### OPEN COURT





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# Message from Community Affairs



Hello, Atlanta Tennis Enthusiasts!

Are you excited? The first day of summer is Wednesday, June 21 and stays with us through Saturday, September 23.

This June issue of Open Court is packed with celebrations as we congratulate staff promotions, USTA champions, and court improvements. We're also celebrating Pride Month with the Atlanta Team Tennis Association and their community efforts to end homelessness.

Earlier this month, we celebrated the return of Camp Best Friends on Monday, June 5.

This year, our trained facility staff members will engage with more than 150 youth during tennis summer camp. Stay tuned as we bring you coverage from Washington Park Tennis Center as our youngest tennis players learn the fundamentals of the game.

Phillip E. Smith

Community Affairs Coordinator
Office of Management Services





### Refuse to Lose: Chastain Women's League Win City Championship

For a third consecutive season, the Chastain Park-based USTA team won big during the Winter 2023 season.

The Buckhead league later went on to win the City Championship in February 2023. This earned the league a bid to compete at the Georgia State Championship.

"We ended up finishing as the 5th best team in the state barely missing out on being in the semifinals," Jennifer Browne-Payne explains. "It was an honor to represent Chastain and show that champions aren't bred solely in country clubs."

Payne also gave a special thank you to Parks and Rectennis staff and Chastain personnel, who continue to provide for local tennis league play.

The Chastain Park league will take a well-deserved summer break and look forward to returning to our courts this fall and winter.

### Get to Know SLAPP's Newest Tennis Manager



Meet Javen Gilmore, Facility Manager of Sharon Lester Tennis Center (S.L.A.P.P.).

He has worked with the City of Atlanta for two years and began as a Customer Service Representative at Washington Park Tennis Center.

"I've been playing tennis for about 11 or 12 years now," Gilmore said. Javen was born in Atlanta, raised in Decatur, and a graduate of Georgia State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

If you visit our Piedmont location, we're sure Javen's knowledge of tennis will bring joy to you.

#### AND THE WINNER IS...

Hurry, the fall 2023 Random Selection Process closes this Sunday, June 18 at 12 P.M.

Random Selections will be announced on Tuesday, June 20. Confirmation will be sent via e-mail by Wednesday, June 21.



before



after

## New Windscreens at Three Locations

Did you know windscreens are used to enhance court visibility?

We've added new windscreens to our courts at Bitsy Grant, Chastain, and Washington Park.

Quality windscreens provide better visibility for tennis players and spectators to reduce glare off uncoated fencing, privacy during games, and help prevent debris from blowing into the court area.

### Hustle, Hit, & Never Quit: ATTA Fight LGBTQIA+ Homelessness

Congratulations to the Atlanta Team Tennis Association (ATTA) for hosting their first annual Apricot mini-tournament at Sharon Lester Tennis Center to raise funds for Lost-n-Found Youth!

Lost-n-Found Youth is an Atlanta-based nonprofit that exists to end homelessness for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) and all sexual minority youth.

If you are between the ages of 18-25 and need help?

LNFY has resources available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by contacting 678.856.7824.

Hear more about ATTA and their efforts to support LGBTQIA+ causes on <u>USTA Southern Facebook page.</u>







#### **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. Joseph 5 – 9 p.m. Washington Park

**SATURDAY** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. All Tennis Centers

**SUNDAY** 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. All Tennis Centers

#### **HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

In observance of the Juneteenth holiday, our tennis centers will be closed on Monday, June 19.

Our tennis centers will also be closed on Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day.

#### **GOT NEWS SEND US YOUR** STORY!

If you have a tennis story, accomplishment, celebration, or pictures that you would like to be featured in our monthly newsletter, we want to hear from you! E-mail us at COATennis@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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