



Words from the Editor

Scott Pollock

This Newsletter is for our members. If you have a story, a helpful tip, pictures, travel information, an event or you just want to have your voice heard, send your article to stpollock41@outlook.com with "HCYP Newsletter" in the Subject line. Your input could appear in the next newsletter.

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From the President’s Desk

Joanne Griesser

Happy autumn. Quite a few things have changed since the last newsletter edition. **Scott Pollock** (pronounced ‘Pah-lick’) is our new Pickle Juice Editor. There are several new board members including; **Ira Frankel** our Treasurer, **Peggy Gaegler** our Secretary, **Harold White** in a new role as VP and me, **Joanne Griesser** as President. We are ready to nominate two new members to the board in the capacities of Training Coordinator, **Alex Thanh Nguyen** and Tournament Coordinator, **Andy Dalal**.

We are fortunate to have **Earl Sneeringer** remain on the board as our Webmaster and Open Play Coordinator. We appreciate his work as our previous President and appreciate all of the efforts he is putting forth now as our Webmaster. He really does keep the technical side of our organization up and running.

All of the Board members, new and returning, are readily available to take your questions or comments and bring them to our meetings for discussion and consideration. You are always welcome to put suggestions in the Suggestion box on our web page.

This has been a busy past few months. The Food Drive was a big success. The Letter of Appreciation for our members is in this Newsletter on page 13. The letter was written to me but it should have been addressed to every person that donated to the cause. Thank you, your generosity is always amazing.

Our organization collaborated with [Howard County Recreation and Parks](#) (HCRP) and the [Department of Aging](#) to host the +55 Showcase at Schooley Mill Park. What a great event! It was well organized and everyone seemed to have a good time. A special thanks to **Steve Orr**, **Marc Austin** and everyone involved for their many hours of planning.

The organization hosted a Town Hall with HCYP Recreation and Parks new Pickleball Representative, Krista Billingsley. We had collected questions from members concerning the role of Recreation and Parks creating more courts and playing opportunities in Howard County. Peggy Gaegler has written an article for this newsletter about that Town Hall.

By the time this newsletter is published, we would have finished our collection of used and new equipment for the Howard County Schools. We are going to be making a bigger effort to get Pickleball included in the Middle and High School curriculum. The organization is donating some refurbished nets, some paddles and balls. If you missed the collection and have a donation, please contact **Duane St. Claire**.

We finally had our Summer Social (it had been postponed twice due to Hurricane Ida and rainstorms)! It was great to see so many people! There were approximately 80 members in attendance. Yes, the games were cut to 7 points and yes, we had to do four players on, four players off the court... however, people did get a chance to talk and eat. **Marc Austin** had a GAMMA table set up on the veranda for folks to borrow a paddle, talk, buy and order equipment. **Sonny Tannan** was lending paddles from Head. Someone brought delicious dumplings and I will admit I ate the last one! Thank you! We did learn some lessons from this event. We need more courts, a table for sticks, a megaphone and more dumplings.

There have been so many cool things happening these past few months; I have only mentioned a few but I don't want to forget about the most recent tournaments or dink contests or open play sessions. These are all due to the efforts of our wonderful volunteers. They do great work!

Just a few other items I would like to mention. The lines for Pickleball are on the courts in Gary Author Sr. Center, Laurel Community Center and Meadowbrook. See Peggy Gaegler's article in Social Events. We will try to find some indoor locations to play this winter. It is very difficult with other sports vying for the same spaces, but we will keep looking.

The Turkey Tournament is being held in November, grab a partner, come out, and play! **Ken Billingsley** is the main organizer, assisted by Andy. All proceeds are going to Grass Roots.

As we return to normal, I would like to remind everyone of our Code of Conduct on the courts. Please be respectful of other players.

See you on the courts.

Marc Austin, Pro Corner

Key differences between Pickleball and Tennis

[Key Differences in Pickleball and Tennis - GAMMA Sports Blog](#) (www.gammasports.com and clicking on the "Blog" link at the top of the page).

"Product Deals" for the holidays in this Newsletter please give everyone my unique GAMMA 25% discount code, which is: ba_austin21.

