



# Pickle Juice

## Words from the Editor

Carol White

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! This HCPA newsletter is chock full of exciting news. Read about the EIGHT dedicated pickleball courts at Western Regional Park, the upcoming JOOLA (pronounced [yō-la] ) tournament in October, the winners of several HCPA tournaments, a Special Olympics update, the Food Bank drive and the importance of drills (we have two articles on this topic to highlight its importance).

We have also included two new recurring articles: Behind the Scenes which will take an in-depth look at the function and responsibilities of a volunteer and Ask the Ref which will answer some of the often-asked questions during play.

So, get in a comfy chair with your beverage of choice, and start reading.

If you have something of interest to the pickleball community, please consider writing an article to share in the next newsletter. Send articles to [cmwhite214@hotmail.com](mailto:cmwhite214@hotmail.com).

## Featured Articles

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## **From President's Desk**

Joanne Griesser

The Howard County Pickleball Association Motto: "To promote pickleball and give back to the community."

The number of Pickleball courts in Howard County is on the rise. As many of you have seen HCRP is going to install eight dedicated courts at Western Regional There will be an additional 6-8 courts at Blandair. Both facilities are to be completed in 2023 We need to give a big "Thanks" to Duane St Clare for his dogged determination to get the court configuration correct. He pushed ideas about individual courts separated by fencing. We won't hear the familiar cry of "BALL, BALL"

Dill Dinkers is on the horizon. They were scheduled to open in September, but the date got pushed back to October. There will be six indoor courts. The Association has booked time for us starting in November and running until March. We will rent the facility on Sunday afternoons. They did not have one evening available for us to rent the courts. We tried. We did put out a survey to see if we should rent courts on weekdays. We are looking into it now.

We will have six courts for use on Monday evenings starting in January at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center. It will be weekly signups. We want to accommodate as many people as possible, but we are going to limit the number of folks who can attend each session.

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Management at Recreation and Parks is changing. In the past, we have been unable to secure their courts for scheduled sessions. We were told courts were not rentable. That may be changing. We will keep you posted, and certainly try to secure court time at Schooley Mill, Atholton, Western Regional and other Recreation and Parks facilities that are lined for Pickleball.

The End of Summer tournament was a great success. Thank you to Andy and all the volunteers. We can't hold these events without folks pitching in to help. I was very happy to see three first place winners and a woman in that set. (Move over Billie Jean!) See Andy's article for the names of the winners. I appreciate all our members being patient with our Ref trainees. We are learning the skill and need the practice before the Joola Tournament in October where we will be expected to be perfect.

Joola is coming. If you haven't signed up as a participant, consider signing up for a stint as a volunteer. You will get a cool shirt! Please encourage anyone you know to register. This is a big event for our Association. Ken Billingsley is putting his heart and sweat equity into this event. I got a chance to see the medals and I want one! Unfortunately, theft will be my only option and Ken has them under lock and key. Please consider playing or volunteering for this event. You will have fun no matter what you decide. Part of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, a single point of access for behavioral health, crisis and homeless services for Howard County individuals and families.

There are so many things happening with our Association, I can't mention them all. But there is one last topic I would like to tell you about. The Association is going to sponsor a Food Drive again this year. Last year we exceeded our previous year's donations in food and cash donations. Harold White has an article in this newsletter to explain how you can donate. The food bank needs our help. The pandemic and the cost of living have devastated so many of our less fortunate families. The food assistance program in school is being curtailed. Some of the students in our county do not have food when they go home for the weekend. Please consider giving to the food drive this year.

Wait wait!! One last thing. Patricia Guzman has accepted a position on the board as our secretary. We are grateful to Peggy Gaegler for her hard work over the past year. Welcome Patty, we are honored to have you join the board.

## **Financials**

Ira Franckel

The Association is in a healthy financial position, having a net worth of approximately \$16K. For the year ending June 30, 2022, we had revenue of \$19K and had expenses of \$13K resulting in net income of \$6K. These numbers exclude Joola tournament registration fees to prevent distortion of the numbers. Our source of revenues are membership fees which we use

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primarily to fund ongoing equipment/supply needs for our organized play, support of our organization website, rental of facilities for pickleball play, and the organization of special events during the year.

Members can submit spending ideas in the Association's Suggestion Box located on our website under the Members Section.

