



PICKLEBALL *Press*



C O U R T C O M M E N T A R Y

APA has been busy this month. We're humbled by your contributions to our success. I am excited to share some highlights of our joint efforts.

APA purchased and donated six semi-permanent pickleball nets to the Asheville Parks and Recreation Department (APR) on Valentine's Day! Look for new nets with our APA stickers at Murphy-Oakley, Weaver and Malvern Hills Parks. ENJOY!

APA attended the January Park Bench Chat with D. Tyrell McGirt, APR Director. At the meeting, he agreed APA will be the place to keep you informed about the \$20 million Parks & Recreation Bond implementation. We will continue to seek

information and pass it on to you asap.

On February 12, APA hosted a fundraiser on behalf of ReGroup WNC for locals affected by Hurricane Helene. Thanks for not letting the weather deter you from showing up at Asheville Sports Club to support our locals in need. We were humbled that we received donations on the courts and online.

Drum roll please...APA's total raised is \$6,842. ReGroup WNC brought in a matching partner, Bill and Sharon Brown from Walnut Creek, CA...for a grand total of \$13,684.

This funding offers an opportunity to provide real help to working people by offering stable, secure living conditions through immediate and direct financial assistance. I am

so very proud to be part of this heartfelt, generous community. On behalf of APA, we are deeply grateful for your acts of kindness to those in need.

APA is committed to be YOUR favorite pickleball partner by improving who we are. At the February APA Board of Directors meeting, we approved four new board members - Jill Fletcher, Lynn Roberts, Thomas Beckstead and sexton. Each comes with experience and a deep desire to carry out our mission as a charitable organization through advocating, educating, and partnering.

Please stay in touch and give us your thoughts on the upcoming APR facility.

Christina Dupuch
President

PICKLERS CLUB

We would like to recognize our Picklers Club members for their elevated membership in the APA!
as of February 25, 2025

Dink Level - \$500 and above

Nancy Carr
Bonnie Knox
Mark Livingston

Paddle Level - \$250 to \$499

Dee Pierce

Pickle Level - \$100 to \$249

Anonymous (2)
Andrew Hart
Janet Hart
Kerry Levin
Molly McMillan
Howard Philips
Alice Weldon

If you'd like to learn more about the Picklers Club, [click here](#).



The Asheville Pickleball Association is pleased to donate six new semi-permanent pickleball nets to the Asheville Parks and Recreation Department. These nets will be installed on the public courts located at Murphy-Oakley Park, Weaver Park, and Malvern Hills Park.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NEW NETS!

by Yira Pia Sanchez-Brugal

The A11N Sports Pro Pickleball Net is the perfect choice for locations hosting multiple sports. Designed to tournament-regulation size with an anti-sag structure, including wheels and a hand winch, the nets are lightweight and easy to maneuver.

With six caster wheels, each net can be easily locked in place or quickly moved across surfaces. Its superior materials and all-weather design make it an excellent option for our courts.

“The APA is very grateful for all the membership support, which enabled us to increase the nets available at the public parks.” said David Kelly, APA Vice President.

The lightweight construction makes this net suitable for frequent disassembly and transport, helping to protect outdoor courts. Compared to

many nets on the market, the A11N Sports Pro stands out in both quality of materials and thoughtful design.

“The APA is very grateful for all the membership support, which enabled us to increase the nets available at the public parks.” said David Kelly, APA Vice President. “The Asheville Pickleball Association will continue to advocate for and enhance pickleball in the region for all.”

“The storm left our family in a state of despair, but the timely and compassionate assistance from ReGroup helped us navigate through the toughest days.”
– Monnie Wright

The APA hosted a very successful fundraiser on behalf of ReGroup WNC at the Asheville Sports Club on February 12. The weather wasn't the best that evening, so if you missed the event, you may not know much about the group.

FUNDRAISING FOR REGROUP WNC

by Dee Pierce



The WNC Chapter of ReGroup Carolinas, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, was founded by a group of locals after witnessing firsthand the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. The sole purpose of the organization? “To get the people of WNC back into stable living conditions when their need falls between their means and the existing social safety net.”