Anyone can use my code on any order this year. Go to www.gammasports.com and type in Marc's discount code: ba_austin21 at checkout as a "discount code". This will provide buyers 25% off each order of pickleball products, free shipping on order \$90 or more, free tax and the products will be delivered in two to three days to Maryland.

Marc F. Austin
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Webmaster Tidbits

Website Update

Earl Sneeringer, HCPA Webmaster

Over the past few months, we have been experiencing a variety of technical issues with our website. Often, when members signed in to access the organized play page to use the sign-up link, they would receive error messages, or the website would not load. As the webmaster, I have been struggling to resolve these issues, but it was somewhat beyond my technical skill set. I tried to obtain a web developer to assist but that also did not work out. One of the difficulties was that we were on a shared server that multiple organizations used. The problem with that was that the technical support for our hosting company was unable to do certain actions since it would also impact other sites. I finally decided to upgrade our hosting plan to migrate to our own server for an increased annual cost. That too also caused some errors that I had to figure out and resolve. I believe I finally have the website back to a functioning site, as the migration seems to have resolved some of the troublesome errors. That's not to say that we won't have any further issues but the hosting technical support team can now tweak our site's settings to resolve them and so we shouldn't see as many instances of the errors that we have in the past. Thank you for your patience while I worked through these difficulties. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that these changes will reduce our technical issues and I can go back to playing more pickleball.

One thing that seems to be taking off is the Members Discussion Forum. I established this to facilitate communication among our members without having to send emails out. I also established a Lost & Found topic where members can post items that have either been found or lost after our organized play sessions. I encourage you to check it out and to subscribe to the forum. Once you subscribe, you will receive an email when someone posts to the forum. You can also subscribe to an individual topic if you prefer. The more people use this the better the communications will be.

Remembering Members

Earl Sneeringer

I recently heard that Kathy Plasse passed away on 10/8/2021. Kathy and Don were instrumental in our early days of open play at the Ice Rink. When they returned from Florida in the spring, I could count on them to take on the Session Coordinator role at the Ice Rink courts for both Saturday mornings and a

weekday session. They learned pickleball while at The Villages in Florida and were very active in our pickleball community. Despite having Parkinson's disease, Kathy continued to play and always had a smile and a positive comment. Both enjoyed the game and the comradery of pickleball and were well liked. During the pandemic, they played the game with their family and borrowed one of our nets until we needed it back when we returned to playing. When they returned to Columbia this past year, I learned that Kathy's Parkinson took a turn for the worse and Don had to take care of Kathy so neither could play. They moved back to Florida so Kathy could move into an assisted living facility. Don will be moving up to Oregon to be close to his son Ken.

<https://www.weremember.com/kathleen-plasse/2s2e/memories>

Upcoming Play Events

Thanksgiving Tournament

HCPA will be hosting an indoor, mixed-doubles Thanksgiving tournament on Saturday, November 27 at 6:00pm at the Forty West Tennis Club. To get more information regarding the event go to the Howard County Pickleball Association website and click on the <tab> Thanksgiving Tournament. All money raised by the tournament will be in support of the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center.

If you haven't signed up, please consider playing, ESPECIALLY if you have never played in a tournament. We have reserved eight teams for Novice players so they can get their first taste of Tournament play with friends and others at the same skill level. Generally, tournaments are filled by Intermediate and Advanced players, and while we do have room 24 teams at those levels, we thought it is important to provide opportunities for all of our members to participate in HCPA events. So, if you have ever thought you weren't ready to play in a tournament, you are, and this Thanksgiving event is for you.

Our Thanksgiving tournament is in support of Grassroots <https://grassrootscrisis.org>, a local charity located near Atholton High School in Columbia, MD. Grassroots operates a 24-hour general crisis hotline and walk-in counseling program, and is the first point of contact in Howard County for homeless services. Items that are in need are toiletries (body wash, body lotion, toothpaste, deodorant for men and women) and gift cards to Walmart and Target that they can pass out to families to help them celebrate this holiday season. If you would like to contribute, you can reach out to the tournament coordinator or to Grassroots directly.

