Calling all Pickleball Players!

Wednesdays at 1:30 PM is drop in Pickleball. Mike and Julie Walias are available to instruct and assist forming groups. This is a great opportunity both to learn and meet potential partners. Both courts have been filled, so come on out!

Now for a more info about Pickleball… it is recognized as the fastest growing sport in the United States, with clubs and courts appearing throughout the country. Pickleball started in 1965, when two families in Bainbridge, Washington were trying to come up with a game the entire family could play. They wanted something fun that allowed all ages to participate. Contrary to popular legend, the name “Pickleball” came from Joan Pritchard, one of the “parents” of Pickleball – “It reminded me of the Pickle Boat in crew where oarsmen were chosen from the leftovers of other boats”. This debunks the story about the family dog “Pickles” inspiring the name (the dog came along a couple of years later).

Because of the simplicity of the game, it quickly caught on, spreading from in Washington to the rest of the country; then throughout the world. Although many Villagers think of Pickleball as a game for seniors, it is now taught in many elementary and high schools. Because of the nature of the game – it starts at the baseline, and then becomes more of a “net” game; it is easier on our “older” joints, making it very popular with seniors.

Many senior / retirement communities are putting in dedicated Pickleball courts now, due to the growing demand. For example, Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton recently mailed out a brochure for their new expansion. Second on the list of amenities is… you guessed it – Pickleball! More and more, dedicated Pickleball courts are something new buyers are looking for in their community. Many area realtors say it’s considered a selling point for a development.

This is why the Evergreen Foundation is holding a pledge drive to build Pickleball courts here at the Villages. They feel this will only enhance the Villages experience and desirability. Since the courts are smaller than Tennis courts, we use blue tape to indicate the playing area. Dedicated courts allow expansion of the club, and also help facilitate expansion of tournaments and events. We hope more residents will consider pledging to assist us in our goal of building the Villages their own, dedicated Pickleball courts!