



# NEWSLETTER



## Summer 2017

### President's Message



My sincere apology for delaying the Fall/Winter 2017/2018 Sign-up. In the past, it would have been sent with a newsletter in early June with an end of June return deadline. Because it has been so delayed, I urge you to make your venue selections as soon as possible and get your Sign-up sheet and money turned in so that Laura Reisenberg, our GR Vice-President, can begin to assign players to each venue.

The primary reason for the delay was negotiating for future indoor space for GR venues. You probably know that Ed Byrne and his Transition Committee have, for some time, been investigating possible indoor tennis facilities within a reasonable distance to replace those we will lose when and if Four Seasons closes. Typically, GR prefers a minimum of four courts, mid-day. Three-court GR venues in the past have floundered and closed for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the difficulty Captains have pairing 12 players over a full season. It is a tribute to Steve Wilson and his successor, Joe Wittling, that they have kept the Wednesday, three-court venue going at Fairfax.

If Four Seasons does, in fact, close in the Spring of 2018 as has been predicted, it is critical to acquire new space now, before the competition for that space builds any further. To that end, the Transition Committee identified the Arlington YMCA Tennis and Squash Club as a possibility. Ed Byrne, as Transition Committee Chair, Laura Reisenberg as GR Vice President and I have spent the past few months negotiating for space at the Arlington Y. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed allowing GR to

house two venues of up to six courts each at their facility for our Fall/Winter 2017/2018 season. Thanks to Ed and Laura for working so diligently to get the job done.

One thing is unfortunate; Fairfax County Parks has ZERO public indoor tennis facilities. Some neighboring counties outshine Fairfax in that regard. While Fairfax County does maintain a number of outdoor tennis venues, they cannot be used year-round and present health hazards for Fairfax County seniors, like GR members, who play there in the heat and humidity of this region.

I have pointed these problems out through a letter to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. There's a copy of the letter later in this newsletter. The Supervisor of my district, John Cook, has indicated that he will make the issues a Board "Matter" at the upcoming July 25, 2017 Board meeting. I'm sure a significant showing of GR members at that meeting would bolster our cause. The draft agenda for the meeting and information pertaining to citizen participation can be found at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/bdagenda/2017/july25-draft-agenda.pdf>

I'm continually amazed at how smoothly Golden Racquets runs, in large part due to the many who dedicate volunteer hours. Special thanks to Connie Dineen who has stepped up to produce this and future GR newsletters. The success of GR is also dependent on the cooperation of each of you to make our tennis competitive, energetic, but most of all fun. Thanks!

Sincerely,

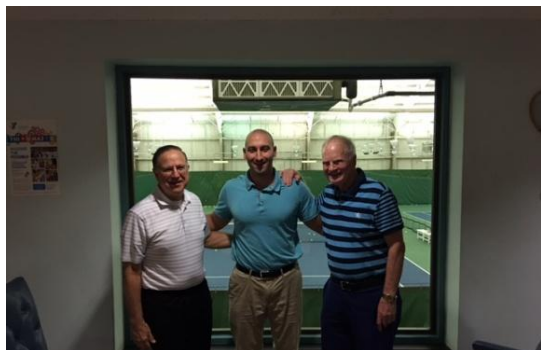
Ed Grose, President

### Directions to the Arlington YMCA

**3422 13<sup>th</sup> St. N. Arlington, VA.**

Take the beltway to RT 66. Exit East. Exit Rt 66 at the Spout Run exit and turn right on Lee Highway and right Kirkwood Rd. Travel to 13<sup>th</sup> St. and turn right. The YMCA is on the left corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Kirkwood Rd.

## YMCA Agreement By Ed Byrne



Ed Grose, Carlo (YMCA) & Ed Byrne

Golden Racquets and the YMCA Tennis Center in Arlington have reached an agreement which we hope will "have legs" far into the future. Essentially the GR members that play at the YMCA will become YMCA seniors special program members. YMCA senior member players who play with us will join GR and will serve either as regular members or subs, or both if they chose more than one venue. Each regular GR player will

receive a YMCA special program member card which will be good for a year from the date it's issued. The card will permit you to play at any GR venue at the YMCA during that time frame. Our substitutes will only be required to pay the special program members fee if they sub more than 4 times during the year. GR will purchase them a special program member card if they sub more than four times unless they already hold a special membership card. So, any sub only has to pay the regular player for whom they're subbing. GR will take care of the rest. No problem.