## Family Wellness Day 2022

Peggy Gaegler

Sunday, June 19th was a busy day for Howard County pickleball events!! While some were participating and volunteering at Locust Park's Father's Day tournament, others were volunteering and promoting the sport at Centennial Park's Family Wellness Day.



Trying pickleball



Mock up of a  
pickleball court



Volunteers

From 8:00-1:00, HCPA volunteers discussed basics, rules, strategies and scoring of the game. A small mock-up of a court was set up to try. About 50 kids and adults gave it a go!!! Along with our pickleball court and booth, this annual event included a 5K run/walk, an aerobics class, CPR training class, acupuncture, massages, covid testing and vaccines, Narcan training sessions, and many wellness giveaways.

Thanks to our volunteers: Chuck and Joanne Griesser, Kathy Marianelli, Mike and Natalie Smolyak, Ellen Frank, Janice Strauss, Peggy Gaegler, Duane St Clair, for helping to promote our sport at this event.

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## Pro Corner

Marc Austin

Hello to all pickleball players. As a high level pickleball player and pro pickleball instructor, I always strive to get better in both disciplines. Having the ability to practice drills that will actually improve your game is essential to getting better. Just drilling to drill or practicing to practice may help you but I want to share with you a drill that I believe will improve your game significantly. It is my favorite one to do in my personal practice sessions and I also teach this drill in my classes and my "Drop (shot) Til you WIN" specialized clinic. This drill can be effective no matter what level of player you are- the difference is- the better you get at this drill the better or higher level of player you likely will become.

I have yet to find an actual "common name" for this drill, so I decided to name it, "Green Light - Red Light". Two players participate in the drill. Player 1 has the ball and is at the NVZ line on one side of the court and Player 2 is situated 2 to 4 feet behind the baseline on the other side of the court. Player 1 starts the drill by "feeding" or hitting the ball deep in the court to Player 2 (simulating a deep return of serve). Player 2 has the "Green Light" to hit a drop shot (simulating a third shot drop in a real game). After Player 2 hits a drop shot, this person should immediately move quickly but UNDER CONTROL up towards the NVZ line. Player 2 should always have their paddle up and should always be ready for the ball to be hit back near them. The "Red Light" comes in when Player 2 notices Player 1 is just about to hit the ball before Player 2 actually gets to the NVZ line. Player 2 should STOP and get balanced quickly (a split step is good) and be ready for the ball to be hit back over the net for Player 2 to hit another drop shot.

Player 1 now hits the ball back over the net somewhere near Player 2 so Player 2 can hit another drop shot and use "Green Light" to proceed forward towards the NVZ line. If Player 2 sees Player 1 is going to hit the ball before Player 2 is at the NVZ line, then Player 2 should use "Red Light" and stop again. This is repeated until Player 2 actually gets up to the NVZ line and is ready to continue playing pickleball at the NVZ line. This drill is completed when Player 2 makes it up to the NVZ line. Again- depending on how good the drop shots are struck; it may take three or four hits of the ball by Player 2 before reaching the NVZ line. Players should prepare for this activity in real games!!! Repeat this drill until Player 2 makes it to the NVZ line 20 times then switch players and roles.

There are many different shots Player 1 can hit in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th shot during this drill to help improve the skills of Player 2 that are needed to get really good.

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I would suggest when first doing this drill Player 1 be cooperative when hitting the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th shot back to Player 2 who is working their way up to the NVZ line so Player 2 can develop at their own pace. Both players are learning skills that will improve their game during the drill. As both players get better at "feeding" and hitting better drop shots then I suggest Player 1 put more pressure on Player 2 while Player 2 makes their way to the NVZ line. This will enable continued improvement in both players skills that will translate directly into competitive and non-competitive play. After getting good at this drill players will notice their game improving quickly!!! I believe this drill will help develop the pickleball skills that significantly improve everyone's level of play.

### **Meet Patty – new HCPA secretary**

Patty Guzman

Patricia Guzman, aka Patty, grew up in New Hampshire, and moved to Maryland in 1982, where she began a career with the US Government. Her job included several overseas assignments, including eight years in Central America and various shorter trips to Europe and Asia. She loves to travel, especially to visit her daughter and son-in-law, who are currently living in Germany.

Patty started playing pickleball after seeing an NBC news clip in 2016. Things moved slowly, at first. But after she retired in 2018, she began to play A LOT! Like many of us, pickleball served as an excellent form of exercise and socialization during the pandemic.

