

OPEN COURT



A City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation Publication Volume 2 | Issue 1 | January 2022



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In December, Jim Reilley was unanimously named the recipient of the "Michael J. Maxwell Volunteer of the Year 'Porch Courtesy' Award" by the Friends of Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. He's been a volunteer since 2014! Unaware of the acknowledgement, Jim had just taken a break during a match when he was approached and presented an honorary plaque from Mike Maxwell for whom the award is named. "It just came from out of left field. I didn't know anything about it!" Jim exclaims. Of the 50 years he's played tennis, nearly 30 have been played at Bitsy Grant. In April, Mr. Reilley turns 80 years old, and who would believe it? He volunteers almost daily and plays tennis weekly! Why Bitsy Grant



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Longtime Bitsy Tennis Player and Volunteer, Mike Maxwell presents plaque to Jim Reilley

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Thank you for reading this month's edition of *Open Court*. Over the past year, we have published this monthly newsletter to provide schedule updates and facility improvements, introduce staff and make contacting us easier! This year, the Department of Parks and Recreation has teamed up with USTA to offer a tennis apprentice program set to begin this Spring! We are pleased to offer this incredible service which includes tennis instruction for players who may be new to the game.

Although January is often one of the coldest months of the year in Atlanta, many of our patrons remain actively engaged at each of our sites. In fact, several players are also enjoying platform tennis at Bitsy Grant and pickleball at Sharon Lester! We look forward to continuing to develop and expand these and other programs.

Recently, new seating walls were completed at Joseph McGhee Tennis Center and new patio furniture received. Interior painting at Sharon Lester, Chastain and Washington Park tennis centers is also complete. Painting at Bitsy Grant is on-going and new carpet installation is expected soon. Additionally, court lights at Washington Park Tennis Center are currently being serviced for electrical repairs. Lastly, our staff hosted its first virtual quarterly meeting with all five tennis communities this month. Join us next meeting via Zoom. We look forward to warmer weather and hope to see you soon on the courts!

Doug Voss

IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Center? Jim loves the comradery and historical value. "All the big-time players in the 50's and 60's played in tournaments there and [some] even played with Bitsy Grant. William "Bill" Earnest, a longtime member of the Board of Directors for the Friends of Bitsy Grant says, "Jim is unquestionably the volunteer of the year! He produces a really outstanding tennis experience for many."

We love hearing from our tennis community! Thanks to William Earnest for sharing this great news. If you have a story or topic you'd like us to consider, email us at informdpr@atlantaga.gov.

NEW YEAR, NEW GAME



Temperatures have dipped in Atlanta, but cold weather is the ideal time to try platform tennis. Played year-round, this social sport, also known as paddle tennis, is now available at City of Atlanta's Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. Haven't tried it yet? Check out this video <https://youtu.be/MdlIOSVezSzY> ! Add some variety to your game plan. Sign up on the Kourts App or at kourts.com today!

TENNIS COURTS OPEN DAILY

DAILY 6 a.m. – 11 p.m.

All COA tennis courts at our parks across the city

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Bitsy Grant, Chastain Memorial and Sharon Lester @ Piedmont Park

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1 – 9 p.m.

Washington Park and Joseph McGhee

SATURDAY 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

All Tennis Centers

SUNDAY 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

All Tennis Centers

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CONTACT US

We're here for you and happy to answer your questions! Email our friendly staff or call **404.546.6788**.

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Recreation Director, Ramondo Davidson

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