



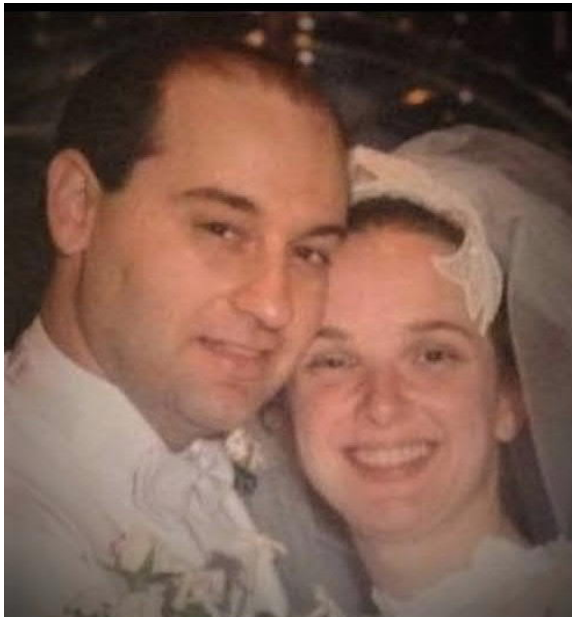
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MAY, 2020 NEWSLETTER

DENNIS GIRARDI REMEMBERED

In this very different newsletter, we'll visit ways some Picklers are dealing with their quarantines. We'll enjoy some fun videos. We'll see some previously unpublished pics of Picklers in action. We'll congratulate four medalists who forgot to send me pics and details last fall. But first, we'll pay tribute to a man many of us have gotten to know and like. Dennis Girardi lost his battle with Covid-19 about 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16th. He was admitted to St Alexius on April 4th and intubated. Over his twelve days there it seemed there were both ups and downs. Sadly, he couldn't come up from his last down. He is survived by his wife Melanee and daughters Stacy, Jenna, and Janessa all of whom had milder cases of the virus.



Bill & Linda Graba shared a tribute to Dennis which was written by Steve Loh, a member of the Hoffman club.

I loved Dennis Girardi. I loved his long shorts and his funny shirts. I loved his jokes, his self-effacing sense of humor, his sincere humility. I loved how he played Pickleball. Dennis was the wrong shape for an athlete, but not the wrong mind, or style, or competitive spirit. He was smart, always played hard, never made excuses. He was quick with a compliment on both sides of the net. I loved the camaraderie of having Dennis for a partner, and the challenge — those damn lobs!— of playing against him. Dennis even named a shot: The Detonator! He was just fun.

But mostly, I loved Dennis as a person. Dennis loved God, loved his family, loved the world he was part of. He was so, so proud of his children. I talked with Dennis often, and he never failed to be interesting. He was a good listener, and good to listen to.

I know I'm not alone in any of this. Everybody loved Dennis. We are all better people because he was here. I will miss him dearly. We will all miss him dearly.

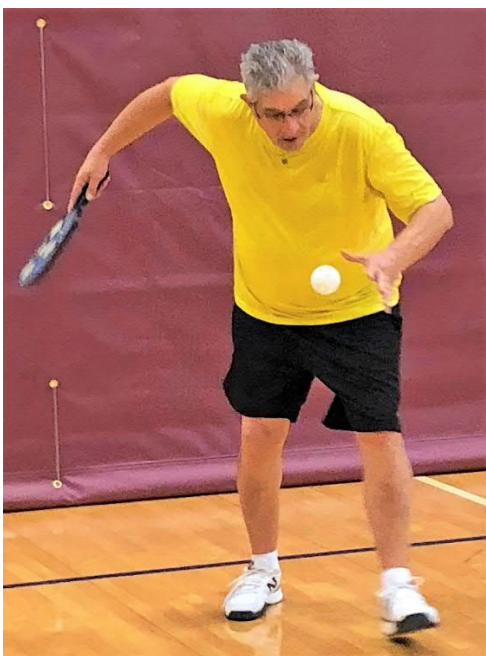
Goodbye, Dennis. Goodbye, friend.



