



Courtside Chatter

THE PLACE FOR TENNIS IN VENICE

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Pro's Points



Courtside Family Members,

This past July was the four-year mark since I became the Tennis Director & Head Professional at Courtside. In the past four years Courtside has gone through a lot of challenges and changes. The business and property are continuing to grow and change, so I would like to highlight some of the changes and accomplishments that Courtside has gone through in the past four years.

- Courtside joined the RecycleBalls program on July 8, 2019, to date Courtside has recycled 23,200 tennis balls.
- As a preemptive measure, Courtside closed the clubhouse building to members on March 19, 2020, and was able to keep the club open safely during much of the COVID pandemic. Courtside only fully closed for about 23 days in April 2020, and reopened to members on May 1, 2020. The club employees continued to work the entire time.
- The trench around the exterior of the courts was dug in April 2020.
- Courtside has continued to grow its Jr. tennis program, which provides financially to the club, plus markets the club to the Venice community and upholds the club's reputation.
- Courtside has continued to give back to the community and help grow the sport of tennis by allowing Venice Christian School, and Sky Academy's tennis teams to practice at Courtside, and play their home matches here.
- The Junior Tennis Pilot Program was started by Courtside member, Grace Mahoney, and has since been embraced by Courtside and grown into the Junior Tennis Assistance Program (JTAP).
- Courtside started the Ladder challenge matches on October 1, 2022, as a way for Courtside members to meet others and to get some competitive matches.
- Courtside now has an online reservation system, to help members book court time more effectively and efficiently.
- Courtside membership has grown significantly over the past four years to about 250 memberships.
- Courtside has more active and competitive league teams now than it has in years.
- As of June 2023, the Tennis Director/Head Professional and his assistant have given \$34,315.10 back to the club from their teaching revenue.
- Courtside will soon have its courts laser leveled and resurfaced. This is a process that is recommended to happen every five years.

These are just a few examples of how Courtside has grown and some of the accomplishments and changes that have happened over the past four years. These changes along with Courtside's continued growth help make Courtside The Place for Tennis in Venice.

Matt Liverman
Tennis Director/Head Tennis Professional

News from the Board

The board had a very productive July meeting and here are some of the highlights.

First we are happy to inform you that we have had 16 captains signup for the fall tennis leagues! It's an exciting sign of the enthusiastic participation within our club. As of now, we can announce the approval of the Tri-Cities 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 and 3.0 Social tennis leagues. We are anticipating the confirmation for the Suncoast and USTA tennis leagues soon, so stay tuned!

To ensure smooth coordination between leagues and availability of courts, we have set the starting times for our fall leagues. The Tri-Cities tennis league home matches will start at 12 o'clock, per league requirements, while the Suncoast, USTA, and 3.0 Social will start their home games at 12:30. Our goal is to create a calendar that accommodates maximum participation and enjoyment for all members.

In other news, we have encountered some issues with our ice machine, and unfortunately, we need to purchase a new one. Rest assured, with all the heat advisories we are taking immediate action to install a replacement.

On a more exciting note, the board has engaged in extensive discussions regarding court resurfacing. After careful consideration of several proposals, we have awarded a contract to Welsh Tennis Company to bring in new material and laser grade level all nine courts, starting potentially in October or November this year. Though this project comes at a cost of \$65,900, we firmly believe it will greatly enhance your playing experience. The process involves removing and replacing a significant amount of material (approximately 5 tons per court), laser grading each court, and placing new lines. We will work on three courts at a time, ensuring minimal disruption to our members.

Furthermore, our media and website committee has been working on revamping our online presence. We are thrilled to invite each and every one of you to explore our brand-new website! Courtsidetennisclub.com A BIG THANK YOU goes to Philippe Bouclainville for his work in enhancing our digital platform. We are confident that you will find it aesthetically pleasing, user-friendly, and filled with valuable information.

As always, your continued support and involvement are invaluable. Look for more updates, and keep enjoying the game we all love!

