



# Courtside Chatter

THE PLACE FOR TENNIS IN VENICE

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## Pro's Points



I want to take a moment to tell you about a great tennis program that one of our members started. I'm talking about the Junior Tennis Pilot Program (JTPP) started by Grace Mahoney.

### What is the JTPP?

Grace, and some of her friends started the JTPP as a way to give back and help a junior achieve their tennis goals. The JTPP collects donations and one recipient is selected per year to receive the assistance of the JTPP.

### How is a recipient chosen?

This past year was the first year of the JTPP. Grace identified a potential recipient and had them write a paragraph about what their tennis goals were, much like a student applying for a scholarship would do. Based on their needs and goals, Grace, along with some other donors chose the recipient. The first recipient of the JTPP assistance is Ula's daughter, Nicole Cierniak.

### So how does the JTPP assist the junior who is chosen?

Grace collects donations and puts the funds into an account. The JTPP then helps the recipient pay for tennis related goods or services such as rackets, lessons, gas to tournaments, etc., it depends on the recipients needs and goals. The recipient submits receipts of their expenses and updates the JTPP regularly on their progress in achieving their goals.

One of the things that I like about the JTPP is that it is the recipient that chooses their own goals and chooses how they want to go about achieving their goals! The JTPP doesn't put restrictions on them or tell them what they must do, but the JTPP does try to help the recipient map a plan for how they can to achieve their goals. The recipient can set high goals like winning the state tennis tournament, or more simple goals like learning how to play matches and making the school team. The JTPP wants to help a junior who wants to improve, no matter what level they are.

The JTPP is not an official Courtside endeavor but it is something that I feel is a great thing for tennis and the youth in our community. It is members like Grace Mahoney that make Courtside the Place for Tennis in Venice. For more information about the JTPP contact Grace.

Matt Liverman

Tennis Director/Head Tennis Professional

## President's Corner

"Courtside Addresses Community Services"  
by Jim Flynn

Did you know that Courtside Tennis Club is incorporated under the statutes governing businesses in the State of Florida and the United States? Our club fulfills the statutory requirements as a Not For Profit, Non-Charity business.

Although our club is not legally required to do so, it has always taken an active role in worthy community initiatives. Currently, there are a number of programs underway.

The club is actively participating in assisting with the Ukrainian Relief Fund aimed at providing serviceable clothing and food for victims of the ongoing war. It is also involved with helping with deliveries of the "Meals On Wheels" program.

In the tennis category, Courtside is once again permitting Venice Christian School to utilize our hard courts for practices at no charge. Also, the charter school, Skye Academy will soon be involved in practicing tennis at our club during the late afternoon hours. One of the highlights of the tennis viewing season is the club's annual hosting of a match involving Venice High School.

Another very vital component of the club's tennis initiatives is Matt's well-established Junior Program which is currently prospering.

Courtside members should be proud of the club's advocacy in community involvement in these types of activities

## Courtside Board of Directors

Jim Flynn—President  
Tom Lanigan—Vice President  
Debbie Cavness-Secretary  
Mitchell Betty-Treasurer

Sandy Allen-Director  
Karen Scott-Director  
Janet LeBlanc-Director

## April Birthdays

Mary Lou Irish 6

Lynda Schuepp 12

Rick LaClare 12

Elaine Bucci 13

Jim Flynn 18

Frank Gallagher 21

Joan Penimpeto 24



## A Big **THANK YOU** for all the Donations to Ukraine

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to our Courtside Family for their outpouring of generosity to help the refugees of Ukraine. The Koval and Faryna families who picked up your donations last Saturday were overwhelmed by your kindness. They filled 3 large SUV's to get all the warm clothing, coats, shoes, blankets, children's clothing and toys, etc. back to their church in North Port. Courtside members' monetary donations amounted to an unbelievable \$1,240.00 which is being used to purchase additional bulk items as well as aiding in the shipping costs. Rather than individual boxes being shipped by family members, they have pooled their resources to send supplies by way of a bulk container that will be shipped directly to orphanages & churches in Ridkivtsi, Toporivtsi, Kolinkivtsi and Chornivka in southwest Ukraine.

Thank you again. You all are amazing.

Sally Miller & Judy Edmunds



**Nancy Carroll**  
**Arthur Lerman**  
**Dan Lyons**  
**Art Roa**

## New Members

## “Quote of the Month”

“There is hope, even when your brain tells you there isn't.”

**John Green**



# Remember!

Tuesday—Ladies Clinic with Ula 11:00-12:00

Wednesday—Ladies Early Bird Clinic with Matt-8:00-9:00

Wednesday—Men's Weekly Clinic with Matt-9:00-10:00

Thursday—Shot of the Week with Ula 11:00-12:00

Call the office and reserve a spot or sign up on the bulletin board outside the office.

