will be held there during early March.
  - There is a bathroom a short walk from the courts.
  - We have requested the city to establish Open Play on alternate days from Tom Brown Park Open Play so that outdoor Open Play will be available every day of the week. No final decision has been announced yet. 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.
- **Market Square Park** - Courts are planned for completion in late 2024. The current plan includes only three pickleball courts without lights. TPA has requested a 4th court be added and that lights be installed. Detailed design is still in process. The TPA board is considering a fundraiser for the 4th court if the design allows adequate spacing and good court access. More to follow on this topic.
- **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** - Most players have noticed the continuing degradation of the court surface. City engineers have been out to assess court damage, and two interns from a local engineering firm came out to make measurements of the damage. No word yet on plans for maintenance actions.
- **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 the county to resurface the Ft. Braden basketball courts and add pickleball courts. Leon County Parks and Recreation has said they will consider it.

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**

The TPA T-Shirt sale is complete and the shirts have been distributed. We purchased 60 shirts and there are still a few available. Keep an eye out for picklers in the TPA logo. Many thanks to TPA board members, Rodney Houck and Oz Uzun, for managing the sale this year.

### **Deerlake Middle School Courts**

Public play is available at the Deerlake courts after school hours and on weekends. The courts are **required by law** to be locked during school hours, and are then unlocked for the public. Please be patient if you find that the courts are occasionally left locked by accident. This has only happened a couple of times since the courts opened a few months ago.

### **February Tournament Reminder**

- ***PB&YAY! Tournament: Senior Games Prep Gold Edition***
  - Men's & Women's Doubles: Saturday, Feb 25, 2023
  - Mixed Doubles: Sunday, Feb 26, 2003

### **Website 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.

### **Membership Status**

TPA is growing! We now have 257 active members, up from 194 since October. 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 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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