The YMCA facility has eight excellent indoor courts, the locker rooms are great, and their personnel at the desk are friendly and helpful. Free parking is no problem. The drive is easy to the club. Both our venues will start at 12:30 and end at 2:00 so we will beat the traffic.

My venue is the Monday ladder, a 3.5 and above group. GR is starting a new 3.8+ group on Wednesday at the YMCA captained by Laura Riesenberg. We plan on each venue having six courts but the number of courts depends, of course, on the number of players who sign up. We will operate just like we do at the other indoor clubs. Feel Free to call me, Ed Byrne, at [703-444-0880](tel:703-444-0880) or Laura Riesenberg at [858-342-1895](tel:858-342-1895) with any questions. I'm the players' and YMCA's point-of-contact for any issues. The YMCA special program member's card does provide some other benefits other than just playing in GR venues at the YMCA. These benefits are spelled out in the YMCA website. I'll cover them at a later date. But you should know that as a special program member you will not be able to reserve court time at the YMCA with the card unless you are a Full Privilege Member of the YMCA tennis club. Fairfax and Burke tennis clubs have similar restrictions.



Bob Dineen's softball team won their Division in the Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS) organization. He pitched for the team. If you would like to play softball during the day, please visit [NVSS.ORG](http://NVSS.ORG) for further information or ask Bob at [Bob.Dineen7908@gmail.com](mailto:Bob.Dineen7908@gmail.com).

It is a lot of fun!!!

### A Little Humor!

"Why don't you play tennis with Jim anymore?"

"Would you play tennis with someone who cheats on every call?"

"No, of course not!"

"Well, neither will Jim!"

### Member Update!

We have 320 members. Only 278 have paid their 2017 dues!



### GR Summer Tennis party

We would **LOVE** to have you come for a **SMASH** of an evening, as we celebrate the end of another summer of Golden Racquets tennis.

The date is **SET** for August 19 (Saturday). We will be sending members details and the application form on August 5.

Hope to see you there!!

**Get Well Cards were sent for injuries, illness or other family issues to:**

George Russell	Ann Gratz
Lillian Summerson	Jim Lamb
Curt Chandler	Sandra Mills
Al McFarland	Frank Crump
Jinny Marsh	Steve Thatcher

Three members and a friend of Golden Racquets passed away:

- Bill Summerson, Long time member who was “the Caring committee” for many years.
- Sam Mills, with a killer drop shot, who before serving always asked- “Are you ready?”
- Larry Wilkie, after a long fight with cancer and,

Ralph Hogan, the friendly, cheerful long time tennis Pro at Fairfax Racquet Club who had an enthusiastic greeting for everyone.

*We will miss them all!*

### Semi-Annual Meeting of Captains and Rating Committee

GR had its semi-annual meeting of the Golden Racquet’s Captains and Rating Committee on June 20, 2017. The purpose of these meetings is to determine which players require changes to their tennis ratings. We adjusted 15 players to higher levels and 8 players to lower levels. Some of our players have requested lower ratings because they realize their tennis play is not what it used to be due to age or health reasons. Captains need accurate information on the level of tennis play to schedule balanced doubles matches.

In January we will meet again with one added duty. The ratings of all players who have not been reviewed for three years will be discussed at the meeting.

Tom Burroughs  
Chairman, Rating Committee

*Visit our Web Site! <http://www.GoldenRacquets.org>*

**This Golden Racquets Newsletter is published by the Fairfax County Golden Racquets, a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to senior tennis.**

President: Ed Grose

Former President: CJ Dieteman

Vice President: Laura Riesenberg

Secretary: Claudia Steichen

Treasurer: Al McFarland

Membership Chair: Ellen Johnson

Rating Committee Chair: Tom Burroughs

Social Committee Chair: Howard Ho

Caring Committee Chair: Alle & Jack Cogdell

Chief Information Officer: Bob Dineen

Web Site Manager: Lindsay Wozniak

Newsletter Editor: Connie Dineen

Operations & Planning Chair: Fred Hart

*Please contribute your GR articles or pictures of interest to:*

*Connie Dineen at:*

[csDineen51@gmail.com](mailto:csDineen51@gmail.com)

*NOTE: They don't have to be about tennis...*

### **Wanted: GR Assistant Party Chairperson**

**BENEFITS:** You will obtain a zero seniority number that will last one year after you leave the post that will almost insure that you will receive the venue of your choice. You will also be a part of the GR Board and have the inside 'scoop' on the details of how the club is managed. You will be working with Howard Ho who is familiar with the required tasks.

