

Around The Post

WEST GEAUGA PICKLEBALL CLUB

JULY 2026

TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS

Our First Tournament of the Year with director **Adam Berry** was sponsored by **Fastlanes** of Chesterland. We had two days of play. Saturday, May 17th was for intermediate players with DUPR ratings of 2.0-3.24. We had 19 players switching up their partners for each game. The top five finishers were, in order: **Ellis French, Chris Fink, George Minello, Laura Peluso** and **Tammy Dingman**. On Sunday, May 18th, players with DUPR ratings between 3.25-4.0 competed. We had 14 players participate and also switching partners each game. The top five finishers were: **Adam Berry, Lenny Lee, Scott Wayt, Bryan Wilson** and **Belinda Potts**.



Intermediate Group - Fastlane Tournament

Our second tournament, "The Pickle Power Couples" was June 20th. It was sponsored by the **Howard Hanna/Matthews Group** and was run by **Ben** and **Kimya Matthews**. What a fun and well-organized tournament with lots of snacks to boot! Each person registered on the newly organized Zeffy site with a team name. There were 9 teams of mixed doubles (18 players). The top five teams were (in order): **Team Moyststrong-Joann Moyer/Larry Armstrong, Team Cheaters-Lisa Zeigler/Royston Rodriquez, Team Bulldogs-Laney Klika/Kevin Klika, Team P&P-Belinda Potts/Tony Palmeri, and Team Juniper Roo-Teresa Rogers/Barry Leven**.



Upper Intermediate/Advanced Group - Fastlane Tournament



Mixed doubles, in the June 16, 2026 couples DUPR rated tournament, with tournament directors **Ben & Kimya Matthews**

Kids Tournament Next Weekend

REGISTER NOW!

Our third tournament is this year's youth tournament, which will be held on July 18th and sponsored by **MHW Flooring & Restoration** of Chesterland. Club member, **Esther Daniels** will be in charge of this tournament called the **Cleveland Pickleball Junior Classic**. Players from 8-18 will be divided into three age and ability groups.

We have two tournaments remaining... August 15th will be the Men's Doubles and the Women's Doubles. Our last tournament will be September 19th, which will be the Century Tournament, where all teams (mixed doubles) will have to equal at least 100 years. Check our club website for further details: westgpickleball.com.



Our Senior of all women seniors, **Barb Bailey** took on some very stiff competition teaming with **Mike Peluso** vs **Adam Berry** and **Scott Wayt**.

Dues & All Fees to the WGPC

When we approved our dues of \$5.00 singles and \$10.00 family, we didn't have a way to collect the money. I told people to start saving their pennies. It appears 1/3 of our members are still saving up!! With the diligent efforts of Vice President, **Kimya Matthews**, she has streamlined a system for all our fees to be paid to an app called **Zeffy**. They request a "tip of 17% for their business", but it is not necessary to pay.

When paying your fees, you can just click on the 17% and enter whatever you think their service is worth or nothing at all. So, when you want to pay for a tournament or dues, just go to our website and it will lead to **Zeffy**.

Thanks to **Victoria Southworth** and **Katie Locke** for connecting us to this site that only works with non-profits. Now back to all of you that owe dues, and I know that you DON'T know who you are. At some point you should be getting a notice about a lien on your home!!!

Beginner Training Program

It appears that **George Minello**, **Cindy Rogers**, **Ed and Cheryl Bruss**, and **Louise Vouk** have been extremely busy this spring and summer teaching beginner pickleball. If you are interested, beginner pickleballers come to practice their game with others Tuesdays at 5:30. If you have been too busy (or nervous!) to get instructions, here's your chance to learn with laughs! Just call or text **George Minello** at **440-336-5044**. He will set you up with some instructors to help you get your pickleball game going.

During the month of May, weekly pickleball skill development sessions took place for individuals with developmental disabilities. These young adults were associated with *Metzenbaum* and community training programs such as *Brian's Place*, run by club member **Louise Reames**. Thanks to **George** and his team of WGPC volunteers for doing this community effort.

KIDS PICKLEBALL TRAINING CLINIC

With Pro Alex Toth

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Learn the game of pickleball or level up. Kids from 8-12, with any experience level can sign up for one or both clinics. Cost is \$15. Court assignments will be based on skill level, so all players will be challenged, not bored or overwhelmed.

Clinic 1: Thursday, July 23rd 6:00pm-7:00pm

Clinic 2: Thursday, July 30th 9:00am-10:00am

Register online at WestGPickleball.com

DUPR DUPR DUPR

Well congrats to so many of our members that registered for DUPR and for signing up to be part of our DUPR recognized club of the *West Geauga Pickleball Club*. If you plan to sign up for the upcoming doubles tournaments, these will be reported to DUPR, so you must register in order to play in our tournament.



The President's Dinking Message:

We are well into summer and our courts are seeing lots of use throughout the day. I just love seeing all the kiddos playing with their parents! I can't figure out if it's the parents bringing their kids or the kids bugging their parents, but whichever it is, it's obvious that pickleball is only increasing in popularity. Between the little pipsqueaks hitting the balls high and the seniors hitting with control, is this group of young guns, college age, just tearing into those balls and having some great competition. But what makes pickleball so unique is that these college kids love playing with the older or younger folks as well. I must say we have a great group of players playing regularly at the Parkside courts.