Fellow Hoffman teammate Doug McKirahan has created a website in remembrance of Dennis. You'll find it at <https://playpickleball.fun/Dennis/>

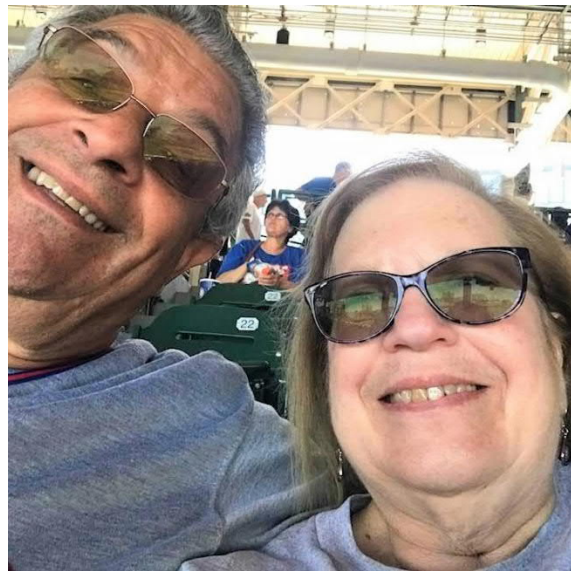
You've read in a Tweener Memo about the fund-raising effort coordinated by Bill and Linda Graba who run the Hoffman club. This was to collect money that could help the Girardis in this traumatic time. Though no amounts were shown, each contributor's name would be put on a card that accompanied the check.

ANOTHER GOOD GUY PICKLER HAS PASSED ... MIKE ROSENBLUM



After an active Friday (4/17) during which Mike was proud to have gotten in 15,000 steps, he went to bed and never woke up. He's suffered a massive heart attack in his sleep. He was 72 years young. He lived and played in Wheeling, but he enjoyed playing both at Falcon and occasionally on our Tuesday travel team at Canlan. I remember Mike as having smiled, perhaps, more than any other Pickler in our club and being a quick-to-play Words with Friends opponent.

He's survived by his wife Marcia, sons Bryan and Matt and grandkids Josh, Abby, Alana, and Talia. Mike taught elementary school for Chicago Public Schools for 36 years and then Jewish Vocational Services for another 20. He retired in 2014 to enjoy pickleball and the Cubs. He served as a Docent at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie. A couple years ago he hosted a morning there for area pickleball players.



Rest in peace, Mike. You will be missed by all who knew you.

Thanks to those of you who took the time to share some of the information about Dennis and Mike with me that I've now shared with you.

REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN WE USED TO PLAY?

Hope you enjoy some previously unpublished pics of Picklers in their unmasked prime.



Marilyn



Connie



Cindy



Lisa



Bob



Patti



Lizanne

STAY IN PICKLEBALL SHAPE WITH THEA

You've seen the Tweener Memos about Thea's workout sessions aimed at picklers. She has done three of these, each different. They are different lengths and have other goals. Her third, and final, session is named *Pickleball Slam 30* and aired live on April 30th. It's 30 minutes long and involves light weights, drills, and mobility exercises to expand range of motion.

All three of her workout sessions can be viewed anytime on Facebook. Just go to the NWC Wellness Center page and look under videos.



A HUMOROUS LOOK AT SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Thanks, Neal Harris for sharing this with us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMSNaKXVvx0>

THESE REQUESTS REQUIRE REPEATING

If emailing me, PLEASE use MY email address aokbarry@yahoo.com, NOT "reply." It's SO much easier for us. Also, again, please sign your emails. We have a LOT of Palatine Picklers, and I don't remember all addresses.

GARAGE DRILLS FROM SIMONE JARDIM

Melody and Greg Woodsum learned these drills from one of the game's best. Now they'd like to share them with you. Here are the links:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1g9j8AaS7Reo5VBn29crCS3i7MtCy-EfQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ObAVIndNOY&fbclid=IwAR1Qz9cS61PWiwvAoyELDMU5JXg-UR_WTXqwrjz0j711loCmgyBWH05L8s

POEM FOR OUR TIME ... by Jeff Degner

Well, the weather outside is snowing
And the wind is gently blowing,
I'm so desperate for the call:
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

The indoor courts aren't open
And thus, inside, I'm mopin'
Still waiting for that call:
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

And while the virus keeps us distant,
The need is so persistent,
For those words that warm us all:
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

So when these Covid times have ended
We will feel so splendid,
And so grateful for the call:
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!



