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Trails Newsletter

February 01, 2019

Hot & Cold

A “Polar Vortex”? Did they have those when we were kids?? While the weather is the coldest it has been in generations in some parts of the U.S., our Southeast corner of the country is doing just fine. Not every day was great, but good enough for dedicated players. The courts were busy on warm days and less so on cold ones, and mostly in-between.

While it is still another good month

until spring is here and the first of our events will take place, the quiet time was great to hire a friendly new helper. Read more about Coral Giist on the back.

There, you’ll also read about some of the upcoming activities for adults and juniors going on here at the Trails. Until then, go fight the cold weather by playing some sizzling tennis!!

New Members

Mixed emotions in this department to start the New Year. With great sadness we learned about the passing of Don Welch. Don hadn’t played tennis in a number of years due to health problems, but was a big presence while he did years back.

Don’s wife Kathy, after years of taking care of Don’s ailing health, will soon be able again to hit tennis

balls here at the Trails. She occasionally already plays with our MASTERS TENNIS group. Welcome back to the Trails, Kathy.

And in addition to that, coach Trishna continued to add players to her “Trishna’s Trailblazers” program. Rebecca Jones, Claire & Caden Foli all joined this past month.

Court Renovations – An Ongoing Job

The extreme weather of recent months has made court maintenance more challenging, and a number of projects have accumulated. Courtmeister Gary, who likes to work in cold weather, has a long to-do list for the spring. Gary was out of commission for some time following hand surgery. But he expects clearance from his surgeon any day now and will then resume

his court work. Gary’s son Erik will help as usual.

And after giving the new player sheds on courts # 5 and 8 a year-long trial and listening to plenty of feedback from our players, plans are in the works to replace another shed later this year, this time the one by court #7. You’ll hear about it as we get closer to construction time.



Masters Tennis Tournament In Late Feb./Early March

One of the popular programs here at the Trails is Masters Tennis, the form of tennis on a slightly shorter and narrower court, with softer (orange) balls. It caters to players who don't want to (or can't) cover a full court any more. A dedicated group of members and guests plays it at the Trails on Friday mornings from 10 –

noon. It is tennis' version of pickleball, basically.

To widen the audience for this, the Trails will host a tournament for everyone with player party in late February or early March. Details to come out soon. Watch for the flyer at the clubhouse.



New Employee: Coral Giist

Last month you read about our search for a new employee to help with the evening chores: court maintenance, ice refills, foot bath cleanup, etc. Out of a large pool of qualified applicants, one stood out. She polite and helpful and smart, is in 10th grade at Spruce Creek High

School and on the swim team there. What's more, Coral Giist comes with a wonderful pedigree: her sister Eleanor had worked successfully at the Trails until going off to college this past summer. Coral will work most weekday nights. Please say "hello" when you see her.

Junior Futures - Tourneys For Our Kids This Spring

One of the goals in tennis junior development is to get kids "match ready" as soon as possible. In order to achieve that, the rules for junior tournaments have been simplified, allowing even good beginners to play real matches quickly. Many of our kids are at that stage now.



If you wonder if YOUR kid is ready for real matches, here is a quick way of finding out. Three skills need to be in place: 1. Is the child able to serve consistently? 2. Can the child keep score? 3. Can the child hold 2 tennis balls? #1 is critical; the coaches can help with # 2 and 3 on the day of

the event.

From early March through mid May, our juniors will have the opportunity to play matches against kids from other clubs as part of the "Junior Futures" series, a long-running series of friendly, local tournaments for kids with little or no tournament experience. Cost is only \$15 per event. Some of the matches will take place at the Trails, others at nearby clubs, always on Saturdays. A flyer with the complete schedule will be at the clubhouse soon and will be communicated to the kids and their parents in the coming weeks.



Dear members of the Trails Racquet Club,

Beat the cold by playing some sizzling tennis, whether on a full court, a Masters Tennis court, or maybe with some talented juniors even. Give us a call if you need a match – you won't be disappointed! Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy Trails,



Jan Buenner & Team