Tom Lanigan

Courtside Board of Directors

Tom Lanigan—President
Debbie Cavness—Vice President
Lee Scott—Treasurer
Liz Morris—Secretary

Jim Flynn
Sandy Murphy
Sally Pym

For your Information

The monthly Courtside Board of Directors Meeting Minutes is posted every month on the bulletin board next to the kitchen window marked Board Meeting Material.

Also, there is a copy of the latest Courtside rules & regulations of the club on the bulletin board as well.



Sunny Seabrook

Chris Thomassen

Stephan Pare'

Susan & Bob Cushing

Brenda Mike

Sarah Hazel & Steve Morris

New Members

August Birthdays



Mitchell Betty 2
Art Ehlers 2
Janet LeBlanc 3
Angie Overdiek 3
Carolyn Hammond 10
Tom Hackney 18
Mary Robinson 18
Chris Wilson 18
Kathi Cuddy 21
Judy Caron 24
Betsey Dale 25
Kathy Quinnan 26
Monika Sykorova 31



Reminder

All full-time members can pay their monthly membership dues through their bank's Bill Pay Option. Once you set that up with your bank, the bank will send a check directly to Courtside each month on the date you specify.

REMINDER

Just a reminder that there is a defibrillator on the porch next to the office door in case of an emergency.



"Quote of the Month"

NEVER GIVE UP
for that is just the
PLACE & TIME
that the tide
WILL TURN



Remember!

Tuesday—Late Bird Clinic with Ula 10:00-11:00

Wednesday— 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 10:00-11:00

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!!

August 4th—First Friday at Courtside
5-PM Happy Hour

August 15th-After School Jr. Tennis Program
begins 4:00-5:30



After School Junior Tennis Program

Starting August 15th

Tuesday & Thursday Ages: 8 & up \$15.00 per session per child
4:00-5:30

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

On-Line Reservation
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 & clinics

*Court 5—when available

*During League Play ladies and men will use designated courts as assigned by the Director of Tennis, beginning at noon.

Meet Your Courtside Family!

Barbara & Sam Vendemia

What brought you to Courtside?

Our first visit to Courtside was in 2000 during our trip from Maryland to Florida in search of our future retirement home. We stopped at a model home on Venice Avenue and during that visit, asked the real estate agent about a tennis club. She directed us to Courtside where we met the most welcoming people. One person suggested we look at Sawgrass, a development right across the street. We went there and in two hours, bought a lot, mainly because we wanted to be a part of Courtside and we could bike there. We built our home and moved in at the end of 2001. We joined Courtside in early 2002.

How long have you been playing tennis and why tennis?

We first learned to play tennis in the early 70s on a base in Germany. The tennis pro was an Australian woman, and the court was red clay. It was an opportunity we couldn't pass up. When we returned to the States, we didn't play tennis until the early 90s when we were living in England. The base where we worked hired a local tennis pro who gave lessons in a domed facility with two indoor tennis courts.

Do you play other sports? Which ones?

While living in Germany, we learned to ski and skied on the slopes in Germany and Austria.

Sam: I played golf and when I reached my goal of hitting in the 80s, I quit and decided to spend more time on tennis.

Barbara: I tried golf and had my own clubs, but whenever I played, my ball always found water, so I gave it up in frustration.

Tell us about your family.

We have a daughter and son-in-law who live in California, and a son, daughter-in-law and grand dog who live in South Carolina.

Where have you travelled and where would you recommend your fellow Courtside family travel and why?

During the six years we lived overseas, three years in southern Germany and three years in central England, we traveled to Austria, France, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Scotland, Wales, Egypt, Thailand, Greece, and Switzerland.

We also traveled across the US and back to Florida in 2014. We were gone for a month and put 8900 miles on our SUV. The trip was fun and educational as we saw and visited many different states. We learned that crossing Texas was a lengthy trip. Even traveling at 85 miles an hour in unpopulated areas (there were no posted speed signs), it took us 2 1/2 days to cross the state.

What did you do for a career?