Donna



Steve



Susie



Terry



George



Roger



Leah

POPULAR SONG LATELY

Several Picklers sent me this link, but I'll credit Dora Mecko for being the first. Enjoy, and feel free to sing along.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKjfsp74Wck>

M*A*S*H* ON THE TOPIC OF COVID-19

Thanks to Howard Weisbart for sharing this one. As Radar would say, "Wait for it..."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5CNHDeF2xA>

3-WALL DRILLS

This one was brought to you courtesy of Mike Kaminski.

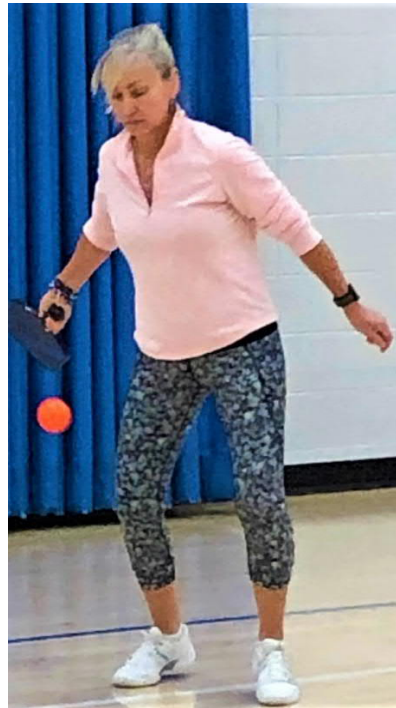
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTCv16ewlLo>



Phil



Michael



Sherry



Jeff



Thea



Clay



Bill



Tom

HELP ME WITH THE JUNE NEWSLETTER ... PLEASE

As you're seeing our newsletters are looking a bit different these days. Over the next (hopefully) few months, I will really appreciate your continued help. Perhaps, in July I'll put a couple dozen pics of Picklers in action on the courts, from my archives. I'm leaning to none in the June newsletter. So ... what I do want is

- 1) More pics of you involved with one, or several, of the activities that's filling some time now.
- 2) A photo of your pet, along with his/her name and an explanation of that photo.
- 3) More interesting or fun or funny or pickleball-related video links.
- 4) Over our five years, we've done a lot of things (see February, 2020 newsletter). I'd like to share what was/were your favorite/s and why. This may help determine some of our future activities.



PICKLERS' PASTIMES

This will be an ongoing section of newsletters so PLEASE email me (aokbarry@yahoo please) with pics of you being involved with what you do to fill some of the time that pickleball used to consume. Sending pics of several activities is welcome. Just make sure you are in each photo. Seeing a photo of a hair clipper and a comb is a lot less interesting than seeing you trying to give yourself a Mohawk. I'll keep those doing something pickleball-related toward the end. So here's what we've been doing ...

Elena Nikolaev has numerous activities to keep herself busy



She racks up steps on her Fitbit



She ordered Scrabble



She gets pulled around the block

And she's ridden her bike a mile or so to this beach with her daughter and grandson so she could show him the water that races downhill.





Carol Hawes has been entertaining her "buddies"



Janice Orlowski has been making masks and donating them to hospitals and nursing homes



Jeff Degner first introduced Luna to the rules of pickleball. Then he worked with her on proper serving position and her 3rd shot drop.



Howard & Lynne Weisbart walk around the pickleball fence & wish to be inside



Jose Sosa spins & reads his phone



Laurie Sadowski emulates Rocky and runs up the stairs at Wood Oaks in Northbrook.



Tina Labellarte & David hosted a stay at home garden party for her neighborhood. Check out her invitation and window treatment.