Tournament coordinator is Ken Billingsley (kenbillingsley@yahoo.com) who hopes to see you all on the courts. He is the big guy with a bandana and a smile.

Sonny Side of the Court

How can I learn versus train to improve my pickleball game?!

We have certainly weathered most of the storm, and things continue to look promising when it comes

to pickleball. With more places to play and an increase in players around town, it's an exciting time to be playing pickleball! I am also excited to share that there are more facilities and most importantly, [more courts](#) available to play on throughout Maryland and Virginia!

Now, one of the most common topics that I have started hearing from every level of player, beginner, novice, intermediate, advanced, or even tournament level players is this. How do I continue to learn versus train to continue developing my skills to achieve my personal goals on the courts?!

Learning being the ability to improve a skill that you have not yet mastered by creating the right habits and muscle memory (i.e. how do I learn to hit a 3rd shot drop?). While training is the repetition of that skill that you have already learned and are continuing to master (i.e. I want to get better at hitting the 3rd shot drop and at the right time).

As #Fansof3 here are 3 tips that you can take into consideration:

1. Don't try to train a skill that you haven't learned yet – this may sound simple in theory, but if you haven't learned how to hit that 3rd shot drop yet, it's very difficult to train on hitting it without the proper technique.
2. Being taught and learning takes time – I cannot stress this enough that each player learns at a different speed. Don't try to rush the process because all you end up doing is frustrating yourself when results are not produced immediately.
3. When is the best time to learn – there is no better time than the present to start learning the right way to develop a skill. If you are serious about improving, set yourself up for success before jumping to the training portion.

By understanding how to create habits and building muscle memory, you can really start focusing on developing your own game and learning how to train in the future. Feel free to connect with me via social media or check out my website to learn more!

See you on the courts!

With Optimism,

Sonny

Travel with...

"Playing Pickleball when Traveling"

Harold White

Recently, we traveled to New Mexico meeting up with our best friends of over 50 years who live in Florida. They are avid pickleballers and always take their paddles when travelling. Obviously, the purpose and location of your trip will dictate whether you can, or should, try to fit in a few games. But, if you are traveling to most major tourist destinations or medium sized metropolitan areas, then you are likely to find some pickleball courts and friendly players. This is one of the universal aspects of pickleball – the style of casual play is usually very social. You also get to see how other communities accommodate the sport. For example, in Albuquerque, they just opened a new, lighted six court dedicated pickleball facility. Each court has a fully surrounding fence that keeps wayward balls from intruding into other people's play.

So how does one go about finding the playing opportunities in a distant locale? Our Florida friends highly recommend the App "USA Pickleball Places2Play". It can also be found on the web at "places2play.org". This link is also on the HCPA website under places to play. You can find places by location name or map. You can filter on player rank, indoor, outdoor, free, etc. You can rate the location and view other people's ratings. You can see requests of others who may be looking for a pickup game. It gets a 4.7 rating on the Apple store.

So, the next time you are heading out of town, do a little pre-planning: pack your paddle and a couple of balls, and enjoy your favorite sport amidst business or pleasure. Pickle On!

Finally, a little plug for the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta...You have to go see this once in your life.

"Finding Pickleball Joy Again"

Beth Brown

We know how leading an active lifestyle has tremendous physical, emotional and social benefits. Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic, most of us have made uncomfortable adjustments in the past year and a half that have affected our typical rhythm of life.

As an educator, I had to transition to teaching in an entirely different setting at home in my basement. Adjusting to this new rhythm changed what I taught, how I taught and how I was to achieve the goals I set forth for my students. With these changes came an injury. This P.E. teacher had torn her meniscus in three places within the knee and had to come to terms with not playing pickleball or being active for weeks. With the goal of being able to at least pick up a paddle at week 8 or 9, I dedicated myself to physical therapy for most of the summer and began to plan for my return.

