



September 2024

Board Members - 2024

President – Russell Seagal

Vice President – Bob Schwartz

Treasurer – Theresa Kennedy

Secretary – Judy Brown

Membership Director – Jim Quigley

Activities Director – Manny Robledo

Social Directors – Linda De Villers

with Melissa Fort

Facility Director – Vacant

Contact any of us via email:

Russell: rustytennis10s@gmail.com

Bob: bobschwartz11@hotmail.com

Theresa: tak10s@yahoo.com

Judy: judysb62@gmail.com

Jim: jq07017@gmail.com

Manny: lovejoy@comline.com

Linda: lindadevillersphd@yahoo.com

Melissa: alohafort@gmail.com

Comment Cards are available in the clubhouse if you prefer to drop us a note that way – Just fill one out and drop it in the podium slot at the clubhouse.

Notes from the President:

Badminton is gone from Court 7. VMS is telling us the court will be repaired soon. The vendor they are working with will also do minor repairs to other courts in need (looking at you, courts 1, 2 and 5). We were told only minor repairs will be handled for now, as budget constraints exist. As before, Court 7 will be a walk-on court during the day and will revert to a reserved court in the evening after the repairs are done. A new whiteboard is needed near Court 5 to remove “badminton,” and it will reflect the 1.5 hour time limit on all courts when others are waiting. We reminded them to order new chairs that can be used on the courts.

We’ve begun preparations for the Tennis Club Board for 2025 with the naming of Debbie Gray as Nominating Committee Chair. All the current board members are willing to continue in their roles except for the Activity Director and Social Director. The committee will be reaching out to members seeking volunteers for these positions — but if you are interested please contact Debbie directly at dmgmo@aol.com. The candidates will be named in November and voted on at our General Membership meeting in the first week of December. Floor nominations are also accepted at that meeting.

We are still at an impasse with the Recreation Department over the various in-house groups formed by residents. We agree that groups requiring more than one court are best served during non-prime time. Our position is that such groups provide value to Village tennis and therefore VMS should do more to support them, such as providing access to adjacent courts. Their position is that these resident-led groups should follow the same process as other players do, namely, use the CourtReserve app for the reserve courts or use the whiteboard for walk-on courts. On the other hand, the Recreation Department says they intend to sponsor their own group play several times a week on adjacent courts once they fill the position that Lorie vacated. And on the third hand, the Recreation Department approved a USTA Women’s Doubles team requested by a Tennis Club member and consisting of Village residents and guests. This team uses the Tennis Center as its home court and competes locally. Some residents may not agree with leagues being allowed here, but others see value in opening opportunities to support tennis growth in the Village. We ask you to weigh in on this subject in the Things to Ponder section below.

From VMS:

A shade screen was placed behind the bench on Court 8. The Operating Rules for Tennis are up for annual review. We have been asked to give input and will share suggestions to update, simplify and clarify these rules. We hope the process is completed and rules approved by the GRF board by year-end.



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From the Membership Director:

Please welcome these new/returning members. Information about their skill level and playing preferences is available under “Documents” on our website at <https://www.lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/tennis-club> where you can find everything from copies of these newsletters to photos of our events and details about what’s on the horizon:

- Andy Nguyen, andimorua@gmail.com
- Jeff McMichael, jeffmcmichael1@gmail.com
- Linda Bechky, linda@bechky.us
- Ron Bechky, ron@bechky.us

From the Activities Director:

We got good feedback on the new format so we will use it for the last Compass Tournament on Friday, September 27th. Email sign-ups are going well, and we have just a few spots for men left. Again, we will sign up as individuals by skill level, and play will consist of two rounds of Mixed Doubles, with random and changing partnerships, to determine the winning pair for each level. Before lunch there will be a fun round of Women’s and Men’s Doubles. The catered lunch costs \$7 for spectators; free to players with their \$7 entry fee. Next up are the Village Games from October 14th - 19th. By now all competitors should have signed up, but we know there’s interest in a “sub list” so if you have not yet signed up or are still looking for a doubles partner, call Manny at 714-293-9363. Finally, big thanks to Jim Quigley for organizing the Watch Party for the US Open Women’s Final. Attendees were treated to a big-screen projection of a very competitive match between American Jessica Pegula and the ultimate victor, Aryna Sabalenka. We ate, drank and were merry — and wasn’t it fun to see each other in street clothes rather than tennis wear! We will do it again.

Things to Ponder:

The Recreation Department has approved a USTA Women’s Doubles team playing at the Tennis Center. It turns out the footprint has been very small — one home game was already played and the last home game will be played on Saturday, October 5th at 11:00 on three courts. Please take a minute to email us, or use the Suggestion Box, to give us your thoughts on leagues, which we will share with VMS:

- Should league play be allowed going forward as these can increase playing opportunities for residents to participate?
- Should they be allowed in non-prime time only?
- Would you be interested in participating in a league on a team based at the Tennis Center?
- If teams are approved, what if any parameters/restrictions would you suggest? Such as:
 - Limit teams to those for players aged 55 and up
 - Limit the overall number of teams
 - Ensure at least 50% of the team members are Village residents
 - Limit the number of courts allowed to be used for home matches
 - Establish a time limit for home matches
 - Publish a schedule of each team’s home matches so that other players can adjust to fewer available courts



Laguna Woods Tennis Club Newsletter

September 2024

In response to last month's Things to Ponder about the performance of this year's board, we received no (count them) no responses. Seriously, are we that intimidating??? Or are you all just tickled by everything we are doing? At the risk of nagging, please feel free to chime in and let us know what changes and activities you've liked ... What improvements would you like to see? (Remember, we can't fix it if we don't know it's broken.)

Upcoming Events:

- Compass Tournament — Friday, September 27th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Menu — Asian food with an American twist)
- Russell's drill session — Sunday, October 6th, 4:00 PM. Call Russell at **818-681-4889** to sign up. If you leave a message, be sure to mention "drills"
- Board meeting — Monday, October 7th, 11:30 AM. Come join us in the clubhouse
- Village Games — Monday - Saturday, October 14th - 19th, don't miss our barbecue to celebrate the winners and participants on the final day of the tournament
- Club Championships — Monday - Saturday, November 4th - 9th