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From: Mailing Server on behalf of Natalie Eggeman
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For Immediate Release

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 Public Information Officer

Pickleball Courts Dedicated at Lions Park

Fort Wayne, IN: Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Director Al Moll was joined by Community Center staff, senior athletes and Sechler's Pickles to dedicate the City's first permanent Pickleball Courts in Lions Park today. Four Pickleball courts were constructed by revamping one of the already existing tennis courts. A tennis court and a half tennis court with a backboard still remain, for those who wish to play tennis.

"Bringing Pickleball to Fort Wayne was a grass roots effort at the Community Center," said Director Moll. "We listened to their request and marked off temporary courts at Lakeside Park last summer, then provided an indoor pavilion at Franke Park to play in during the winter. We're hoping that by installing an outdoor court, this sport will catch on at all age levels."

To encourage play, Director Moll announced that the Department will offer free Pickleball lessons for adults and children at Lions Park. Paddles and balls will be supplied.



Children's Pickleball Lessons

June 25, 9:30 – 10:30 am
 July 2, 9:30 – 10:30 am
 July 9, 9:30 – 10:30 am
 July 16, 9:30 – 10:30 am

Adult Pickleball Lessons

June 30, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
 July 7, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
 July 14, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

June 26, 9 – 10 pm
 July 3, 9 – 10 pm
 July 10, 9 – 10 pm

"These new courts are great," said Pickleball player Tom Fryback. Fryback will be one of the instructors giving free Pickleball lessons. "If you want the time of your life, you should give this game a try. One of the benefits is that you have more time to strategize than you do in tennis."

Pickleball is often compared to badminton, ping pong and tennis, with its own set of rules. Here are

some features of Pickleball:

- Played indoors or outdoors
- Badminton-sized court, with net lowered to 34 inches
- Played with perforated plastic ball (like whiffle ball)
- Wood or composite paddle twice the size of a ping pong paddle
- Easy to learn, but can become fast-paced, competitive game

“Some tennis players are reluctant to try Pickleball because they don’t think they’ll get a good enough workout,” said Fryback. “But you do. Pickleball is less fatiguing than tennis, but it’s also exhilarating and satisfying. It’s easier on people with arthritis and hip pain.”

Sechler’s Pickles gave away free samples of their pickles at the dedication and are awarding pickle packs to the Senior Games’ Pickleball champs.

The Pickleball courts at Lions Park are open to the public.

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Natalie Eggeman

Public Information Officer

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