At the end of summer, I was able to attend a National (Nissan) Z Car Convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After investigating this area with pickleball and tests for my knee with recovery in mind, I found it would be the perfect place to continue rehab. My trip would turn out to be 4700 miles within

four weeks, which would include a week on the panhandle of Florida and driving through Waco, Dallas, Amarillo, Texas and then arriving for a week in Colorado Springs. I was able to find through researching Colorado Springs that pickleball is a very popular sport and was surprised to see that even my hotel had a court. My doctor advised me to go easy the first time I play, which was challenging considering my excitement to play again. I even found myself teaching some friends at the convention the game. Once a break appeared in my schedule, I drove up to Monument Valley Park. This public park received great ratings on-line and joining the Colorado Springs Facebook Group allowed me to connect with others and ask questions. I was able to connect with some players there and play several games with them. One of the players heard where I was from and told me she was a student teacher at the "1st" Wilde Lake High School. She had a long career teaching P.E. in Frederick County and retired to Colorado Springs. Small world!!

Monument Valley Park did not disappoint! It had 15 permanent lighted courts strictly for pickleball and the mountain backdrop provided some beautiful scenery. The air and the elevation at 6,000 feet definitely has an effect on your play if you aren't used to it, so water and pacing yourself is essential. The Pikes Peak Pickleball Association with their 1,300 members were instrumental in turning Monument Valley Park into a success. Read about their history here at <https://pikespeakpickleball.com/pppa-history>. The park also has many other activities to offer and is close to many other things to see. Along with the following public pickleball courts of Mid Shooks (2 courts), Venezia Park (4 courts/lights), Vista Del Pico Blvd (8 courts) and the newly open Bear Creek Park (12 courts), you can drive or take a cog train to Pikes Peak, hike Seven Falls, hike/ drive the Garden of Gods, and tour the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum, to name a few.

My rehab continues but I'm very grateful I had a chance to play in Colorado. Pickleball continues to grow in popularity and with the addition of visiting other locations makes it even more enjoyable. I hope in the near future you have a chance to visit Colorado Springs too.

"Going to Carolina"

Karen Moore

During the darkest times of the Pandemic, and boy were they dark, we all dreamed of happy times - reconnecting with our families, friends, maintaining good and safe health, and enjoying the simple things of life. We dreamed of being "normal" again, we dreamed of traveling, we dreamed of playing PICKLEBALL!

One of my long-time favorite songs is "Going to Carolina." You may be familiar with this song, written and sung by James Taylor. James Taylor lived in North Carolina for many years, loved North Carolina and on occasion, returns to "Carolina."

My husband and I love Carolina. We have been to Carolina many times and felt safe enough, or as safe as one could feel, to return this past summer. Returning to Carolina for a quick four-day getaway was just what our souls needed. And, of course, pickleball will travel!

We stayed in the quaint little town of Kill Devil Hills - home of the National Wright Brothers Memorial as well as the famous Jockey's Ridge State Park, which includes the tallest active sand dune system in the eastern United States. Definitely a unique place to visit especially at sunset.

Besides the Wright Brothers Memorial, Jockey's Ridge, and the beautiful beach of course, I once again returned to the neatest, quaint pickleball court ever. The pickleball court is one standalone court, which is located in Dowdy Park, 3005 S. Croatan Highway, in the town of Kill Devil Hills. There is no sign-up, completely casual, and very laid back. I went to play pickleball in the morning several times and always ran into welcoming players. On the second Thursday of each month, June through October, the park hosts an awesome Farmer's Market. Playing pickleball and then buying produce and homemade jewelry from the locals - winner, winner!

When you go to Dowdy Park, take your own paddle AND pickleballs, and be prepared to meet some terrific people. I met an extended family who had just reconnected after a year and a half! What pure joy! I also met a retired military couple who lives out of a recreational vehicle and travels throughout the United States (always with their pickleball paddles, of course).

So "Carolina On My Mind" always has special meaning to me and perhaps you one day!



Tournament News

Andy Dalal



A FUN End of Summer Tournament was held on Sunday morning, September 5th at Locust Park for 16 Intermediate and Advanced level players. The tournament reached capacity in only a few hours once the registration was open. Partners were randomly selected for each match as there were no set teams during the tournament. Participants brought canned goods or non-perishable items for donation to the Maryland Food Bank.

Pizza was provided to all participants and guests at the end of the tournament.

