

Did you know that the Evergreen Villages Foundation (EVF) was instrumental in supporting the construction of the Pickleball courts?

In 2014, Nancy Keane met with Mitzi Macon (the outgoing Tennis Club president) and Mike Filarski (incoming TC president) to request access to the Tennis Courts during times the courts were not being utilized. From this humble start, Pickleball at The Villages was born. Nancy worked with Betty Olsen, Mike & Bev Poellot (who donated our original equipment!) and Don & Anne Jackson to make PB a reality.

Pickleball quickly caught on, and the club was officially formed in 2015. While the Tennis Club graciously allowed us to use courts 5 & 6, it quickly became apparent Pickleball was growing in popularity. The Pickleball Board needed to figure out how to raise the necessary funds to build dedicated courts.

Don Jackson suggested working with the EVF to gather support for Pickleball; he & Garry Gray proceeded to make it work! To that end...

- EVF initiated our fundraising efforts by setting up a way for Villagers to donate money that would be "ear-marked" for the Pickleball courts and donations that were tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.
- EVF agreed to match the first \$75,000 raised by the Pickleball Club.
- EVF ultimately provided \$525,000 for the project, made up of funds donated to EVF for the Pickleball project and funds from the EVF general fund.
- More recently, EVF purchased the shed we are using for the Pickleball ball machine.

We all owe enormous thanks to the Foundation! For Pickleball and for all the work they do throughout the Villages. Check out everything they've done - <https://www.evfsj.org/completed>.

 THE EVERGREEN VILLAGES FOUNDATION	<b>BRONZE</b> GARRY & KATHLEEN ASHBY DALE & LESLIE BAILEY COMCAST DOM & SUZANNE CORTESE ROBERT MIKKI FILLHOVER	<b>BRONZE</b> SANDY & RAY MAUSLING RELIANT AUTO BODY VIRGINIA SPENCER JOHN STRATAKOS	<b>BRONZE</b> MARTIN & ANKA HOEK GARY & TERRY HOLMQUIST GAIL & KEN KECK LAM FOUNDATION SALLY OTTON	<b>BRONZE</b> RICH/MADELINE NAFTZGER BILL & BOBBIE POMERANZ SUNRISE VILLAS HIGH TWELVE
<b>DIAMOND</b> ANONYMOUS	<b>PLATINUM</b> ANONYMOUS ANN & DON JACKSON JIM & SALLY McCLURE	<b>GOLD</b> ANAHD & MARK GREGG DEE RAMIREZ DAVE & JUDY ROBERTS MIKE & JULIE WALLAS MARSHALL ZIOCK	<b>SILVER</b> NANCY AND JIM KEANE A2 GOLF CAR CENTER CHARLIE/PEG BOUGOPOULOS GARRY & KAY GRAY HERB & WANDA HOLT	<b>SILVER</b> MIKE & BEV POELLOT AMUNDSON/MARTINSON DR. BERNA SANAYEL DDS DAVE & SUZANNE TOFTE STEVE & KUMI WILLIAMS