\$10.00 members—\$15.00 non-members

## Dates to Remember

**Mark your calendar!!**

April 6th—Board Meeting @ 1:00

April 5th, 7th & 14th— Venice Christian School will play their home matches @ Courtside.

April 12th, 13th, 19th & 21st—Sky Academy School (Venice) will play their home matches @ Courtside

April 17th—Easter



## After School Jr. Tennis Program

**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**4:00 pm-5:30 pm**

**Ages: 8 & up**

**\$15.00 per session per child**

**Sign up sheets are in the office or please call 941-485-2000 for more information.**

### On-Line Reservation

(for courts 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, & 9 at either 8:00 am., 9:30 am., or 11:00 am)

#### BOOK/CALL ON

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

#### TO PLAY ON THE FOLLOWING:

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**The on-line reservation system will now be open all year around including all holidays.**

Sunday (Office is Closed)

\*Court 4 is reserved for lessons.

\*During League Play ladies and men will use designated courts as assigned by the Director of Tennis.



# Meet Your Courtside Family!

Karen Kennedy

## What brought you to Courtside?

I was at Jacaranda for 5 years and felt I needed a change. Best decision I ever made! From Matt to Ula, to Mo and Sue, to the people who organize the groups and to all the amazing members I have met. It truly is an extension of family. I look forward to many happy years here.

## How long have you been playing tennis and why tennis?

I guess about 30 years. (ugh I should be much better). Running was always my passion but decided I wanted to add something else. Tennis seemed like a good option, so I gave it a go and fell in "love".

## Do you play other sports? Which ones?

As I mentioned above, I was a very active runner. I have run tons of 5k's, 10k's, 1/2 marathons and 4 full marathons. Being raised in Boston, running the Boston Marathon (twice) was a true highlight.'

The community I live in has pickleball courts. I had never heard of the sport until I moved to Florida. I figured I'd give it a try. I do have to say, I really do enjoy it. (not as much as tennis but I have fun with it). Just recently entered a mixed doubles tournament and surprising to myself and my partner, we actually won.

## Tell us about your family.

I was born and raised in Boston, Ma. My family is my everything (sappy but true). My husband Ian and I have been married for 30 years. He is my best friend! I have one sister (2 years older) and we couldn't be any closer. (I could use some help in trying to convince her to be a snowbird). I am very fortunate to have a 90-year-old father who is fit as a fiddle. We just came back from St. John where he jumped off a boat to go snorkeling, jumped off again and swam to have lunch at a floating taco restaurant, climbs stairs, walks miles every day, easily completes the daily New York times crossword puzzles and has his nightly Manhattan. I also have a stepfather turning 90 in August. Every single person in my family means the world to me.

## Where have you traveled to and where would you recommend your fellow Courtside family travel to and why?

We've traveled a lot but my favorite by far was when my husband told me we were moving to Sydney, Australia for his job. I was of course scared to death (what will I do?) but it didn't take long to meet friends and have the most amazing experiences. I joined White City Tennis club (where the Australian Open was played before moving to Melbourne). We traveled to every state while we were there. Also had the opportunity to spend a couple of weeks in New Zealand. The people of Australia are so friendly that when we were leaving to come back to the States, we had to go to the laundromat and the deli to say goodbye to our friends there.

## What did you do for a career?

I worked in financial services for 20+ years. Mostly Mass Financial Services and Sunlife of Canada US. I worked my way up and ended my career as the director of the call center. The highlight of my career? Well meeting Ian of course! Even though I ended up working for him, so he fired me...haha. I showed him. He told me he had a great opportunity to take a job in CT., so off we went, and I retired (quite early).

## What do you wish you knew more about?

Oh, that list could be endless but here's one: I wish I knew why after so many lessons and so many years my overheads still go in the net.

## What are some things people at Courtside do not know about you?

Probably most things since I've only been a member for 3 months. Bit I guess I would say that I love to write poems for special occasions.

## What talent do you wish you had?

A better Piano player. I took lessons when we moved from Boston to CT for a few years. And I also took lessons while we were in Australia. When we moved back to the States I stopped. I hadn't played for over 10 years and decided to try again. I got an 88 keyboard and I'm teaching myself using the Simply Piano app. Still plunking along. I think I'm a ways away from Carnegie Hall.

## What makes you, you? What is the best thing about you?

I think everything above is what makes me, me. I feel very fortunate to being living the life I'm living. I feel very fortunate to have the family and friends I have. And I guess I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my other very best friend. That would be our 5-year-old dog Bailey that we rescued 4 years ago. He just added a next level of love and joy to our family.

## St. Patrick's Day Round Robin & Brunch

The event was a huge success with everyone dressing in green.

Thank you to Matt our Tennis Director/Head Tennis Pro and all the volunteers for making this social event so much fun!!