Each participant was given a number and a grid was posted on the fence to check for court assignments for each match. Each participant played 6 matches and sat out for 2 matches as there were a total of 8 rounds in the tournament. Each round consisted of three 15 minute matches that began and ended at the same time. At the end of each round, each participant reported their score to the scorekeepers. The player with the highest score at the end of the tournament won a gift certificate to Tino's Italian Bistro, along with a gold medal. The second and third place finishers earned a silver and bronze medal. The winners of the tournament were **Ken Billingsley** (gold), **Sheree Hsuan Shyu** (silver) and **Dineen Mannarelli** (gold).

The tournament co-coordinators were **Linda O'Neil & Andy Dalal**

Dink Doubles Tournament

The first HCPA Dink doubles tournament took place on Columbus Day 2021 at Locust Park. There were 24 highly motivated players and 4 gracious volunteers. The format was doubles with a double elimination and partners were randomly selected via a name being pulled from a hat. All skill levels were represented from beginner to advanced and because of the blind partner concept, the matches were quite competitive. Many of the matches were decided by a tiebreaker game as each match was best of out of three games. The players had fun, got a lot of exercise and a new respect for the dink shot. Strangers were partnered by fate and formed a great bond. Many lessons were learned by the tournament organizers to make future Dink Tournaments even better. Congratulations to all players that had the warrior spirit to come out and compete and to all the medal awardees. The winners of the tournament were **J.D. Martin** and **Ji-Hyony Kim** (Bronze), **Sheree Hsuan Shyu** and **Emily Downs** (Silver), and James Martin and Angela Berry (Gold).

The tournament co-coordinators were **James Martin & Andy Dalal**

55+ Pickleball Showcase Event

The Howard County Recreation and Parks (HCRP) 55+ Pickleball Showcase Event conducted its first pickleball event on October 9th at Schooley Mill Park. 2.5 and 3.0 players played in the morning and 3.5

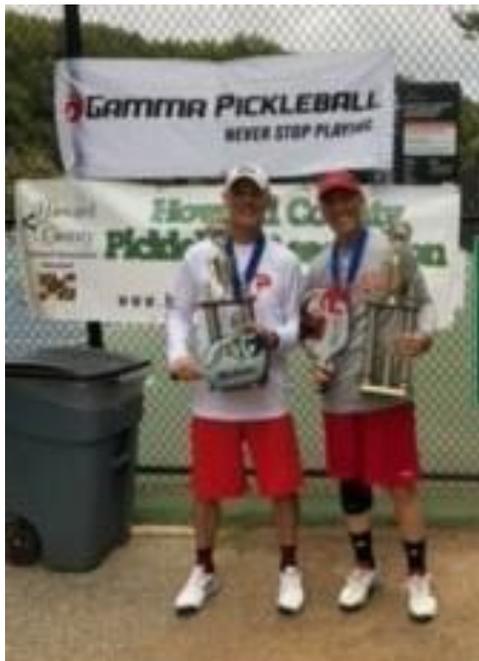
and 4.0 players played in the afternoon. The event had a total of 62 players, distributed a total of 24 medals and presented 4 large trophies to the 2 division winners. Marc Austin conducted 2 free clinics on “How to play better with your partner” and Gamma donated gift bags for each of the 2 events. HCRP will be conducting more future events with the possibility of the next one being a 2 day event. Be on the lookout in your email or HCRP booklet for when the next event will be scheduled.

Thank you to Steven Orr and Marc Austin who helped run both events and to Ken Billingsley who made the announcements. A Special Thank You goes to the following volunteers who made this event run smoothly making it fun and successful.

