

# OPEN COURT



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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Chiquita Curney is the Tennis League Coordinator for City of Atlanta tennis centers. She took on the role in January. If you schedule a match or practice, she's probably the person on the other end of the phone or email. Players at Bitsy Grant will remember her as the lady with the welcoming smile in her former role as Front Desk Customer Service Representative. Before attending grad school, Chiquita worked for Parks and Recreation from 2011-2016; she returned in 2021. Her overarching purpose, she says, is serving others. "Meeting people where they are is so important," Chiquita explains. A native Atlantan, Chiquita earned a bachelor's degree in Human Relations at Point University and is pursuing a master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. "I love people, and I enjoy interacting with people from different cultures and walks of life!" she says. And it shows! Chiquita traveled to India to fight human sex trafficking and received the Hathcock Award for her display of character, academic excellence and servant leadership.



Chiquita Curney

**"I love people, and I enjoy interacting with people from different cultures and walks of life!"**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

In honor of Black History Month, I would like to remember a colleague and friend who is a part of Black History in the City of Atlanta. Though extremely petite, Sharon Lester had a larger-than-life personality. She was feisty, fearless and an extremely competitive sportswoman. Sharon managed the Piedmont Tennis Center for eleven years of her twenty-year tenure with the Office of Recreation. She loved Piedmont; it was her second home. She was a great support to the tennis community and supervised over 900 adults and 500 youth players monthly. She was especially proud of Grady High School's girl's tennis team, whom she helped coach. Sharon Lester was always a positive force, constantly encouraging players. She kept tennis fun while playing a fierce game and coaching her opponent through it all. Unfortunately, this beautiful spirit passed away unexpectedly at the age 44 in 2007. Sharon Lester is the first African American woman to have a Tennis Center named in her honor in the City of Atlanta. We recognize and celebrate Sharon for her service, tenacity and commitment to tennis.

Ramondo Davidson



Sharon Lester  
Photo Courtesy: Piedmont Tennis Association

*"Sharon was a USTA 4.5 player and a member of many of my teams," says Dan Kester, Piedmont Tennis Association Board of Directors. "The tennis center was named in her honor in 2008. She worked alongside the Piedmont Tennis Association to help keep the tennis center running like a community-oriented facility."*

# ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP

City of Atlanta Tennis is excited to offer the USTA Adult Apprentice Program at Joseph McGhee Tennis Center! Participants pay \$60 and receive one hour of instruction from a certified tennis professional for six weeks. The program is ongoing and kicks off March 8. Players also receive a tennis racquet and a FREE USTA one-year membership. But that's not all. "The first time they play in a USTA tennis league, [USTA] waives the fee for that season!" USTA Atlanta Executive Director Amy O'Connell shares. "So, they're getting a big package deal worth well over \$200!" After the six weeks of fundamental training is complete, USTA can connect players to additional programming or assist them in joining a USTA team. Hurry! Registration ends February 25. To register, visit [www.ustaatlanta.com/tennisapprentice](http://www.ustaatlanta.com/tennisapprentice) or call 770.416.4333.



Stay connected! Plans for junior players coming soon.

S U M M E R  
L E A G U E S  
F O R M I N G  
N O W



Registration for summer league is now underway! Hurry, deadline for submissions is March 15 @ 12 p.m. Selections will be announced via Zoom, March 17 @ 12 p.m.

**ALTA / USTA team captains please submit requests for participation via email only to:**

Chiquita Curney: [ccurney@atlantaga.gov](mailto:ccurney@atlantaga.gov)  
Adrienne Wright: [awright@atlantaga.gov](mailto:awright@atlantaga.gov)  
Charles Brown II: [cbbrownii@atlantaga.gov](mailto:cbbrownii@atlantaga.gov)

## 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

*If you have a story or topic you'd like us to consider, email us at [informdpr@atlantaga.gov](mailto:informdpr@atlantaga.gov).*

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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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John Dargle Jr., Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner, Doug Voss Parks Director, Quentin Moore

Recreation Director, Ramondo Davidson

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# WE'RE HIRING!



## READY FOR A NEW START?

The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation has full and part-time positions available right NOW!

***Follow the links below to apply!***



- ***PT Custodian (Job ID# 220059)***  
<https://atlantaga.jobs.net/jobs?keywords=PT+CUstodian&location=>
- ***Construction Worker (Job ID# 210500)***  
<https://atlantaga.jobs.net/jobs?keywords=Construction+Worker+210500&location=>
- ***Customer Service Representative (Job ID# 201031)***  
<https://atlantaga.jobs.net/jobs?keywords=201031&location=>

## Apply Today!

# ADULT TENNIS APPRENTICE

Get on the fast-track to USTA Atlanta League play!  
There's a level for everyone.

- ✓ **Beginner Tennis Program**
- ✓ **One-year USTA membership upon request**
- ✓ **Six hours of tennis lessons with experienced professional**
- ✓ **Free season of adult USTA Atlanta League Tennis**
- ✓ **Free Racket**

*Registering Now:*

**Tuesdays at McGhee Tennis Center**

**7:00-8:00 PM starting March 8**

**Register by 2/25: [ustaatlanta.com/tennisapprentice](https://ustaatlanta.com/tennisapprentice)**