

Happy Fall to everyone,

Hasn't this weather been unbelievable. It's been perfect for outdoor pickleball. The outdoor nets at Wyndham Hills Community Park are still up so I hope you can get a group together and take advantage of this awesome weather. Unfortunately the bathrooms are no longer open.

A lot has happened since the last time I sent out an informational email so please take some time and read this email and feel free to forward it to fellow players. I will apologize now if you receive this more than once and for the length.

CAPA - CAPITAL AREA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

As many of you may know the Capital Area Pickleball Association (CAPA) has been formed for pickleball players in Dane County and the surrounding area. The association is about three months old. Its purpose is to promote the sport of pickleball, provide opportunities for members to learn and improve their skills, promote and enhance the enjoyment of social, recreational and competitive play, as well as social pickleball activities, and to work with the local governments to establish policies for the safe and equitable use of facilities. The association is open to all and cost \$10 (renewable in August 2017). Check out the website – CAPAREAPB.COM. There is an executive board with two members of the board from this side of town. Warren Luehring is treasure and I am an at-large member representing Sun Prairie and surrounding area. Contact myself or Warren if you would like to join. For \$10 it is a bargain.

SUMMER LEAGUES

Thank you to all who participated in the summer leagues held at the Wyndham Hills courts. Leagues for 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 skill levels were offered three different nights of the week. The Tuesday group is taking advantage of this beautiful weather and continues to meet. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for next summer's leagues.

TOURNAMENTS

Congratulations to the many players who participated in the various tournaments held throughout the summer months. Sun Prairie and Dane County were well represented in the winners circle. I hear that PAC may be having a tournament in the near future.

FEES AT PRAIRIE ATHLETIC CLUB

There has been some confusion about the fees for playing pickleball at Prairie Athletic Club. Pickleball is free for PAC members. You can also play free if you have a membership at Harbor Athletic Club or Pinnacle Athletic Club that entitles you to the use of PAC. Not all memberships at these two clubs allow you to use PAC facilities. SILVER SNEAKER MEMBERS (through health insurance) can become a member of PAC for \$22 a month. This membership entitles you to play pickleball, attend classes, use the pools, etc. PAC will also put your membership on hold (upon request) if you winter elsewhere. The Silver Sneakers membership is a bargain. You could play pickleball every day of the week for free. A 10 visit punch card is available for \$65. This punch card can not be used on weekends and after 4 p.m. weekdays. Pay per visit is \$7.50 weekdays and \$10 for weekends and after 4 p.m. weekdays.

SCHEDULE AT PRAIRIE ATHLETIC CLUB

Sunday – 10 a.m. to noon (4 courts, all skill levels)

Monday – **NEW TO SCHEDULE** – 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (2 courts, all skill levels)

Tuesday – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (6 courts, all skill levels)

Wednesday – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (4 courts, all skill levels, mostly beginners/intermediate)

Thursday – 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (6 courts, all skill levels)

Friday – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (2 courts, all skill levels)

Saturday – 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (2 courts, beginning 10 a.m. 4 courts)

Please note that there are times when various skill levels may play on separate courts.

TWO COURTS are often available for play for walk-in useage especially during the school year between 6 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING PICKLEBALL AT PAC

Christi Winchel has begun an email chain for Saturday morning play at 9 a.m. If you are not on the list but would like to be let Christi or myself know and we will get you on the list. Last winter it was a popular time for play. There are 4 courts available and it is for all skill levels.

WEDNESDAY MORNING PICKLEBALL AT PAC

If you are a beginner or a social player who wants to have fun, there is a wonderful group of players who play Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Marci, Denise and others will help you learn the game of pickleball. They have fun and get a good work out. All skill levels are welcome to attend.

PAC MANAGERS

At a weekly PAC managers meeting this summer, all managers got onto the pickleball courts and gave it a try. I heard that it was one of their best meetings ever! Andy Thompson, Dan Thompson and Pete Simon have been spotted on the courts a number of times and have been bit by the pickleball bug. I hope they will join us in play.

City of Sun Prairie Parks and Open Space Plan Update

On November 10 I was interviewed by the city of Sun Prairie and an outside company regarding the future needs of pickleball and other recreational facilities in Sun Prairie. The city is looking to update the Parks and Open space Plan for the next five years. This plan will provide analysis of city parks and recreation systems and guide future planning for parks and recreation for the next **20 years**. During my interview I gave a summary of the different activities that have taken place at the Wyndham Hills outdoor pickleball courts (Pickleball in the Park, clinics, leagues, organized play, open play etc.) I also spoke about the lack of wind screens, the puddle on court two, peeling paint, others using the courts inappropriately, etc. I also talked about the newly organized Capital Area Pickleball Association and their goals for the future. With pickleball being a growing sports and this being a 20 year plan I suggested that the city look into adding 6 additional courts to the current two courts. (Remember this is a 20 year plan). This would allow for outdoor tournaments, players of different skill levels being present at one time, larger leagues, more social activities, city sponsored lessons and possible sharing of the courts with physical education classes. Having lights would also enhance the pickleball courts and usage. I also suggested that the city have an indoor site for pickleball like they do for tennis. I also shared my thoughts on placing a bulletin board at the courts (for schedules, announcements, etc.), posting of rules at the courts (no bikes, skate boards, etc.).

There is a community survey that you can do regarding the future of parks and recreation facilities. Go to cityofsunprairie.com. You **do not** have to be a resident of Sun Prairie to do the survey. Please support the future of pickleball if you take the survey. You may need to write pickleball in under other. The city will also have two input workshops. Please go to their website for more information.

Please let me know if there are new players who would like to be on this email list.

As always, questions, concerns, or suggestions are welcome.

The holidays are right around the corner - so here's wishing everyone a great holiday season.

See you on the court

Karen J.