Bob & Cheryl Saunders
Daryl Tuck
Ira Franckel
Patti Guzman
Ken Billingsley

Joanne Griesser
Peggy Gaegler
Charlene Pidliskey
Julie Wolf
Scott Pollock

55+ Tournament Winners



Winners 3.5 – 40



Winners 2.5 – 3.0

Special Olympics **Giving Back**

Bob Sans

Like many Association Members, I am approaching Retirement. Making a decision to move on from something that I have loved to do for the past 45+ years is difficult. Not only in putting that work life behind but in trying to reinvent what the next part of life will be. I found that being stuck in traffic on the New Jersey Turnpike alone in my car allows one an awful lot of time to think (those who know me know that thinking could be a scary proposition). I have worked for the past 45+ years in helping a variety of disabled individuals to put their lives back on track. I also have spent the last 3+ years discovering and falling in love with pickleball. Somewhere around NJ Turnpike Exit 3, I thought that in some way maybe there could be a marriage of the two but had no idea how this could be accomplished. Then, somewhere over the Delaware Memorial Bridge it hit me - "Special Olympics". I came home and found that our sport is not YET recognized as a "sanctioned" sport by Special Olympics (SO), although some 20+ sports (including tennis) are. Several states in the country have informally accepted pickleball, but not Maryland! My mantra since that time became "Why Not?"

Thanks to the efforts of fellow HCPA members, **Maria Docal** and **Troy Osten** along with the support of the HCPA we were able to arrange our first, of what I hope will be many more meetings with representatives of the Special Olympics Howard County (SOHC). This meeting confirmed that there is indeed interest on the part of SOHC towards pickleball and I think the results of the meeting could be summarized as being "Why Not?" SOHC will be exploring how many of its members are interested in including and playing pickleball in the coming months.

As you might expect, there are a number of issues that will need to be explored and addressed before we can get this plan off the ground. I foresee things like working within our own group, our working closely together with Parks & Rec and/or the Columbia Association (CA), clarifying unified play versus non-unified play, securing equipment, locating Volunteers, etc. We are literally taking the first step in this process. Play would be tentatively scheduled sometime in the Spring of 2022.

For those unfamiliar, unified play, simply defined, is where a Volunteer (could be someone in HCPA who plays pickleball) is paired with an Olympian on the court. This approach might be needed for a Beginner to Novice level player. I learned during the meeting that unified play is not necessarily being used in Howard County for tennis. However, in other states, such as Ohio, it is used.

Here comes the big selling point - Volunteers. Yes, they will be needed. Volunteers who will play. Volunteers who will teach. Even Volunteers to manage the paint sticks. More importantly, Volunteers who are committed to having some fun. Just as the SOHC is doing right now in polling to see how many people might be interested, I am doing the same within our Association. I would ask that if any member who is interested in becoming a Volunteer that they either call me Bob Sans at (301) 776-0151 or email me at rwjs@verizon.net so that I can start to assemble a list of people to be used in moving forward.

We might be able to have parents and others volunteer but there is no certainty that they are familiar with the sport.

Trust me - Think back on how much fun it was when you started playing? Now imagine passing that gift on to another. I think that the rewards to be gained will surpass any of your expectations.

Why Not?