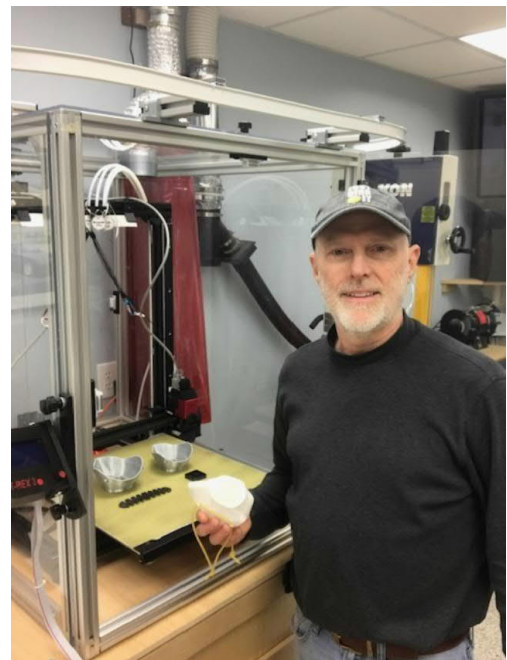
Kathy Schneider-Shatwell has several activities and an in-house photographer



She beat me in mini ping pong, but I won this day's Scrabble game. She's making masks. She made wooden eggs of Anna & Elsa (2 & 3 yr old grandson's favorite Frozen characters). She welcomes Rusty's cuddles too.



Linda Hycnar examines the FL house she's having built



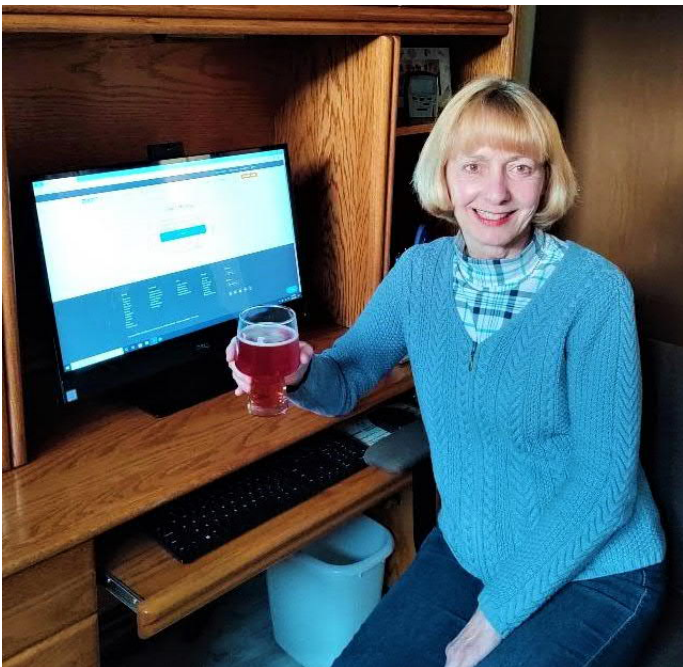
John Swafford has been using his 3-D printer to make masks



Julie Gall works out with Bikram Yoga and adds to her food blog veganbabyboomer.home.blog



Elvira Cridland has been playing solitaire Mah Jong with new card



Cindy Anich enjoys weekly cocktail meeting with girlfriends



John Anich made jalapeno cheese bread



Donna, Diana, Ray, & Gregg at Onion Pub ... Ray knows the owner who agreed to let them in for this private party. Just like the good old days. Obviously they enjoyed themselves. OK, I'm kidding. This was pre-quarantine, but it seemed so happy I thought we'd enjoy the smile.

Bear Shatwell kept taking pics



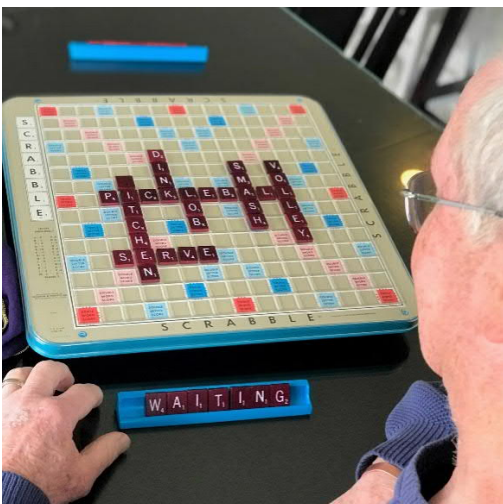
found 42 T-shirts to donate



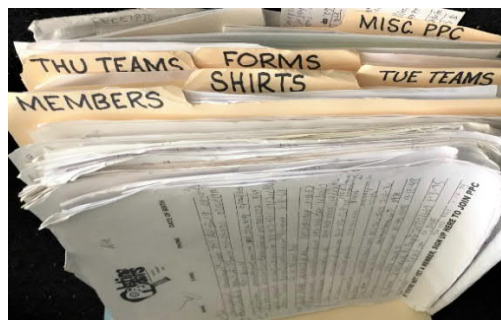
Each day starts with Rusty, coffee, & Kindle



