

Pickleball is fast becoming another popular sport here at The Villages. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Tennis Club. They have allowed our club to borrow courts 5 and 6 during certain hours, tape lines for the courts, put recessed hooks on the courts to adjust the height of the net, make reservations 5 days in advance and hold tournaments several times a year using all of the tennis courts. This all has been made possible through the meetings and efforts of the joint Tennis Club/Pickleball Club Court Committee.

Courts 5 and 6 were finished by The Villages in 1998 with funds raised by the Tennis Club and matched by Phil Prescott. The club needed the additional courts because they had outgrown four courts with so much play. The funds raised amounted to a total of \$68,000. The courts were proposed in 1997 and were completed within a year. Things moved a lot faster back then.

The Pickleball Club is still pursuing dedicated pickleball courts. They have raised almost \$50,000 and The Evergreen Villages Foundation has agreed to match the first \$50,000 raised. The club is continuing its fundraising activities.

A site for pickleball courts has been selected by the Club Board and currently the City of San Jose is evaluating our plans for the use of this site. The plans call for 4 courts (roughly the size of one tennis court in total). Hopefully the project will not take too long.

The Pickleball Club knows that the Tennis Club wants courts 5 and 6 back for use by tennis players at any hour. As hot weather arrives it also becomes difficult for pickleball players to play in the midday heat. Having dedicated pickleball courts will be an asset to The Villages. Most other active senior communities in the Bay Area already have pickleball courts. Both clubs look forward to the dedication of the pickleball courts here at The Villages.