Patty is grateful to the HCPA for organizing several open play sessions each week, and for supporting organizations, such as the Special Olympics. She is honored to be a member of the Board and looks forward to supporting new and existing HPCA members. Paddles up!!

### **Eight Dedicated Pickleball Courts Planned for Western Regional Park**

Earl Sneeringer

Many of our members came out for the breaking ground ceremony for the eight new dedicated pickleball courts scheduled for construction adjacent to the tennis courts at Howard County Western Regional Park. Our president, Joanne Griesser, was one of the presenters. Our members showed up in their association shirts and/or carrying paddles to show their support. After the presentation and the pictures, our members got to ask questions of the Howard Co. Recreation and Parks (HCR&P) leaders to find out more details about the plans. We heard that these courts would take priority in construction over the six courts scheduled for Blandair Park which will be constructed late 2023 or early 2024. We also learned that construction should start soon with a goal to have the asphalt platform in place and possibly painted by the end of October, weather permitting. The nets will be scheduled to be installed Spring of 2023. If the

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courts can be partially constructed, the public may be able to play on them with their own nets. Thanks to all our members for attending and showing enthusiasm for the sport and excitement for the new facility! Thanks also for Joanne for her leadership and direct involvement with the HCR&P organization and Calvin Ball, our county executive!

The following article provides pictures, a video of the presentation and a description of the plans.

[Article for New Pickleball Courts at Western Regional Park](#)

*If you missed this terrific event, you missed the speech given by our president, Joanne Griesser. But you can read it here!*

Good afternoon, my name is Joanne Griesser and I am honored to speak on behalf of the Howard County Pickleball Association. Six years ago, we started our association with 20 members and chalk outlines on tennis courts. Today we have over 800 members that range in age from pre-teens to octogenarians. Our goals are simple: to promote Pickleball and give back to the community.

We have come a long way from the chalk courts. Rec and Parks has painted Pickleball lines on some tennis courts and constructed dedicated courts. But the popularity of the sport and the amount of people that want to play, have far exceeded the county's facilities. We are very happy that Rec and Parks recognizes the need for more facilities and have included pickleball courts in the current plans. We hope the trend continues.

Eight dedicated courts mean players can play or practice on regulation courts. This is also true for the planned courts at Blandair Park. Sixteen courts at one location will support multiday statewide tournaments. Tournaments will generate revenue for the counties hospitality industries. This is a big win for Howard County.

Our Association is very excited to have this new facility. We look forward to more open play sessions, introductory classes that support new players and enhanced facilities for existing players.

I'd like to thank Dr. Ball, his staff, Recreation and Parks and all our association members and everyone in attendance for this opportunity to speak to you today.

Thank you!

Paddles up!

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## Travel with...Duane

Duane St. Clair

### Pickleball Complexes around the US

As pickleball has grown in the United States, more communities are recognizing the benefits from developing a pickleball complex that at a minimum has 16 courts. These complexes are designed to host statewide and regional tournaments and other major pickleball activities. I have had a chance to visit these complexes to learn how they were laid out and utilized.



The largest and best-known complex is in Naples, Florida where the [US Pickleball Open](#) is played every year. With \$100,000 in prize money and over a million dollars in local revenue generated by the tournament this has transformed this area of East Naples. Seven years ago, this facility only had 4 tennis courts in a deteriorating community park. With 60 courts this facility is usually packed every morning. The courts are separated in groupings by skill level which gives everyone a chance to play with others at their skill level.





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The [PicklePlex in Punta Gorda](#), Florida is one of the newer facilities to be developed. This 16 court facility was developed by the incorporated non-profit PicklePlex corporation. The PicklePlex has been the host site for the American Pickleball Tour.



The [Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park](#) has 20 courts, 4 undercover, that is in Griffin, Georgia. Again, this complex was built in a community that had a need for economic development. As a location for numerous regional tournaments the community now has two new hotels and other economic developments.



The [Fields at Little Valley in St. George](#), Utah has 24 courts that has hosted the Huntsman Senior Pickleball Open for the past 4 years and the USAPA West Tournament that brings over a thousand players to the facility.

