



March/April 2026 Newsletter



We are pleased to announce that Dink has settled into her new home where she is safe, cozy and very loved. Although her absence will be felt courtside, her relocation is truly a blessing.

Pickleball Visalia would be delighted to have you join our club. \$20 annual dues supports club activities, financial costs, and court maintenance.

Pickleball Visalia Valentine's Party was a fantastic experience for all attendees. Appreciation is expressed to participants and contributors of tasty treats alike. Anticipation for next year's celebration has already begun.



It's Happening!

Picklebrawl Scramble 2/24/26 – 3/25/26 Scramble delivers five weeks of high-energy, social pickleball fun. Players rotate partners each game, adding surprise and strategy, while climbing courts with every win. With weekly shootouts, four skill levels, and flexible times, it's the perfect mix of challenge, variety, and community for picklers of all levels.

For more info call (559)713-4365 or email recreation@visalia.city



Visalia Games, Formerly Visalia Senior Games, Pickleball Tournament will be held April 18th – 19th at Plaza Park. Players ages 50 and older are invited to enjoy a fun, inclusive community pickleball tournament. This non-sanctioned, un-refereed event features friendly competition with round-robin play followed by single-elimination brackets. Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Designed for connection, laughter, and great sportsmanship.

For more info call (559)713-4365 or email recreation@visalia.city.

Doubles Pickleball League 4/12-5/17 This brand-new pickleball league features men's and women's divisions with skill levels ranging from 2.5 to 4.0 and only eight teams per division. Over a four-week season, teams will play every team in their division each night, with games on Thursdays or Sundays depending on the division.

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Member News



Monique McAlister's new team is the Rochester Renegades. Subscribe to U.S. Legends Pickleball YouTube Channel to stream her next games: Showdown #2- March 20th-22nd, Hatboro PA., Championship – May 15th-17th, Robbinsville Twp, NJ.



Congratulations to Todd Denney and Sonomi Bassegio on their gold medal win @ USA Pickleball Golden Ticket Las Vegas Event.

Tips and Tricks

The "Erne" Strategy: Even if you don't jump, standing near the sideline near the kitchen creates psychological pressure on opponents, forcing them to hit to the middle.



The U.S. state with the most pickleball courts and facilities is Florida with about 5800, followed closely by California with 5600.



Pickleball Courts Coming to Visalia

4 New Courts at Recreation Park: City of Visalia Engineering Dept. is working on the design. The most probable location will be one court added to the west side of the current courts and three courts south of the current courts, where the basketball court is currently located. It is anticipated that they will be ready Summer 2026.

And 4 more courts....The City Council will receive a proposal from Jason Glick, Parks Director, recommending the incorporation of four pickleball courts as a feature within one of the new community parks. The park's site is currently designated as the Pearl Woods Property. The property is located between South Lovers Lane and road 148, just south of East Cherry Avenue.

Plaza Park Court Resurfacing: planned for late Spring 2026.

American Pickleball 15 indoor courts project seems to be back on track with an expected open Summer 2026.

Happy Birthday Wishes to our March/April Players



March		April			
Leslie Miller	02	Paul Fode	27	Ruben Garcia	15
Ray Baca	04	Julia Elsome	28	Rosie Dicks	16
Kelly Johnstone	05	Teresa Heller	30	Michelle Perryman	16
Melissa Dominguez	08	Todd Denney	02	Sheila Walters	17
Kim Crow	08	Glenn Garner	04	Mary Fulbright	17
Spencer Ames	09	Jenny Bennett	04	Brad Collinwood	18
Sherry Taylor	11	Sue Sorensen	04	Linda Carter-Stephens	18
Vorlasing Vankham	14	Frank Mendoza	05	Beverly Anderson	18
Glenn Dembroff	15	Diane Biehle	06	Mark Shelton	19
Larry Martin	16	Hayden Cowell	06	Duane Abe	19
Cretia Guzman	17	Rene Reimer	06	Olga Duran	19
Ben Johns	18	Terri Meade-Baker	06	Bobette Rosa	20
Diane Post	20	Haley Thorn	06	Teri Hopper	23
Mia Ramos	21	Robert Jesus	07	Jim Hurlbutt	24
Tana Elizondo	22	Alex Martinez	09	Cara Denney	26
Melissa Mease	25	Gerald Lumpkin	10	Tony Fox	28
Jon Bray	25	Roseann Culver	10	Rhea Quitasol	26
Kay Antoku	25	Sue Sorensen	11	Theresa Gonsalves-Dias	29
Melinda Scott	25	Linda Chapin	12		
Tim Fujioka	26	Johnny Brower	13		

Member Spotlight



At Pickleball Visalia, we are blessed with members who make our courts feel like home — and **Laura Lewis** is one of those special people.

If you've ever played in one of the Scrambles, chances are you've experienced Laura's welcoming spirit firsthand. As our dedicated **Pickleball Scramble leader**, she keeps things organized, upbeat, and inclusive. Whether you're a seasoned player or picking up a paddle for the first time, Laura makes sure you feel invited and valued. She has a natural gift for creating connection — pairing players thoughtfully, encouraging good sportsmanship, and reminding us that pickleball is about community just as much as competition. Off the court, Laura's life is beautifully full.

She is a devoted wife to Jon and a proud mom of two sons. Her most treasured title these days? Grandma — lovingly known as “**Loli**” (with Jon as “Pop”) to her granddaughter Murphy. If you ask her, being Loli is one of her greatest joys.

Laura is also an only child who tenderly cares for her parents, modeling patience, compassion, and deep family commitment. Her heart for family shines in everything she does.

On the court, Laura sees the game with a strategist's eye. She can break down the flow of play, anticipate patterns, and spot opportunities others might miss. If you've ever asked her for tips, you know she's thoughtful and generous in sharing her knowledge. She studies the nuances of positioning, timing, and shot selection — and she loves helping others elevate their game.

And speaking of puzzles — Laura truly is a **pickleball puzzle dissectologist**. She enjoys putting together pickleball-themed puzzles, carefully studying each piece, noticing subtle details, and methodically building the full picture. Much like her approach to the game, she appreciates how small pieces come together to create something complete. It's patience, focus, and a love of the sport — even off the court!

Her faith is central to who she is. As an active Christian, Laura organizes social and fellowship events at her church, ranging from Bible study gatherings to even self-defense classes — always looking for ways to build both spiritual growth and practical strength within her community.

And true to form, her invitations are always open. Whether it's a pickleball game or church fellowship, Laura's message is clear: *there's room for you here*.

One of Laura's most admirable qualities is her humility. She asks for advice and genuinely values it. She listens. She learns. She grows. And she deeply treasures her friendships — nurturing them with intention and gratitude.

Laura Lewis reminds us what makes Pickleball Visalia so special: skill balanced with kindness, leadership grounded in service, and competition wrapped in community.

We are so grateful for you, Laura — on the court and beyond.



Pickleball Visalia Steering Committee

Chair	Joyce Reed	General Officer	JC Chamberlain
Vice Chair	Bill Roache'	General Officer	
Secretary	Sarah Palmer	General Officer	Tony Fox
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