HCPA Food Drive

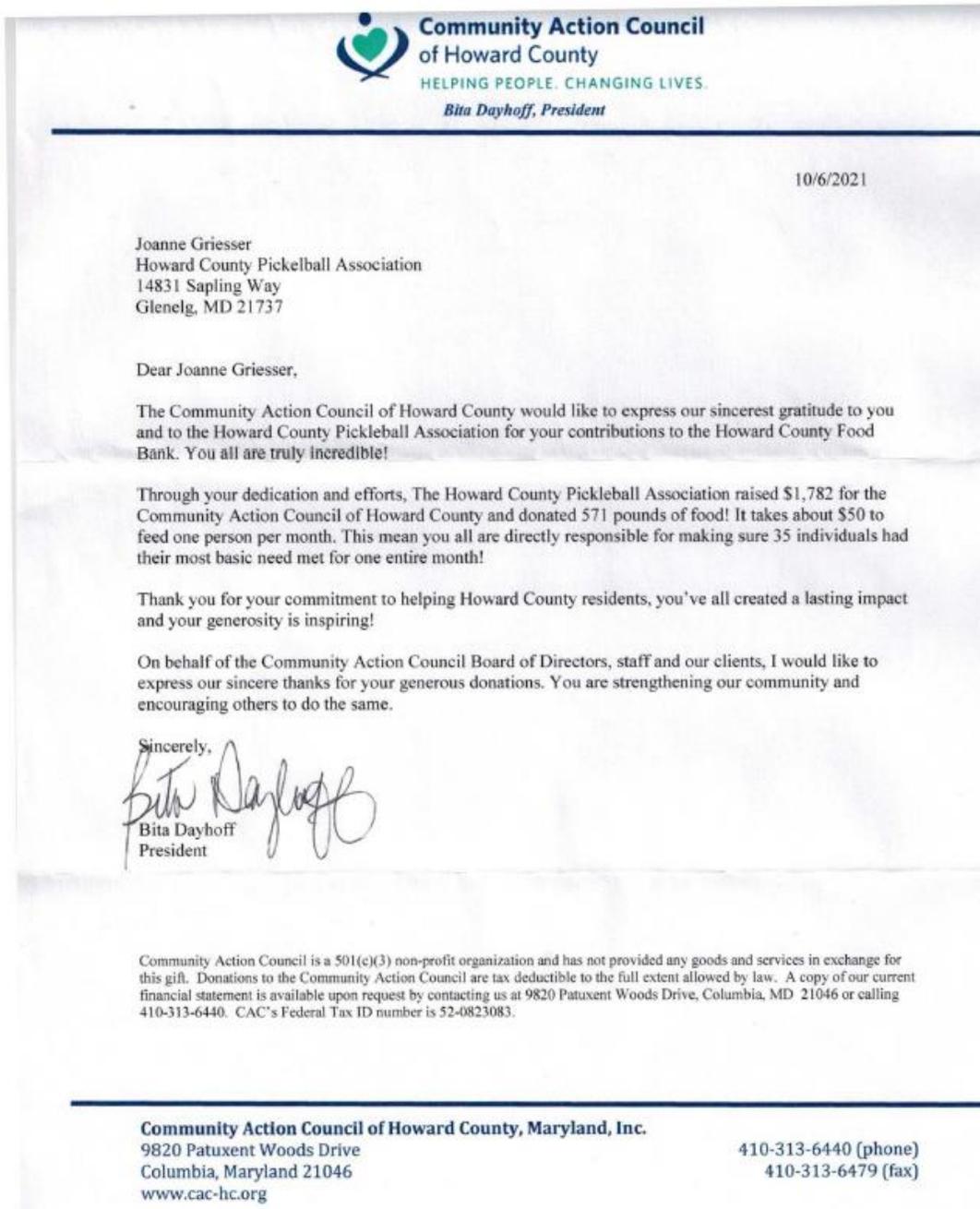
Harold White

This year we repeated the tradition of giving back to our community through a Food Drive Collection in partnership with the Community Action Council (CAC) of Howard County and the Howard County Food Bank. The Food Stuffs and Baby Item collection took place 19-25 September at every play session we had during that week. I want to thank all the session coordinators and volunteer collectors for their efforts and support. Most of all I want to thank all the HCPA members who brought items to donate. That is why we were able to collect 570 lbs. of donations. See the picture for one of the trips to the Howard County Food Bank.

New this year and because many members last year requested it, we had the CAC build a HCPA website where members or friends could make monetary donations very easily. This resulted in over \$1300 in contributions.

So, thank you session coordinators. Thank you collection volunteers. And, thank you HCPA members for caring about vulnerable residents of our county.





Where to Play

NEW Gary Author Senior Center is open with real court lines. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 2:30, cost is \$2.50

Highlights of the Pickleball Association and the Ho Co Recs & Parks Meeting

Peggy Gaegler

The Howard County Pickleball Association (HCPA) Board and Members met with Howard County Recreation & Parks (R&P) Staff via Zoom on October 6, 2021 to collaborate on current and future pickleball play issues in our County. R&P representation included **Krista Billingsley, Jason Thompson, Nicola Morgal** and **Allan Harden**.

Questions were solicited from the HCPA Members ahead of time and submitted to R&P prior to the meeting to allow them time for research where needed. Questions regarding similar subjects were grouped together for the sake of time and efficiency.