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## **Travel with...Earl**

Earl Sneeringer

While preparing for a short visit with a cousin of mine and his family in Portland OR, I asked if they played Pickleball. He responded with "Pickleball is alive and well in Portland". So, my grandson, Xavier (14), and I brought out paddles thinking we might get some games in. It turns out that my cousin's family had heard about pickleball but not played. I purchased two more paddles as a gift, and we went to a local tennis court that fortunately had PB lines chalked on to the tennis court. I shifted the center strap over six inches to lower the tennis net and Xavier (14) and I introduced the game to my cousin and his oldest boy Will (17). Later that evening I noticed a couple paddles and balls were missing only to find out that Will was introducing the sport to his high school friends. We also got to play the next day even though it was close to 90 degrees, and we taught his second son, Ethan (13). They enjoyed the game so much that they have decided to try it out as a family. It was great to get out and share our passion with other family members and to see it catch on.

## **The Importance of Drills**

Geoff Silverman

By many measures, pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. One of the reasons is that would-be picklers can learn to play and start to compete in fun rallies on their first day. You can enjoy that level indefinitely; there is no shortage of laughter on novice and intermediate courts. Whacking a wiffle ball that won't go too fast no matter how hard you hit it is surprisingly satisfying. However, if you watch advanced players or catch any of the professional play now televised, it is hard to miss the importance of the soft game: precisely placed gentle shots—the dinks and the drop shots that land just over the net in the kitchen (or at an opponent's feet), or the lobs that send an imposing duo at the net scurrying to retrieve balls at the remote corners of the baseline.

Mastering these softer shots and knowing when to use them is difficult. When you try to hit a drop shot in a game situation, your soft arcing ball that was intended to land just over the net instead floats right up to your net opponent's forehand, usually to the center of his paddle, with the result that your partner gets free wiffle ball dental work. It ain't pretty. Even with a really sharp wiffle ball. Enter: drills.

The purpose of drills is to practice various types of shots: dinks, drop shots, drives, volleys, serves, overhead slams, digs, and lobs. Beyond mastering different shots, it is necessary to recognize when to use each one, where you should be on the court to hit it, and how to respond to your partner (or to your opponents) hitting it. For example, perhaps the most important shot in high level play is the third shot drop: the receiving team returns a deep, gentle shot and follows it to form a menacing wall at the non-volley zone (NVZ). Driving the ball

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into strong players at the net is a losing proposition, while all but the most expert lobs will result in a ferocious slam. The highest percentage shot for the serving team on the 3rd shot of a rally is to drop the ball just over the net, with both players on the serving team chasing it in to begin play at the net.

Building on the success of James Martin's popular Sunday drills, Steve Radant and Geoffrey Silverman initiated a Friday morning drills session. Each session begins by practicing various types of shots, progressing from gentle dinks to slams and digs. After warmups, drills proceed to a variety of simulated game situations. In the Dink game, both teams start at the kitchen line, and all balls must be played in the NVZ for a prescribed number of shots before one team can accelerate the ball or lob it. In Drop Shot Heck, the serving team can only hit drop shots. So, while your floating drop shot may result in a wiffle ball facial for your partner, you can be assured she will return the favor at some point—and somehow knowing this makes it better. Though scarier.

Keeping score in the simulated games helps keep players focused. There are a variety of drill games, and even more variations. Despite a fair bit of supporting evidence, it has been determined that neither James nor Steve nor Geoff is the boss of anyone at drills. If there is a way to change a given drill to support the abilities and objectives of the players on the court, each court is free to do so. There is a theme to each drill session, and a purpose to each drill, but most important is to have fun.

The Howard County Pickleball Association drills sessions are run by James Martin Sundays 11:30 - 1:30 at the Ice Rink, and by Steve Radant and Geoff Silverman Fridays 8:30 - 10:30 at Locust Park.

## **Howard County Special Olympics Pickleball**

Bob Sans

We concluded our first season of Special Olympics Pickleball here in Howard County on 6/26/22. My thanks and gratitude go out to all the many Volunteers serving as Coordinators, Coaches, Instructors and Mentors that gave us the distinction of being the first County in Maryland to establish Pickleball in Special Olympics. The success for this program could NOT have been made possible without all the 40+ Picklers from HCPA. I hope that you will be ready to sign up again for season 2.

It has been a busy "off-season" and I would like to share some of the changes and progress being made first within our program. Season 2 of Pickleball will begin on March 26, 2023. To resolve the issue of weather that affected us so badly this past season, we will be moving play to indoors at Dill Dinkers. My thanks go out to Denise, Will and Brian of Dill Dinkers for their support and assistance in making this happen. There will be plans to make additional changes

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to the structure of the program, use of Volunteers and of course, my search for additional Volunteers for Season 2. Look for this information in upcoming HCPA Newsletter articles and/or emails. In the meantime, if you are interested in Volunteering, please email at [rwjs@verizon.net](mailto:rwjs@verizon.net).

