

PICKLEBALL LINCOLN



Online Newsletter

The Fall Issue Featuring:

- ♦ PLI members helping fellow Lincolniters
- ♦ New court options around town thanks to volunteer efforts
- ♦ Invites to join PLI and our Facebook group, upcoming events, and future plans

PLI Membership

Your PLI membership is only \$15 a year and your dollars help support our club. Joining PLI also ensures that you are up to date on all local pickleball news, special events, and tournament offerings. Thank you so much for being a member of PLI! From the PLI website, click on the red JOIN button to become a member. Go to: www.pickleballlincoln.com

Cornhusker State Games Held in July

After a lot of planning and changes due to Covid-19, pickleball was allowed to be played at the CSG. There are many fun photos of the state games' medal winners. Go to Facebook and "like" the group "Pickleball Lincoln NE." The page always has great posts and is updated regularly. It's also a great place to post an inquiry if you happen to lose a paddle...

PLI Members Helping our Community

Something exciting has been happening in northeast Lincoln. Last summer's Ballard Park Sunday night recreational players didn't want their fun to end once the weather grew cold. Bev Sprouse contacted Faith Lutheran school at 87th and Adams and got permission to move the play inside once cold weather hit. Players taped lines for three



Players included Troy Wiederstein, Phil & Mary Wolfe, Pastor Miller & Mari, Marilyn Stadler, Bev & Tyler Sprouse, Julie Cole, Brenda Anderson, Roger Evans, Linda Pankonin, Diane Evans. Not pictured: Bonnie Holtz-McMahon, Kathy & Randy Baumfalk, Carol Meyers, Mary Mach, Yvonne Heakin, & Spencer from UPS.

Photos by John Pankonin

stepped up to the challenge and responded more generously than anyone could have imagined. As a group, the players donated a total of 7,077 diapers, 105 infant (cont. on page 2)



courts and Bev purchased portable nets and supplies. Each week, players donated \$3-\$5 to reimburse Bev for the equipment. One court was earmarked for new players, and church members were also invited to play. It wasn't long and enough money was raised to cover the cost of equipment.

Bev, along with Linda and John Pankonin, came up with an idea for pickleball players to partner with Faith Lutheran in a fundraising event to help low income mothers. Players were encouraged to donate diapers and other baby supplies. As you may already know, PLI members are as enthusiastic about helping others as they are about getting on a court. They



Troy Wiederstein & Linda Pankonin with 7000+ diapers and other items donated

(cont from page 1) caps, a dozen outfits, wipes, plus gently used baby items—enough to fill a pickup, an SUV, and a van!

Thrivent Financial also donated matching t-shirts to all players who donated.

As a thanks to Faith Lutheran for the pickleball space, players also made a cash donation to Faith Lutheran's elementary school PE program. Thank you to everyone in this group who represented PLI and all pickleball players in such a positive way!

New Pickleball Options Near You

The construction of four new courts at Peterson Park was great news, but are you ready for even MORE great things happening for pickleball players in Lincoln? PLI arranged with the city to add two more satellite playing locations in various parts of town. Thanks to the volunteers who swept, weeded, picked up trash, painted lines, and dug drainage trenches, the courts at Roberts Park (58th and Sumner, between A and South street) and Seng Park at University Place (48th and Francis, near Wesleyan's campus and east of UNL's East Campus) are ready for play! Orange locked net boxes have recently been added. Check out these and other neighborhood locations. Drop-in and Round Robin schedules are posted here: www.pickleballlincoln.com Click on the tab that says "play" to see indoor and outdoor locations and availability. Some of these new court options have morning and evening shade, especially nice during the final hot days of summer.

Volunteers in Action!



Joel Houston does his magic with the striping machine



Ed Johnson, Steve Turner and Bev Sprouse check out the new lines at Seng Park



Tom Hartford and Bev Sprouse say good riddance to court debris

Upcoming Event: PLI Fun-Raiser Pickleball Scramble

Mark your calendar and head to Peterson Park on Sunday September 13th (rain date September 20th) to watch some great pickleball action. Two divisions will be playing in a round robin style format: The Dog Eat Dogs (3.5-4.5+) and the Up and Comers (2.0-3.0). Bring a chair, sunscreen, and snacks to settle in (social distancing style) for a day of fun with friends. Divisions are full, and courts are reserved until 2-3 p.m.

Did You Know?

Four years ago at this time, Pickleball Lincoln had 4 members. Today, our club has 406 active/paid members!

For you math nerds (Buck Wood) I did a linear regression and extrapolated the resultant data. At that growth rate, we will have 4,080,300 members by 2024.

THAT'S A LOT OF PICKLEBALL!



We appreciate all of our members. We truly hope our club can help everyone improve their game and have more fun playing pickleball, and more fun in life!

PLI wishes to sincerely thank Chuck Gregorius and Tim Sell for their continuous mowing and upkeep at Petersen Park this summer. If you happen to see them, tell them how much their hard work is appreciated!



Phil Wolfe drains the "pond" from years of neglect at Sang Park via a trench that he created



Doni Bowers, Tom Hartford, and Bev Sprouse take a quick break from volunteering at the cleanup of Seng Park. Other volunteers not pictured are Mike Korsakas, Yvonne Heakin, Cathy and Randy Baumbalk, Bill Roehrs, Mary Wolfe and many other individuals



Judy Eicher, Bev Sprouse and Kathy Baumbalk try out the new courts



Congrats to Darcy McBride and Barb McIntyre for taking gold at the Senior State Games in Kearney, Aug 8

A Look Ahead...

- ♦ PLI has been working closely with court construction crews to get the four new courts at Petersen Park re-leveled and resurfaced. If you have noticed that your pickleball game is a little different over on the new courts, or if your ball has taken a strange bounce, those issues could be the problem. We expect to get the new courts perfected in the near future.
- ♦ Many players are beginning to think about what will happen once the weather turns cold, rainy, and blustery. PLI is working with Speedway to determine if we can play there again this winter. Please watch your email later this month or early October for an email from PLI on how and if we are able to play indoors at Speedway. What we know so far (if we are able to play there) is that it will be structured in a way that is different from previous years. Also, you will need to have an up-to-date, paid PLI membership in order to play. This is because we will rely heavily on communication to club members through PLI's JoinIt email system, which stores and organizes member emails and contact information. Another great reason to join PLI today! That being said, we do hope to play outdoors at least through October.
- ♦ **And, A Look Back...** We have been so blessed to play pickleball all summer with our friends and loved ones without any known COVID-19 outbreaks amongst us. Good job, everyone! Keep sanitizing those hands!

*This newsletter was created in collaborative effort between Mary Wolfe and Amber Davis, with PLI oversight and input. Many thanks to those who shared photos, willingly or not. If you would like to help with future issues or have ideas for what you'd like to see, please contact Mary or Amber.



On July 15, local sports publisher and writer Sean Callahan took a video of this group of PLI ladies playing pickleball in the Railyard. He posted it on Twitter and the video had over 15,000 views

Do you have a special talent?

Pickleball Lincoln is always looking for volunteers in many areas like court maintenance and surrounding area upkeep, photography, or even assisting in teaching new players.

If you have a special talent that could help out our club, contact Bill Roehrs at 402-432-6790 or email him at wroehrs@me.com