Whether the help takes the shape of supplying a vehicle to a family whose transportation was swept down the river, or purchasing a dishwasher, stove and refrigerator for a rebuilt home, or helping families in Beacon Village rebuild by working with builders and residents to help cover rebuilding costs, assistance is individualized to the need. As Jon Neumann, a founding member and face of the organization said at the fundraiser, “This is a side hustle for all of us. Everything we raise goes back toward helping others. None of us gets a dime.” The 100% volunteer board for ReGroup WNC meets every Sunday night to lay out plans for the future.

As we all can attest, there is more work that needs to be done. To learn more about ReGroup WNC, please check out their Facebook page for stories detailing recipients, to make a secure donation, and volunteer to help.



JOIN US

by Bonnie Knox

Congratulations and a BIG thank you to our members!

On a cold, rainy Wednesday, the Asheville Pickleball Association (APA) hosted a fundraiser for ReGroup WNC at the Asheville Sports Club. We raised over \$6,800, which will translate into more than \$13,600 due to a matching grant. ReGroup WNC is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping working families after the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. **All proceeds** went directly to ReGroup WNC. Our members are the best!

If you haven't joined APA or renewed your membership, **please do so today for \$20** and be a part of the APA family. Your membership dues have made a difference. The APA recently purchased and installed six new nets on our public courts. We are also working with Asheville Parks and Recreation (APR) on installing recycling boxes for damaged pickleballs.

As a partner with APR, APA is collaborating on plans for the dedicated pickleball facility mandated last fall when the bond issue passed. Pickleball remains a top priority in the city's rebuilding plans following the hurricane, and we're advocating for the best possible outcomes for our members and the wider pickleball community.

We can almost taste the sunshine and warmth that will soon mean Spring is here. We need volunteers to help build our membership, raise funds and teach our youth and adult clinics. Watch out for our social events and come join the fun!

[Click here to join.](#)

APR BOND NEWS

An Interview with D. Tyrell McGirt, APR Director

1. Please provide a status update on the APR \$20 Million Bond.

The bond is intended to fund a range of improvements. Currently, projects are being prioritized based on other City capital projects, staff capacity, and Helene recovery. This year, we are focusing on planning for dedicated pickleball courts, including site selection, some preliminary design, and cost estimation. A specific percentage of the bond allocated to pickleball will be finalized during planning. We will provide more detailed information on budget allocation as this progresses.

2. Can you provide insight into the type of pickleball facility that is being considered?

We are in the pre-planning phase for 8 to 10 dedicated courts. While details on specific amenities are still being determined, our goal is to create a high-quality facility that meets the needs of the community. As planning advances, we will share updates and seek community input on the design and amenities.

3. Please explain your vision of how the pickleball community will provide input and feedback on the plans.

We will use a multi-faceted approach to gather input, including online engagement platforms, public meetings, and targeted focus group discussions to delve into project specifics.

4. The pickleball community is interested in knowing if the new courts will impact the current number of multipurpose public courts.

You have raised a very important point. To be honest, we have not decided. We will explore different scenarios and evaluate the trade-offs involved. We understand this is a concern for all racquet court users. We will include future use of current multipurpose courts in the dedicated court planning.

5. How can APA partner with you to move the project forward?

We see several opportunities for partnership. Soliciting feedback on court designs, once the public engagement timeline is finalized, will be helpful. We welcome APA's support in sharing the project page, which will be a central hub for information and updates. Finally, exploring additional funding avenues, such as grants, will be a significant contribution.

6. Previously, you asked APA to recommend property that may be ideal for pickleball courts. Since we do not know what land the city owns, can you share the locations you are considering?

Yes. We have been looking at city-owned land. Due to the space requirements for courts, parking, and restrooms, our initial assessments have focused on existing parks. The locations we are currently considering are Aston, Ray L. Kisiah, Richmond Hill, and Roger Farmer Parks. We would appreciate your insights and assistance in evaluating the suitability of these sites.



STEPS *to* SUCCESS

by DAVID KELLY



“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.” – *Michael Jordan*

What do we do with the inevitable mistakes we make while playing? After all, everyone, no matter the level, goes through spells of seemingly endless errors. Most of us tend to react with emotional frustration and self-condemnation, and then hope the

error does not reoccur. Unfortunately, most are not one-offs, but systemic, meaning we do them over and over.

So, perhaps, if we treated the unintended mistake not as a personal failure, but as an opportunity to improve the system,

we can find benefit. Of course, sustained action and patient engagement are necessary for this change. It is a slow process undoubtedly, but effective.

Mistakes can build success, if you put them to good use!