I have been busy in networking and meeting with other surrounding Special Olympics offices to expand into other counties. Howard County will be joined in 2023 by other Special Olympic offices in Carroll, Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City. These three have already committed and are moving forward in structuring a Pickleball program with our help. Anne Arundel County is in the works of developing a program in conjunction with Sonny Tannon. I hope to be meeting with both representatives of Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties sometime in September. It looks extremely promising that by the end of Season 2 we will be having some form of competition between the counties!

## **JOOLA Maryland Open - Clinic, Politics?!?, and Volunteers**

Ken Billingsley

As of this writing, we have over 340 registrants for our tournament in October. We expect to be near (or above) the 400 mark by the time the tournament rolls around. The event runs from Friday, October 14 through Sunday October 16. Keep in mind that HCPA members (who set up their registration correctly) receive a \$10 discount for the tournament.

**To register for the event:**

**[Click HERE](#)**

We have some unique events associated with the tournament from a discounted clinic offered by JOOLA Pros Eric White and Sonny Tannan, as well as an exhibition match between current Howard County Executive, Calvin Ball, and his opponent Allan Kittleman. We plan to have the Singles OPEN gold medal matches for Men and Women complete around 7pm, which will coincide with the completion of the clinics being offered. At 7:30pm we plan to hold the exhibition match between Ball and Kittleman, followed by an opportunity for some to play with the Pros.

If you would like some more information on the clinic, please contact Sonny Tannan at (443) 473-9259 or [pickleball@sonnytannan.com](mailto:pickleball@sonnytannan.com). The price for the clinic is \$60 per person for 1.5 hours, which is less than he is charging for a similar clinic the following week after the DC PPA event. You can see the flyer on TeamApp (News), or in a recent email from the HCPA.

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**Volunteers are still needed.** Please consider signing up for a slot. We will not be holding open play sessions that weekend (because we will have most of the HCPA nets), so why not come out and play and volunteer.

**To Volunteer for the event:**

**[Click HERE](#)**

I want to thank Gail Kennedy, Linda O’Neil, Kathy Buckley, Andy Dalal, and Steven Orr for helping with volunteers, referee training, and logistics.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the tournament.

### **Referee Corner - Ask the Ref:**

Ken Billingsley

Following the successful implementation of referee training, it seemed prudent to offer a section in our newsletter for players to submit questions that have come up during play. We will create a forum on TeamApp for people to pose questions, and we will use that as a basis to answer the most common issues in our newsletter.

To get things started off, we will discuss aspects of the US Pickleball Handbook- Section 6 that deal with Line Calls. Line calls are probably the most contentious aspect of Pickleball. Summarizing rules 6.D.11, 6.D.12 and 6.D.9, should help move games along faster. These rules address In and Out calls while the ball is in the air, and after it hits the ground, and what happens if there is a disagreement on the receiving team’s side.

*The summary of these three rules says:* **When the ball is in the air**, any communication between players is considered “player communication” and the hitting team should ignore what they hear and continue to play the ball as if it is a live ball. However, **once the ball strikes the ground**, any call that is made is considered a line call, which means an “out” call would immediately stop play. If the receiving team returns the ball, and the partner calls the ball “in” after there is an “out” call, then there is doubt between the players and the original hitting team wins the rally. Out calls must be made promptly, before the opposing team hits the ball or the ball becomes dead.

### **Behind the Scenes: The Equipment Manager**

Earl Sneeringer

Over the six years we have been in existence, we have accumulated a good deal of equipment to support our association’s goal to promote pickleball in our community. Over that time, we

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have developed some good processes for managing the equipment and moving the equipment to the right place. Currently we have 56 nets that we distribute to various session coordinators. We have been marking both the nets and bags with an inventory number to assist in tracking our equipment. We have found that the nets don't always go back into their original bags, and we have accepted that. Each session coordinator also has balls, blank paint sticks a first aid kit with some additional instant cold packs and often a cart to move the equipment on and off the courts. We also have a couple leaf blowers that session coordinators use on the Ice Rink courts. However, we are grateful for some of our members who bring leaf blowers with them to assist in preparing the courts. Some of our session coordinators have large industrial squeegees used to clear water off the courts.