If you are interested, please contact our president, Ed Grose at: 571-212-3525 or [ed.grose@verizon.net](mailto:ed.grose@verizon.net)



## Fairfax County Golden Racquets

Organized Tennis Play for Seniors  
Supported by Fairfax County Park Authority



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**Ed Grose, President**      **Claudia Steichen, Secretary**  
**Laura Riesenber, Vice President**      **Al McFarland, Treasurer**  
[www.goldenracquets.org](http://www.goldenracquets.org)

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

July 7, 2017

Dear Supervisors,

Since its inception in 1980, Fairfax County has been supportive of the Fairfax County Golden Racquets tennis organization. Our organization has grown from less than two dozen players at its birth to now represent over 300 senior citizens (age 50 to 95) in the County. Together, the County Parks Authority and Golden Racquets contribute to the longevity and health of a prominent portion of your constituents. Thank you for your continued support.

The development of the Mosaic District has increased the values of surrounding properties, including the Four Seasons Tennis Club located at 3010 Williams Drive (now Eskridge Road) Fairfax, Virginia 22031. As a result, as we're certain you are aware, the owners of that facility are in the process of selling their property.

Golden Racquets, besides applying for and using several outdoor County venues when feasible, currently contracts for several venues at Four Seasons for indoor court space/time both during the summers and the fall/winter seasons. We also contract with Fairfax Racquet Club and Burke Swim and Racquet club. The potential closing of Four Seasons has already begun to negatively impact our tennis organization as we have closed membership to potential new members until we can ensure that our members have courts to use.

In addition, the limited supply of indoor courts in Fairfax County has given opportunity to the other two clubs to raise their court fees. Many of our members are retired and living on limited budgets. Increased payments for tennis likely jeopardizes both their financial stability and their health.

Though the County maintains a good number of outdoor venues, playing outdoors in the heat and humidity of our summers and not being able to play outdoors for a good portion of our winters is particularly difficult for us seniors. Typically, we make great use of the court time and space by playing only doubles with four seniors on each court. Unlike our

neighbor counties, we are not aware of ANY indoor facilities maintained by Fairfax County. That is a shame!

We're aware that indoor tennis facilities are expensive to build and maintain. However, many communities have entered into public/private partnerships to meet the tennis needs of their citizenry. To that end, the USTA even has a Facility Assistance Program which could provide significant guidance and financial support to Fairfax County in providing quality tennis venues for not just the Seniors of our community, but for youth and adult programs as well. The following is an excerpt from the USTA web page at – <https://www.usta.com/en/home/organize/grants-and-assistance/national/about-usta-facility-assistance.html> .

The USTA is dedicated to making financial investments in quality tennis facilities. Not all communities are eligible for financial assistance. We cannot retroactively reimburse people for work already completed on courts without our prior knowledge and guidance. To be considered for project funding, communities must:

- Be actively engaged with the USTA Facility Assistance program (complete [USTA Facility Assistance Form](#), be working with USTA-appointed project consultant, etc.). Any project completed prior to engaging the USTA is NOT eligible for funding.
  - Meet specified industry standards for project as determined by the USTA Facility Assistance program's technical team.
  - Demonstrate financial need and matching (up to 50 percent) of project funds.
- \* To fully understand the process by which communities receive assistance from the USTA and what is expected from communities, please review the [USTA National Guide To Facility Assistance](#). To begin the USTA Facility Assistance process and get started, please complete the [USTA Facility Assistance Form](#).

We strongly urge Fairfax County to begin to act now to provide replacement courts for those that will be lost by the Four Seasons sale. If we, as an organization, can assist in that process, please let us know. We would, in any case, request that our organization be informed and given an opportunity to comment on what steps Fairfax County is taking to supply the tennis needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Ed Grose  
President, Golden Racquets  
cc: Fairfax County Parks Authority  
USTA Facility Assistance Program