Joanne Griesser, HCPA Board President, kicked off the discussion, Ira Franckel, Treasurer, walked through the questions. Below is a high-level summary:

- Floors and lines were updated at Western Regional (**Gary J. Arthur**) and Laurel Senior Centers
- Blandair Park will be getting 6 new, lighted PB courts in 2023 as part of their Phase III upgrade
- Western Regional may have lights installed after Blandair Park lighting has been completed
- Alpha Ridge Park's Archery Program area could possibly be changed to PB but will not be lighted.
- There are no current plans for additional R&P indoor facilities for PB play.
- There are no current plans for adding lighting to existing PB courts such as Locust Park, Atholton or Schooley Mill.
- Storing PB equipment at R&P sites is being investigated between Jason and Joanne
- More PB tournaments will be held with R&P sponsoring and coordinating
- HCPA will work with Jason to get integrally involved in the R&P budgeting process to ensure that our future needs are being addressed (October kicks off capital project requests for FY23, starting July of 2022)
- R&P is looking for a balance of facilities for basketball, tennis and pickleball
- November-April months need the lights to stay on longer at night; Krista will check on this
- Jason will check on how HCPA and R&P can partner to raise funding for PB facilities
- R&P will consider adding PB lines at Centennial Park's tennis courts, as they are lit
- Krista voiced their need for more instructors and would like to tap HCPA's resources

The meeting was a positive display of collaboration by both groups, showcasing our pickleball needs, as well as Howard County's willingness to attempt to meet them. We will continue to work side-by-side wherever we can to ensure our needs are met throughout the County. Our hope is that this is just the first of many meetings, discussions, and steps in this direction.

Humor

What do you call the woman in the middle of the pickleball court? Annette

Donations

Duane St. Clare is taking donations of paddles and nets, new and used for the Howard County Schools. If you have unused equipment, please consider donating it to this worth cause.

Opportunities to Volunteer: Teaching Pickleball in an After School Program

The HCPA is actively working with Howard County Public Schools to bring more opportunities for kids to learn and play Pickleball.

Recreation and Parks sponsors these after school programs and is in need of some volunteers to work with the kids. Volunteers make the programs possible. This is a good way to grow the sport in our communities.

The requirements are simple:

1. Watch a video about concussions, <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>
2. Register with HoCo to be a coach, <https://hocovolunteer.org/custom/501/>
3. Agree to a background check. (annually)

If you are interested, please let me know. Joanne.Griesser@verizon.net I am not asking for a commitment from you at this time. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

HCPA Code of Conduct

Updated 6/15/2020

Objective

It is important that Howard County Pickleball Association (HCPA), its members and Board Members maintain an ethical standard. The purpose of the code of conduct is to set forth the organizations values and to make clear that everyone involved in the organization is expected to act in accordance with those values.

Code of Conduct

The HCPA, in its continuing effort to improve the enjoyment of pickleball, institutes a policy along with a code of conduct for all parties involved with HCPA. Above all else remember that this is an association where the emphasis is placed on learning, developing, and socializing with other players. By participating in HCPA activities in any capacity you agree to the code of conduct set forth in this document and will conduct yourself in a sportsmanlike manner. All HCPA Association members, Board members, guests and spectators of any HCPA sponsored activity are expected to uphold this policy and respect others regardless of their sex, age or experience. Inappropriate remarks or actions of a negative nature, and bullying will not be tolerated. Report ANY policy violations to a HCPA Board Member or Event Coordinator. Violations to this policy will be taken seriously by HCPA and may result in warnings, suspensions or termination.

Policy

- Know and play by the USAPA/IFP Official rules as best as possible
- Be a good sport and be respectful to others
- Help to create a positive and fun environment

- Respect the rights of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Share courts on a rotating basis with those waiting to play
- Control temperament. Verbal or physical abuse of other players will not be tolerated

- Do not take unfair advantage of another competitor in order to win
- Show concern and caution towards any injured players
- If a ball from another court enters the court or has the potential to interfere with play, stop play immediately, call "Ball on Court" to notify fellow players and wait until ball is returned or retrieved to resume play

- If possible, avoid going on to a court if you are not part of the game
- Wait for point to end before walking behind, beside or across a court
- It is everyone's responsibility to make new players feel welcome and to help them learn the game

- Do not criticize your partner or other players nor fault them for their mistakes
- Members will accept responsibility for non-member guests and family members in attendance at events
- Cordial and collegial behavior is expected of all players at all times