



December 2022 Newsletter

Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays and a Safe and Healthy 2023!

Coming Soon ...

New pickleballs - during the winter, we're switching to Onix Fuse G2 outdoor balls which are supposed to be more durable during colder temperatures than our Franklin X40s. The new balls should arrive the week of 12/18.

Renewal of annual membership and seasonal passes - in early January, we'll send out an email with a link to pay your annual fee or seasonal pass.

Waivers - required by our insurance company. We're working on making this an electronic signature form. We anticipate including a link in the membership renewal email.

Welcome to our new members and seasonal players

We've grown! If you've been out to play lately, you've probably seen an uptick in participation. That's because over the last 5 months, 14 Burke Centre residents became members and eight seasonal players joined us on the courts. Many are newcomers, yet their enthusiasm, determination and frequent return to the courts have accelerated their development. We welcome them and we're glad that they found us!

Member Spotlights

BCPA member/resident launches pickleball clothing brand



This summer, our own **Bruce Wilkinson**, launched a new fashionable and functional line of pickleball clothing, [Pickleball Players Brand](#). His inspiration came from the passion that he quickly developed for the game. At the time he was introduced to pickleball, major brands weren't really in the sport. After coming out on the courts many times with the Burke squad, he began to take notice of the gear that some players were wearing - mostly pickleball comedy things like dink this, bang that or kitchen jokes. He wanted something more - a brand that represented us... the players. He wanted something very unique, bold and powerful and at the same time, simplistic. After Christmas of 2021, he wanted to turn his visions and dreams into reality and developed a brand new passion. Within weeks, the Pickleball Players brand was born.

His ultimate goal is for his clothing brand to be one of the faces of the pickleball sports world. Therefore, next year, he wants to travel to more pickleball tournaments and do vendor setups to really get that true organic interaction with players. He also revised his brand ambassador contracts to make it fun and competitive for next year. He's looking to bring on more brand ambassadors, so be on the lookout for that. With a lot of time spent testing brand clothing and the launch of his website, he didn't get a chance to spend that much time drilling or playing as he would have loved. He also wants to commit more time to drill and compete. He's recently paired up with Pickleballerz in Chantilly, VA and worked with COO Beverly Raelson to have his brand sold in the pro shop.

Bruce is ecstatic to have been a Burke resident for eight years and he absolutely loves this community. In addition to playing pickleball, Bruce has coached his daughters in basketball and soccer. He feels there couldn't be a better place to have moved to and raise his three beautiful daughters with his lovely wife. He feels truly blessed and humbled to have made such wonderful friends in this community.

Congratulations to Laura and Jim!

Everyone has heard that pickleball is the fastest growing sport. The health benefits and competition are obvious. But for BCPA's **Laura Huffman**, pickleball has always been and always will be about the people.

Before pickleball, her friends were schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, parents of her kid's friends or teammates. Everyone was generally similar to her...the same age, background, and experiences, until she decided to try Burke Center Pickleball. With pickleball you find that you can laugh until you cry with people you would have never known. Most importantly for her, this game allowed her to meet the most amazing man that would be her husband, **Jim Reetz**. Congratulations Laura and Jim!



From trash to transformation



When pickleballs crack, most people throw them away. BCPA member **Cathy England**, however, came up with a creative way to repurpose them. She transforms the balls into beautiful holiday arrangements and ornaments. Cathy has received so much positive feedback that she's considering participating in a craft fair next year.

And the winner is ...

During the Burke Centre Fall Festival, we held drawings for a free paddle and a free-tee shirt designed by BCPA member Bruce Wilkinson, owner of [Pickleball Players Brand](#).



Abi Manan was the winner of both! Congratulations Abi!

Get a Discount on Merchandise with Pickleball Central Club Rewards Program

BCPA's participation in [Pickleball Central's](#) Club Rewards program gives you a 5% discount and provides a donation to our "Club Fund " that can be used when we buy balls, nets, or loaner paddles for example. The code to get the discount and donation is **CRBURKE** in case you have lost or never received the code.

2023 Election Alert

Do you have ideas about the future direction of BCPA? Are there changes you'd like to see? Or, are you happy and want to help BCPA continue? If so, remember that we are volunteer run so please consider running for a board position in this upcoming election.

The election of officers for the BCPA board is set to occur in **February**. We'll share more information in January.

All of the current officers have been in their position for more than the normal time set forth in our bylaws. We're looking for members to step forward to these roles. This way, we get new ideas as well as broader involvement in the direction of the association. To that end, the Board has decided to add two or three positions as Board Members At-Large, like the Conservancy's Board of Trustees. Responsibilities will be to participate in Board meetings and take on tasks as they come up that don't clearly belong to one of the officers. The bylaws are being revised to provide for these positions and to modify the officers' roles to reflect what they have evolved to do. For example, the Registrar board position will be phased out since it has been subsumed by the Treasurer. However, promoting membership is an example of a task for an At-Large Board member. Another task for an At-Large Board member could be Social Committee Director. The Board is very much interested in increasing the Association's off-court social interactions, whether it is a party, a picnic or simply hanging out for food and/or drink.

Playtime Scheduler - What it is and what it isn't

Scheduler allows invited registrants to know who, and how many players expect to attend a particular play session. As soon as a minimum of four players have added their names to attendees, an additional email goes out to invitees that the session is on. Further, now that access to the courts has become more stringently dependent on key holders, participating registrants will have self-identified



themselves as key holders so that others who want to attend will be able to see that a key holder will be present. The invitations serve as a reminder of an upcoming play session and at which venue.

Scheduler is not a reservation system. To reserve courts requires TennisCall, a separate application only available to Burke Centre residents. Contact the Admin for TennisCall, currently, Jimmy Chu (jimmy@burkecentre.org) to get access. Of course, one needs a court key to play on the courts regardless. BCPA's regular play sessions have been permanently reserved by the Conservancy. If you are part of a group that wants to play at other times and want to reserve the courts for your group, TennisCall is the App for you.

The bottom line is that while use of the Scheduler is not required, it is strongly recommended. The News tab on our website has downloadable instructions on how to register with Scheduler and become added to the invitee list, and how to use Scheduler.