With that said, there is one age group that could show a little more respect for both our courts and the people playing around them. It's not that the high school age kids are mean or nasty, they're not. But they take all their personal gear on the courts as well as all their food/drinks. Then they leave all their litter when they head out once it gets dark. I believe that signs will do little, but polite suggestions from adults might help them know that they are being observed. We all know that most were raised with manners and do know what is the right thing to do. These are all good kids, but they are kids and we have all been there.



Gossip in the KITCHEN!



Apparently, we have some super players representing our club all over NE Ohio...

Chuck Kollman and **Denise Pasquerella** finished first in their league play at *The Dink Yard* in Niles, OH.

Barb Bailey took a 1st place at a memorial fundraiser for fireman Tom Donadee at the *Mineral Ridge, Ohio* courts.

Adam Berry, not only won in our tournament, but finished 1st in an *Ace Pickleball* round robin on June 13th and finished 3rd at *The Dink Yard's Summer Smash* on June 20th.

Ben Matthews played in a round robin at *Ace* on June 27th and finished 1st.

Jeremy Vanhorn finished 2nd in a 4.0+ mixed doubles tournament at *Pickleball 360* on May 23rd.

Partners **Scott Wayt** and **Esther Daniels** finished 2nd at *Pickleball Play 365* on May 23rd.

Court Maintenance

Let's be realistic... We use the courts everyday and there is no way that the township can maintain the courts at the use level that we see daily. So our club takes on the responsibility, and any club member can help out just by picking up any litter, sweeping off the sand and debris and by replacing zip ties on the wind screens as soon as you see any missing. There are always extra zip ties in the bench with the community loaner paddles. The wind screen "zip ties" are made to break away from the fencing when the winds are heavy. This keeps the fence from bending over.



Camille is thinking that the longer my companion, board member **Robert Abbey** sleeps, the longer I get to hang out by the pickleball courts!

FUNDRAISING FOR OUR COURT LIGHTS

Soooo, “Light the Courts” ticket sales have been really slow, and with board approval and the recommendation of the Fundraising Committee at the suggestion of member **Jeff Baum**, the next 75 raffle tickets sold will entitle club members to **free “under the lights” tournament play** for one year for each ticket they sell or buy, once the lights are installed. I’m guessing and really hoping that lights will be installed for the 2027 season. At \$20-\$25 per tournament, that is a great discount and you are helping to support the lighting project.

Also, “**Buy a Light Post** for \$2000. If you donate \$2000, a permanent plaque will be attached to or near a light post.

Once this fundraising project nears its end, a spaghetti dinner hosted by members **Michael Martin** and **Vickie Southworth** will take place to celebrate the end of many meetings and for reaching our goal. This fundraising committee, headed up by **Katie Locke** with members **Samantha Ensinger**, **June Elia**, **Louise Reames**, **Cheryl Schossler**, **Mike Totarella**, **Vickie Southworth**, and **Michael Martin** met up for many Mexican dinners and some long meetings to discuss the next moves for accomplishing the clubs objective of getting court lights for the community.

If you haven’t purchased a ticket yet and the \$100 is just out of your budget, it is now possible to **share a ticket** with others. Just reach out to **Katie Locke** at k.locke027@gmail.com and she will arrange the partial sale.

Been too busy to get your ticket? Just scan the QR code and be done with it! Remember, **Free Under the Lights Tournament** with this purchase!!!

New Courts Coming to Town

The board of the *West Geauga Commons*, located just south of Fairmont on 306, where the soccer fields are located, approved and began construction for two pickleball courts. They are located at the end of the drive by the volleyball court. It sounds like they should be playable sometime in August, but they won’t have fencing till next spring. These will also be public courts, but will probably never have lights for evening play.



Sunshine Scramble Tournament - Mixed Doubles

Sunshine Scramble was a special tournament that was put on by members **Samantha** and **Mike Tortarella**. They came up with the idea of inviting the *City Social* members to participate in their first ever pickleball tournament to raise funds for lights.

Every entrance fee went toward the purchase of a shared raffle ticket. Four names per ticket. Everyone had a blast and our club benefitted from it.



As part of a fundraising committee project, members **Samantha Ensinger** and **Mike Totarella** walked around Chagrin Falls during the *Blossom Festival* to help raise money for our court lighting. They were a big hit as many festival goers couldn’t wait to get a picture taken with a human ball and paddle.

Light the Courts

50/50
RAFFLE



RUNNER UP
\$5,000

GRAND PRIZE
\$10,000

5 PRIZES
\$1,000

\$100 TICKETS
400 TOTAL TICKETS

Drawing TBD

All Participants will be Contacted with the results.



Scan the Code or visit:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/west-geauga-pickleball-clubs-light-the-courts-raffle-2026>



**The Next 75 Tickets Sold Will Include
FREE Registration for All Evening Tournaments for One Year!**



*Couples Tournament
Bulldog Team
(Kevin and daughter Laney Kilka)*



*Couples Tournament - Team Moyststrong
(Joann Moyer & Larry Armstrong)
Pickle Power Couple (Louise Vouk & George Minello)*



*Couples Tournament - Team Juniper Roo
(Teresa Rogers & Barry Leven)
Team - P&P (Belinda Potts & Tony Palmeri)*

Photo credits go to Dan Goodell and Adam Berry