

PICKLE PALS AMBASSADORS MISSION

To promote the growth and development of pickleball in Kettering as a sport for all ages, enjoyment and social engagement by providing information and instruction. To become an ambassador, contact the City of Kettering Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.



CITY OF KETTERING
Kettering Mayor & Council

Peggy Lehner, Mayor

Peggy.Lehner@ketteringoh.org 937-477-7640

Jacque Fisher, Vice Mayor, At Large

Jacque.Fisher@ketteringoh.org 937-232-1637

Jyl Hall, At Large

Jyl.Hall@ketteringoh.org 937-604-5341

Lisa Duvall, District 1

Lisa.Duvall@ketteringoh.org 937-838-7425

Bob Scott, District 2

Bob.Scott@ketteringoh.org 937-478-9910

Tony Klepacz, Vice Mayor, District 3

Tony.Klepacz@ketteringoh.org 937-657-3327

Bruce E. Duke, District 4

Bruce.Duke@ketteringoh.org 937-299-2259

DONORS

Daniel Acuff
Moe and Mary Albaugh
Archers Tavern
Brian Atkinson
Kathy Murphy & Kri Baker
Barbara Blauman
Charlie Borger
In Memory of David S. Bourne
Mary Ann Boyer
Maggie Brandon
Craig and Brenda Browne
The Budde Family
Lori Goodpaster & Peanut Burns
Dennis & Cheryl Burton
Jeremie & Trang Campbell
John Canugilia
Christopher's Restaurant-Krites
Gregory and Kathleen Cleary
Margie Cole
Ro & Connie Cordero
Anne & Chris Cowan
Randy Creamer
Jean Daugherty
Mike & Patty Dorn
Harry Drain
Natalie Drosdak
Eugenia B. Ducker
Sue Brindle & Lee Dunham
Peg Earley
Mike & Mary Eckley
Michael Elliot
Dr. John and Chris Eubel
Ron & Melinda Eubel
Dave & Carol Fechter
John & Pat Fisher
Marsha Flannery
Terry & Karen Folino
Donna Gau-Jata
Annie Gerren
Mike & Bona Griffith
Bob Hammer
Jeanne Harman
Becky & Boyd Harrold
Jeanie Heyd
Jodie Hollander
Stu Holzer
Dave & DaVonna Hornback
Bruce & Sue Howorth
Scott & Teri Inskip
Kathleen & Roderick James
John Jannazo
David Kaufman
Shan Killian
Buck Lackey
The Lathrem Family
Brenda & John Lewelling
Elaine Long
Dianne Loughlin
Kathy Mackin
Paula & Gary Mangan
Linda Mannarino
Karel Mara

Nick Mauro
Joey & Stacy Mauro
Kelly Maxwell
Charlie & Judy Mayer
Meyer Memorial Endowment
Jim Morgan
Verne & Sheila Morland
Rick & Lynn Morrison
Daryl Nels
Connie O'Brien
Kristy O'Brien
Fae Ochs
Dianne Olix
Nancy Pacenta
Rosie Padlo
Tee Pazitney
Ada & Clara Perry
Jim & Joanie Place
Philippe Prevotau
Sandy Price
Tim & Dee Quinn
Joan Raine
Joseph Reich
Pam & Tom Reichard
Tim & Mary Reardon
Katie Ruef
Paula & Doug Saintignon
Teri & Dale Schnarr
Al & Jan Schoolcraft
Willie Scovil
Felice Shane
Ellie Snyder
Robert Spokane
Donna Stafford
Nancy & Bill Stahl
Bill Stocker
Cinci Stowell
Debbie Stricker
The Thompson Family in Memory
of Bill Thompson
Ron & Debby Tobias
Larry Virgilio
Mary Kay Walblay
Nick Warring
Linda George-Wendling
Dick & Angi Wendling
Keiko Williams
Karen Williams
Ryan & Sarah Wilson
Karen & Robin Wing
Donna Wiseman
James & Frances Young
Tim & Karen Young
John & Kathy Zaidain
June Bibler
Pam Higgins
Kimberlie Williamson
Deanna Zikias
Kathy Sullivan
Kettering Health
Lisa Price



CITY OF KETTERING
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

GRAND OPENING

THE JOHN AND BETTY MEYER

PICKLEBALL
COURTS OF
KETTERING



5073 Bigger Road

HOW IT BEGAN

In 2012, Betty Burnett brought pickleball from Florida to Kettering, Ohio. Larry Virgilio, Donna Wiseman and Mary Ann Boyar assisted her in growing the sport locally. In the fall of 2014, Larry, Dianne Olix and Moe Albaugh approached the Kettering Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department and the Kettering Schools Board of Education about repurposing the JFK tennis courts. In 2016, six pickleball courts were dedicated. From drawing chalk lines on driveways and Ernst Park tennis courts to playing on one of the first dedicated, fenced-in pickleball venues, these "Pioneers of Pickleball" made the sport of pickleball possible for all ages, ethnicities, and skill levels.

HOW IT'S GOING

When the Covid pandemic hit the midwest, isolating so many, the outside environment was considered to be a safer place. Pickleball has now expanded as the fastest growing sport in America at a rate of 34% in the last three years (usapickleball.org). The new social scene has grown by leaps and bounds at Kennedy Park, where many connections have been made. Singles needing to mingle, couples challenging couples and families playing together are scenes commonly found packing these courts today.



THE DREAM

As the courts weathered over time, this opportunity for expansion arose when the city was looking at addressing the courts. Pickle Pals continued to dream of growth and rallied with the community, including over 400 players, to make the dream a reality.

Thanks to the City of Kettering, Kettering Schools, a lead donor—The Meyer Family, The Lathrem Family, and passionate players, we are following through with a plan. This collaborative project is resulting in doubling the complex to 12 "state of the art" beautiful, new courts.



SCAN ME

LEAD DONOR THE MEYER FAMILY

John and Betty Meyer were raised in Northern Kentucky and both came from families of meager means. They met through friends in Covington, Kentucky and married in 1954. They had 3 children. Their only son John II suffered from a brain injury at age 14 and never recovered, spending 24 more years in a wheelchair before passing from complications of the brain injury. Betty devoted most of her life to caring for him. Betty was an avid bridge player and attained the status of Gold Life Master. John was an entrepreneur, and among other businesses, he started a car lot on Dixie Highway in Northern Kentucky. In 1964, he opened a Volkswagen dealership in Xenia, Ohio. He soon added another Volkswagen dealership on Salem Ave., Buick Pontiac in Xenia, and Mazda, Jeep, Renault in Dayton, and eventually Eastgate Ford in Beavercreek.

After selling Eastgate Ford in 1998, John began a foundation so that he could show his appreciation to the community for the many benefits that he and his family had received. He started a scholarship at Xenia High School in honor of his son John II. After retiring John went on to help numerous friends and colleagues in their business ventures by financing and mentoring them. John was a veteran of WWII.

John was a pilot and in 2006 after clearing his medical test, he picked up his plane in Cincinnati where mechanics were working on it. As he crossed over the Ohio River, the plane was unable to gain altitude. His plane crashed into a narrow strip of land in Fort Thomas, Kentucky and John was killed in the crash. Betty Meyer died in 1995 of cancer. John and Betty were generous people, and their legacy lives on through the gifts they left behind that are now made in their names.

