

St. Luke's Launches SportsPLex Facility and Pickleball Lehigh Valley

By Sam Kennedy

LEHIGH VALLEY - St. Luke's University Health Network is pleased to announce the launch of St. Luke's SportsPLex and Pickleball Lehigh Valley (PLV). St. Luke's SportsPLex is one of the largest pickleball and indoor/outdoor sports facility on the East Coast, outside of Florida. And it is home to Pickleball Lehigh Valley.

"St. Luke's is pleased to once again add to the opportunities it offers to the residents of the Lehigh Valley and beyond with what I am confident will be the premier pickleball and indoor/outdoor sports facility," says Robert Martin, chief strategy officer, St. Luke's University Health Network. "It's important for St. Luke's, charged with the health and wellbeing of the people of this region, to always be willing to try something new, to take a chance and to offer our friends and neighbors a whole new experience. Right here."



St. Luke's SportsPLex (formerly Parkland Pickleball Club) is a 75,000-SF former tennis and racket club that has been completely updated to support pickleball and other multi-sport activities. Housed within six 8000-SF "barrels" or bays there are 12 NBA-quality hardwood pickleball courts, 12 designated hardcourt pickleball courts and an Event Center which is also lined for pickleball, bringing the total indoor courts to 25.

In addition to the Amish-built indoor "barrels," there is a 22-court, 3-acre outdoor pickleball venue that offers a festival atmosphere and ample parking on and off site for large national, regional and local tournaments.

St. Luke's SportsPLex also houses a spacious sports-themed event center and a state-of-the-art-player lounge and is poised to become the indoor / outdoor sports and pickleball destination in the Northeast.

St. Luke's SportsPLex also offers indoor space for both team and individual training for youth to adults to enhance their skill and sports performance level. St. Luke's SportsPLex supports multi-sport activities after 3pm on the wooden surfaces in Bays 1 & 2 and on the turf in Bay 3. A large player lounge and viewing area runs the length of the fields so that parents can watch their athletes train. The facility is Wi-Fi enabled so that parents can be connected online for their work and family needs.

Pickleball Lehigh Valley (PLV)

"Are you already an expert pickleball player?" asks Mary Jo "MJ" Cambridge, director of operations for Pickleball Lehigh Valley. "This is the place for you to find high quality drilling, open- play and tournament competitions. Are you just getting started? Join the movement and take a Pickleball 101 class or lessons from a PPR Certified Teaching Pro."

At Pickleball of the Lehigh Valley, located at St. Luke's SportsPLex, we provide beginner pickleball enthusiasts and experienced pickleball athletes with a "fun and welcoming environment to learn, play and enjoy pickleball" at our 51-court, state-of-the-art pickleball complex, says MJ.

"PLV provides a full range of private and semi-private lessons, skill and drill sessions and open play. Our team at PLV is made up of passionate and knowledgeable certified pickleball coaches who are dedicated to helping introduce players to pickleball or to help elevate a seasoned players game. We have a full schedule of weekly clinics and offer private lessons.

"The staff works to ensure that each player is matched to their level of play, every visitor has a positive experience and that its membership is comprised of people who respect and support each other in having a great time learning and playing the game."

St. Luke's SportsPLex and PLV will also feature a Physical Therapy at St. Luke's site; a pro shop; a player lounge and viewing area and outdoor event area; pickleball lessons, clinics and classes; leagues and tournaments.

According to John Hauth, senior network administrator of sports medicine relationships, St. Luke's University Health Network, St. Luke's SportsPLex and Pickleball Lehigh Valley are wanted in the Valley by its residents, and a good fit for the region. "The Lehigh Valley is special and unique," he says. "We have a wide variety of sports in the area from youth to professional. St. Luke's is proud to be part of that with numerous state-of-the-art sports facilities of all kinds. St. Luke's SportsPLex and Pickleball Lehigh Valley are also unique. This is a one-of-a-kind, St. Luke's "Fit for Life" campus for all ages... featuring the fastest growing sport in the country for all ages.

"The demand to open has been so tremendous, we've decided to do a soft opening and get people playing pickleball. We anticipate that memberships will go fast."

Those interested in joining should go to www.MyPickleballLV.com. If you already have a Court Reserve account, search for Pickleball Lehigh Valley. During our "Soft Launch Opening" December 21 - January 2, 2024, there will be NO PAID programming. We will offer free open play for members who make Reservations on Court Reserve. A LIMITED holiday schedule will open for members.

St. Luke's SportsPLex and Pickleball Lehigh Valley are located at 4636 Crackersport Road, Allentown.



Totts Gap Arts Institute (TGAI) is now accepting grant proposals from organizations presenting arts programming in the 10 municipalities of the Slate Belt region.

Founded in 2006, the mission of TGAI is to nurture artists of all ages, and to awaken the excitement, passion, and possibility of the fine and performing arts by supporting classes, helping to showcase talent, and supporting events that will infuse our community and the region with a love and respect for the creative process.

Grants will be awarded to qualifying organizations for programs that provide educational opportunities, or support cultural events, such as performances.

Granted programs can be for any age group, and are open to any federally-designated (501)(c)(3) non-profit organization that agrees to follow the grant requirements and stipulations.

Individuals seeking to present programs are advised to seek a partner organization to host the event.

Program requirements:

- Program must be open to any resident of the Slate Belt.
- Program must comply with TGAI's mission and values of inclusiveness and accessibility.
- Program must be hosted in an ADA complaint facility.
- Classes will have no fee.
- Performances will have reduced rates available for students and seniors.
- Preference will be given to group activities over serving individuals.
- Programs will not promote any religious or political agenda.
- Program staff, performers, etc. do not need to be residents of the Slate Belt, but the event must take place in the community.

Grant value: up to \$5,000. To apply, follow the link below, and email the completed application to arts@tottsgap.org.

<http://tottsgap.com/apply-for-funding>