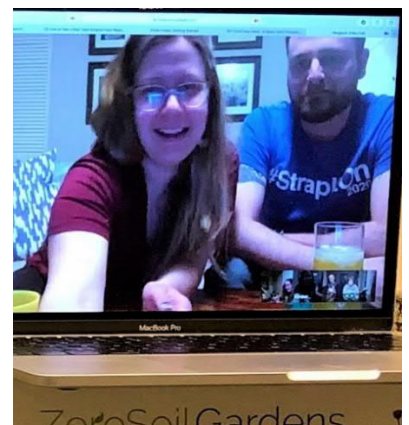
Adapting to mini ping pong



Check out Scrabble board



Moved PPC files from desk to cabinet



Game night with 3 locations

MELODY & GREG WOODSUM CHANNEL SIMONE

They learned from the best and now want to share their quarantine drills with you.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1g9j8AaSZeo5VBn29crCS3i7MtCy-EfQ>

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jghPqRg5_yGGqiyXnDh933qyb_EtYRiR

OVERLOOKED MEDALISTS

I'm sure there are many Palatine Picklers who have earned medals in pickleball tournaments who have not appeared in our newsletters. If I don't know about them, I can't share their success with you. Thanks to all who have taken the time to send me their photo/s and details of their tournament. Just recently I tripped across four Picklers who enjoyed success back in October at the Fall Brawl of Chippewa in Des Plaines.



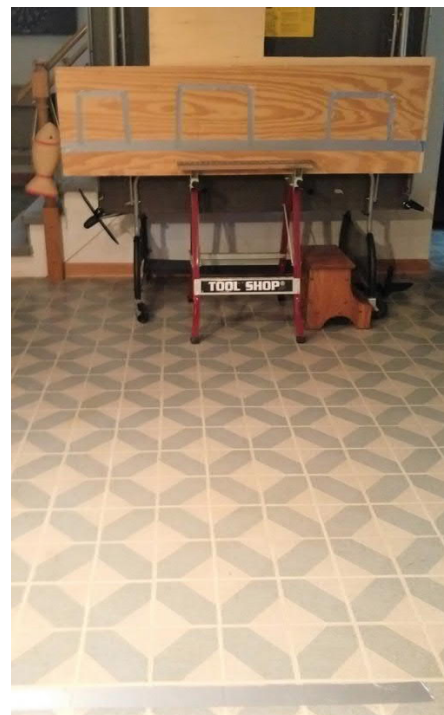
Janeen Noto & Tom Pham
3.5 mixed ... Gold



Ray Gobberg & Kim Evans
3.5 mixed ... Bronze

PICKLING IN PLACE

These Picklers wouldn't let a thing as simple as a pandemic quarantine keep them from enjoying their sport.



Connie Kus plays with her Pickleboing in her drive way And ... dinks against her backboard in her rec room



Elena Nikolaev simply plays against her wall

Alex Matthew plays with his 14 year old son in their drive



Terry and Susie Layton practice dinks, serves, returns, and reflex volleys ... just no lobs ... in their driveway

MASATO PLEASES PALATES WHILE NOT PLAYING

As a super Chef and owner of D&J Bistro in Lake Zurich, Masato Suzuki has been safely handing gourmet meals to Picklers throughout the shelter in place era.



Chris



Donna



Jeff



Scott



Sue



his staff prepared 300 meals for healthcare workers weekly

MORE GARAGE DRILLS COURTESY OF BILL & LINDA GRABA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWvILrOuMUc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ObAVIndNOY&fbclid=IwAR1Qz9cS61PWiwvAoyELDmU5JXg-UR_WTXqwrjIz0j711loCmgYBWH05L8s

MORE PICKLERS' ACTIVITIES

These Lady Picklers weren't able to get a photo of them involved in activities, but they did share their pastimes. I'm sure we'll see them involved with these and/or other pursuits next month.