When we first started, we were primarily using the Onix balls which offered great durability. Over the past couple years, the intermediate and advanced groups started using the stiffer balls such as the Franklin X40, since these are more like the ones found in tournaments. These balls don't last as long, and we end up replacing them more frequently. We try to mark our balls with our initials and we also color a few of the holes with the marker since the initials wear off more easily. Our hope is that when our members see one of these balls in their possession taken by accident, they will return it to the session coordinator.

We rely on our session coordinators to store and carry the equipment to the courts. Often the equipment stays in the car to reduce the hassle of loading and unloading equipment. We have started trading nets between session coordinators when one session is starting directly after another session to eliminate the take down and put up the nets for the next session. This makes tracking the nets a bit of a challenge since the nets are in the hands of various people over a week's time.

The equipment manager is responsible for purchasing and distributing the equipment to the session coordinators. This involves either dropping off equipment at a session or picking the equipment up at the equipment manager's location. We have explored the idea of getting a storage unit to house the equipment but haven't done so yet to reduce the travel time for our people. Many of our members have suggested getting a metal lock box placed at the courts but since these are Columbia Association Public Courts, we must get permission to do this. We have requested this multiple times over the years without any success. Another idea submitted is the use of nets on rollers, to be chained to the fence. This too requires permission and has been denied. It turns out that Howard County Recreation and Parks considered the roller nets as well and after testing the idea with four nets at one of their tennis courts, they were stolen within the first week.

One of the cost saving ideas that we have developed is a method to fix the middle bar on the newer nets. Often, the fabric at the bottom of the flat bar will wear out. Rather than replacing the whole net, Jan St. Clair developed a short sleeve with Velcro on the top. The first time a net is handed to Jan, she sews one side of the Velcro to the existing fabric about six inches up and places the fabricated sleeve on with the other side of the Velcro. This has reduced the number of nets we've had to replace. We are grateful for Jan's volunteering to fix our nets.

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The association also owns a Pickleball Tutor which shoots balls out over the nets for practicing and training. This is rented for \$20 a day and comes with a tub of balls, a hand cart, and a rolling ball retriever. This can be reserved via the website under Equip. Mgt.

We have a variety of other miscellaneous items in our equipment inventory such as a cash box for our pickleball socials, 4 sets of rubber lines used for indoor sessions, a couple water jugs, spare paddles for training sessions, and association banners.

As always, we appreciate the effort of our member volunteers to help manage and move the equipment around to the locations needed.

## Website Tidbits

Earl Sneeringer

Maintaining the website is almost a part time job and seems like a full-time job at times. As the webmaster there are several roles and responsibilities that I take care of for HCPA. First and foremost is making sure new members get set up correctly and responding to their questions from the contact page. I also field the questions from non-members and pass them on to other board members if appropriate. Then there are the communications aspects, as in posting announcements and updating the organized play table and news banner with changes or cancellations. Additionally, I create the sign-up lists and post them weekly on Sunday mornings.

The website is built on WordPress and multiple plugins that help with various aspects of the functionality offered. Often each software application we use must be updated when a new version comes out which entails backing up the database, initiating the updates and then testing to see that everything is working correctly to determine if I need to roll back from the backup and restore the older version of the plugin. When board members leave or join, I need to modify their accounts with the correct privileges. Periodically, I find a new feature that will enhance our site, or someone suggests for which I figure out how to implement the idea and work to develop this feature. Finally, when something goes wrong and the website isn't working, I must investigate the problem and work with our hosting company's technical support as well as the plugin companies to track down a solution. Sometimes this happens at the most inconvenient times, and I'm on the phone with technical support trying to get the website back up and running. I try to respond in a timely fashion to keep the website up as much as possible to facilitate communications among our members. Sometimes I'm lucky and can resolve the problem with a reboot, other times it takes a lot of research and patience to rectify the problem. Given that this is just a hobby, and I was self-taught, I don't always know what to do. At those times when it's beyond my expertise or experience I must either be patient and research the issue or reach out to developers to obtain assistance. Finding the right ones is often a bit of a challenge but I discovered a few that, for a fee, will assist me in troubleshooting problems.

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I'm fortunate to have some members, Mary Pagan and Linda O'Neil specifically, who have volunteered to assist me and cover for me when I'm traveling and lack the means to continue the support. As well as take on some additional responsibilities. Mary is my primary backup and Linda is my secondary backup when Mary is unavailable. Mary has taken on the task of loading of pictures to our website both with the home page picture slider and the photo gallery listed under Photos. I'm grateful for their assistance. If any other members have experience with WordPress, are willing to learn some new plugins and contribute some time to assist in supporting the website, I would be happy to meet to discuss the idea.