Sam: I worked for the National Security Agency for 37 years. Many times, my job required me to travel to other countries such as Europe, South America and the Far East. My favorite trips were to Belgrade, Yugoslavia where I found the people there to be friendly and candid. I also had the opportunity to work on Capitol Hill for one year when the Agency sent me to work for Maryland Senator Sarbanes.

While working full time, I attended the University of Maryland at night and earned a BS degree in business finance and economics.

NSA also sent me to attend a Military Staff College in Norfolk, VA where I received a degree in military science.

Barbara: After earning my degree in Journalism, I wrote for a Baltimore Sun community newspaper, interned at the Washington Post's PR department, and wrote and edited the company newsletter for the bank that is now Bank of America. I, too, worked for the National Security Agency. I initially worked writing speeches for a Deputy Director and then moved to the History Department as an editor/writer.

What do you wish you knew more about?

Sam: I wish I knew more about how to fix computer problems. I always had computer scientists working for me, so I never had to resolve any computer issues I had at work.

Barbara: My family history.

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

Sam: As a youth, I worked on a horse farm and participated in monthly rodeos.

When we lived in England, we lived on a sheep farm. I became good friends with the owner who was an old-time Yorkshire man. I helped with the yearly sheep dipping process which entailed leading each sheep into an inground trough that contained treated water. This process eliminated fleas, mites, and skin irritations. My job, using a plunger, was to push each animal's head and body below the water to ensure its entire body was covered.

Barbara: In England, I worked as a housing officer, finding homes for incoming military and NSA families. The job gave me the opportunity to drive through the beautiful English countryside and connect with the English people.

I served on Courtside's Board 2003-2007—at first as secretary, then acting president and lastly as president.

Sam and I will celebrate 59 years of marriage this year.

What talent do you wish you had?

Sam: I wish I had the talent to play lead guitar in a rock and roll band.

Barbara: I wish I could play the violin; I bought a violin in the early 90s but never took the time to learn how to play—a huge regret.

What is the best thing about you?

Sam: I can find humor in everything around me, and I can laugh at the stupid things I do.

Barbara: I believe I have received many blessings in my life, and I feel wonder, joy, and gratitude for each.



Tai Chi

Due to the extreme heat this summer, our Tai Chi class will take a break. Tai Chi classes will not meet in August or September...and will resume again in October. Look for more information as we get closer to the starting date.

Once the weather cools down, we look forward to seeing you again practicing Tai Chi.

Remember to breath.

Thank You

Liz Morris and Courtside wish to thank the following people of the Social Committee for their help on Wednesday (July 26th). The club is getting ready for a delivery of a new ice machine on July 27th and we had much heavy lifting, rearranging, and cleaning to do. Could not have done it without the help of Nina and Philippe Bouclairville, Rosie Greenfield, Tom Lanigan, Sally Pym, Lucy Troutman, Chris Wilson, and Matt Liverman. Thank you everyone for making the job easy and so fun.

Monday Mashups

Meet Members

Play

Socialize

Name of Group: Monday Mashups

Date: Mondays

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Meet: Courtside near court #1

Contact: Katy Moen, if you would like to participate.

Email: kpmoen@comcast.net

Phone: 360-931-1490

Happy First of the Month Friday!!

Friday, August 4th-5:00 pm

“Happy Hour”

BYOB & an appetizer to share

We will be celebrating August Birthdays!

Dessert will be provided

We will also have a 50/50 raffle with the proceeds to go to the Junior Tennis Assistance Program. (JTAP)

Ice Cold Towels

Just a reminder on these hot summer days, that by the porch entryway is a cooler with ice cold towels to use for your convenience.

Please return the used towels in the bin next to the cooler.

YOGA

WILL RESUME

IN

OCTOBER

Namaste



Want to learn the game of Mah Jongg?

Join Courtside for a fun-filled afternoon of Mah Jongg every Monday at 1:30 pm.

Willing to teach new people. Sign-up sheets are on the porch.

