

The inaugural Pickle-Up program is a resounding success! The country's fastest growing sport is exploding in the Villages, proving dedicated courts are desperately needed.

After co-Vice President Trish O'Neill attended the Tennis Club's "Jump Start" program, she decided a similar program was needed for Pickleball. Trish's intent was two-fold – provide a venue for players to meet new partners and provide instruction for those who cannot attend Mike Walias's twice weekly sessions. The response has been overwhelming.

With the help of 9 volunteer instructors, the 3-week program had over 40 aspiring Picklers attend either Tuesday or Thursday evening. As a result, over 30 new members have joined the Club, with new attendees signing up daily. Participants are taught drills to improve basic skills – dinking (short net shots), volleying and serving; as well as scorekeeping and rules. Armed with these basics, they are forming new player groups, and spreading the word.

The only complaint heard? Too many people on the courts, and how quickly can the new courts be built! With limited availability, these new members need a place to play, and the Villages needs courts to stay regarded as a premiere facility.

With Pickle-Up concluding, don't forget to attend drop-in. Wednesday and Friday at , Mike Walias holds an instructional clinic at 1 PM Wednesday and Friday, followed by an open session at 1:30. All equipment is supplied, but players must wear non-marking court shoes!

Captions for photos –

Group photo – Some of the attendees for the Inaugural Pickle-Up program

Trish pointing – Trish O'Neill provides instruction at one of four "learning" stations

Learning to Dink – New members practicing "dinking" drills