My wife and my family think I'm a bit crazy to spend all this time on this website as well as some of the other functions I support in the association; however, I'm happy to contribute to such a great organization and enjoy the learning and problem-solving aspects of this hobby of mine.

## Shirts

Earl Sneeringer

**HCPA Shirts are available online TODAY!** - Thanks to Joanne Griesser, she worked out a deal with our shirt vendor. The sports shirts are made with quality materials and they come in 4 new colors. In sizes ranging from XS to 4XL. We also have hats and visors.

The vendor set up a website for our association and they will be shipping the shirts directly to you. Use the following link to access our shirt website:

[HCPA Shirt Sales Website](#)

## Food Bank collection

Harold White

For the last two years, we have been partnering with the Community Action Council of Howard County and the Howard County Food Bank to sponsor a Food Drive that hits home on a very local basis and touches the lives of your friends and neighbors. This is especially true this year

We will be conducting the drive as we did last year with a solid week of collecting food stuffs at every open play session as well as a web site where you can donate on-line or by text. The target time frame is the first or second week of November for the collection and hope to open the Web site for cash donations after the Joola Tournament.

Thanks to Andy Dalal's End of Summer tournament and gracious attendees, we already have a couple of boxes in my basement for an early kick off bonus. Of course, it would be nice to better our record from last year, but that's not the point. It's the service to our community, a founding principle of the HCPA.

Stay tuned for exact dates.



Autumn 2022

## Tournament News

Andy Dalal

### Father's Day Tournament 2022

On Sunday, June 19, 2022, from 8:00am to 11:00am, HCPA held a Father's Day tournament at Locust Park for 36 enthusiastic players. A round robin format was used where all the teams played one another in their group. This way each team was guaranteed 5 games and had a chance to play every other team in their group. Tournament scoring was one game to 11 points, win by 2 points, regular scoring.

We had two divisions. A novice to intermediate/advanced division and an intermediate to advanced division. Awards were given to the top two teams in each division. There was only one group for the novice to intermediate/advanced division and so the top two teams played each other in the finals. There were two groups in the intermediate to advanced division and the top team from each group faced the runner up team from the other group in a semi-finals match which determined the finals for the intermediate to advanced division.

The three teams in each group were:

#### Novice to Intermediate/Advanced Division

1. Geoff Silberman and Sebastian Silberman
2. Matt Pauley and Jill Hunt
3. Rob Greenwald and Addison Greenwald

#### Intermediate to Advanced Division

1. Tony Stango and John Weinschel
2. Chris Loetell and Ryan Loetell
3. Tied - Patrick Wartman and Jack Leonard and Andy Dalal and Rohun Dalal



Autumn 2022

## End of Summer Pickleball Tournament 2022

On Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022, from 9:00am to Noon HCPA's annual End of Summer (EOS) was held at Locust Pool Park for 40 enthusiastic players. Thanks to all the volunteer helpers including Carol White and Ira Franckel who were the official scorekeepers and Gail Kennedy, our referee coordinator to make this a very special tournament.

At check-in, players were given a number and a handout so that they could check the rounds that they will be playing in, along with the numbers of their teammates and opponents for all their matches. A grid was posted next the fence to confirm the players check-in numbers and the names of their teammates and opponents in all their matches.

Each player played 6 matches. All matches were timed and were 9 minutes in length. Each match in each round began and ended at the same time. At the end of each match, players reported their scores to the score runners who then reported the scores to the scorekeepers. The number of points each team scored were then individually recorded and tallied. A cap of 15 points per game per team was implemented so that one game would not skew the final standings.

The matches were officiated by volunteer referees who will also be officiating the Joola tournament in October. This was the first time the referees were officiating a tournament and they did a great job. The referees kept score (regular scoring), looked for foot faults during the serve and at the non-volley zone, as well as determined the serving team.

Players, referees and tournament volunteers also brought canned goods or non-perishable items for donation to the Maryland Food Bank.

The top 6 players with the highest scores at the end of the tournament won a medal and a pair of pickleball socks. They were: **Duane St. Clare, Jeff Komin, Janet Ball, Troy Osten, Mark Gonzalez and Mike Spinnato.**

