

# In the Kitchen

## Westfield Pickleball Inc.



Volume I

### Welcome Back !!!

Now that the warmer weather is around the corner, we are starting to see more picklers out on the courts. We have had some very dedicated players who have "weathered the storm" and played in the cold, snow, wind, and rain. We also had some great indoor opportunities at the Westfield Boys and Girls Club and White Oak School. We were lucky to have space to play a game that so many of us love. When asking Lynn B how indoor impacted her throughout the winter she said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to play pickleball and stay connected to my pickleball family". Some felt that "playing with the same group of people in a smaller setting allowed people to get to know each other personally and could support each other emotionally" said Wendy L. Others liked that it kept them active and allowed them to practice other aspects of their game. Denise R. was "extremely grateful for the opportunity to be able to continue playing the game she loves and with the people I care about so much!" As we continue to start filling the courts the Z5 would like to remind everyone that the warm weather is within reach. You will soon be blessed with the Z5 showing up in his plaid pajama pants, crocks, coffee in hand and his chair that he digs out of the shed.



### How will you celebrate National Pickleball Month?

- "Invite a friend" day
- Reach out to youth by bringing children, grandchildren, or the neighbor's children!
- Reach out to beginner's and teach them the ropes
- Work on drills and skills with all levels
- Make a new pickleball friend
- Have conversation about what got you and someone else into pickleball



### Open Play Hours

#### OPEN PLAY RESERVED HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday**

8:30 am - to 11:00 am

**Tuesday and Thursday**

4:30 pm - to Closing

During these hours all courts are reserved by permit for **Westfield Pickleball for All**. All players, at all levels of play, must mix-in and share courts using the paddle - system.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Park & Rec is offering various programs relating to pickleball. Must sign-up through Park & Rec.

**April 9-May 14 (Saturdays)**

12:00pm - 1:30 pm

Age 10 - 15 Max 8

**April 9-May 14 (Saturdays)**

9:30am - 11:30am

Adults - Max of 8

**April 17th - June 26th (Sundays)**

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Beginners - Max of 12

(Critiqued open play)

**May 21-June 25**

9:30am - 11:30am

Adults - Max of 8

**Pickleball Summer Camp**

7/11 - 7/15

7/18 - 7/22

10:00am to 12:00pm

# **Player Spotlight**

## **Meet Joyce O'Donnell**

Meet our first Player Spotlight, Joyce O'Donnell. She is not only a talented pickleball player but I had the pleasure of getting to know some fun facts about Joyce which she has agreed to share with you.



### **Tell us how you discovered pickleball?**

I started playing deck tennis in Simsbury CT. Eventually found Westfield tennis courts where some friends and I were taping off pickleball courts. Then some great people had a vision of installing real pickleball courts where we are all fortunate to play today.

### **What do you think your greatest weapon is in pickleball?**

My sense of humor and my spin on the return serve.

### **Give us your best tip about pickleball.**

Start watching a YouTube to get familiar with the sport.

### **What are some of your other hobbies?**

Golf, go to the gym, and working in the yard

### **Did you play any other sports?**

I was the most dedicated to softball. I also played racquetball, scuba dived, and did some rock climbing. I did go sky diving as well.

### **What jobs or careers did you have in the past?**

I was a physical education instructor for 32 years and a vice-principal for five years at Westfield High School. I also coached for Westfield High and Westfield State College before retiring in 2002.

**What is your greatest accomplishment in life?** was inducted two times into the hall of fame, for promoting the advancing role of women in sports. She was one of the first female umpires. She coached her team at Westfield State to two conference championships, three NCAA Tournament berths, including a third place in the 1982 national championships, and three ECAC postseason tournaments. She guided the softball team to nearly 200 victories and five postseason tournament berths from 1980-92. She coached a team touring in Venezuela in 1985, and was the head coach at Westfield High School from 1974-79. The Bombers captured the Western Mass. championship in 1974 and were Valley League champs in 1978.

### **What is your most prized possession?**

My lake view

### **What is your favorite song?**

Anything by Adele

### **What is on your bucket list?**

A viking river cruise

### **Where is the most interesting place you have traveled?**

Turkey and Indonesia

### **What is your favorite food?**

Sourdough Bread and goldfish

**Need some new pickleball gear or accessories? Check out Pickleball Central and use this discount code!!!**

**CRwestfield**

## ***WPI Open Play Guidelines***

WPI Open play will always be a place for everyone to play regardless of ability. PICKLEBALL FOR ALL! The main goal is to have fun.

WPI will use a basic paddle up system for our reserved times at the courts. There will be a winner's rack and a loser's rack.

Upon arrival at the courts, you can place your paddle in either rack.

**At the conclusion of your game, you have two options:**

1. If you won your game, place your paddle at the back of the winner's rack. If you lost your game, place your paddle at the back of the loser's rack.
2. You can select the players you would like to play with by placing all four paddles (or less) at the back of either winner's rack or loser's rack. Be sure to skip a hole so it is clear that you are a group waiting your turn to play. If there are three or less paddles in front of your group, you must allow players behind your group to go ahead of you to make a foursome. Your foursome can never jump in front of other players waiting. This option allows players to have a men's game, a women's game, or play with players of similar ability. The possibilities are endless.



## ***Celebrities Playing Pickleball?***

Did you know celebrities are helping fuel the popularity of pickleball. This sport that has started in 1965 has attracted even the rich and famous.!

### **Bill & Melinda Gates**

Bill is know to have played tennis for a long time but is getting more serious about pickleball. It is said they own a Simon which is know as one of the best pickleball machines on the market.

### **Ellen Degereres**

In an interview she admitted that she is totally "obsessed" with pickleball. She mentions that it makes her lower back hurt. Sound like she might need to get a ball picker upper.

### **Jenna Bush Hager**

She is the daughter of former US President George W Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. Jenna explains in a video how the whole extended Bush family and friends play in a pickleball tournament up in Maine.

### **Nick Foles**

Nick is a quarterback in the NFL and he has been quoted saying that pickeball helps him stay in shape in the off season.

### **Jillian Michaels**

She is a renowned trainer and best know for being the original trainer on The Biggest Loser. There is a video on Youtube of Jillian getting serious about pickleball. Quite intense really!!!

These are only a few celebrities listed and I'm sure we missed a few. Hopefully, there will be more celebrity sightings on the pickleball court as the sport continues to grow.