Sandy Clark worked a lot on her Shutterfly cookbook she's making for her niece's wedding. She's been working in the yard on several projects, all with the "help" of her dog Cassie (she sent pics I'm saving for next month). That help even extends to Sandy's practicing dinking on her patio.

Julie Ganzer enjoys Facetiming with her grandkids. She made her own masks, and she's been doing a lot of cooking and baking. She's also been active on Facebook.



DENNIS REMEMBRANCE DRIVE-BY HUGELY POPULAR

You read about it being planned in the most recent Tweener Memo. On Sunday, April 26th, it happened. Cars, some adorned with a sign or pickleballs, gathered in the parking lot of a school a few blocks from the Girardi home. Each of us received a Krispy Kreme glazed donut and a sealed, new, orange pickleball, both favorites of Dennis. Then a 17-minute long parade of 102 cars slowly drove by the house where Dennis's wife and daughters waved paddles and said, "Thank you" to each car, from curbside. You can see the entire parade on the Dennis Girardi Remembrance Facebook page.



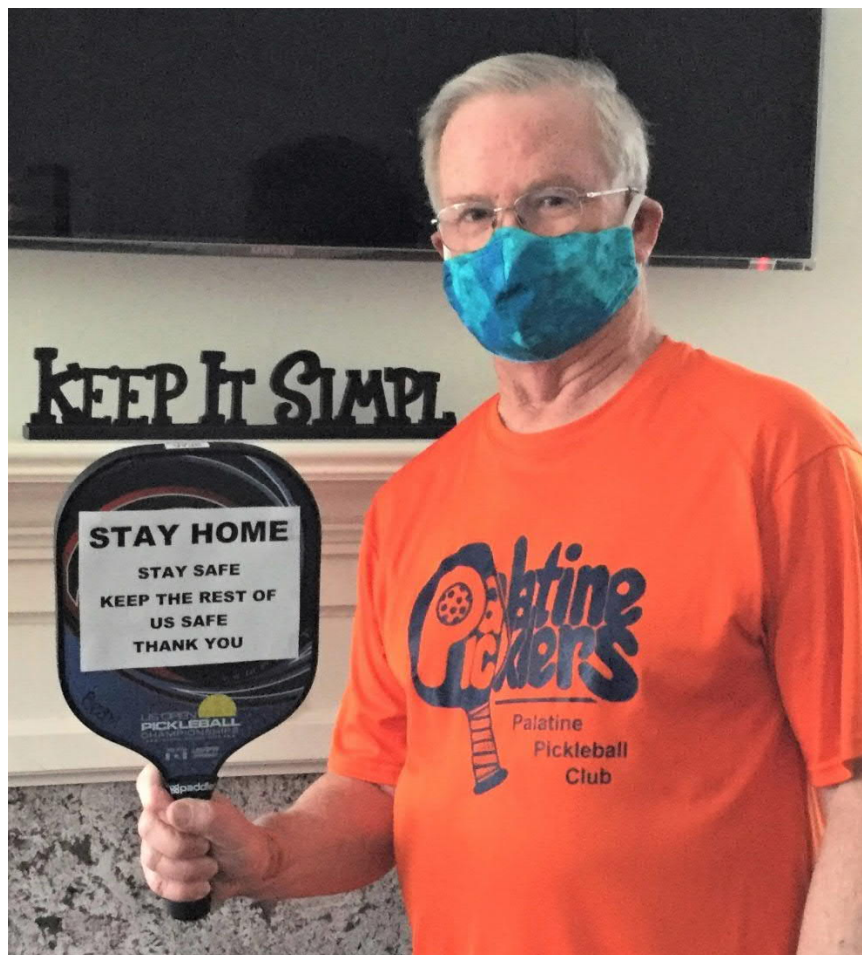
Three of the above photos were shot from the video that Lance Schreier, organizer of the event, shot. Due to the low quality of sharing this way, I didn't take any more. The video does a far better job of sharing the decorations. Just learned there were 141 donors to the fund for the family that brought in \$10,200!

WHEN WILL BE OK TO PLAY AGAIN ?

I've been asked this question more than a few times. While I have no inside knowledge or crystal ball, I do have my opinions. As we played right up to mid-March, I can't see myself playing until sometime in 2021. I'm too high-risk. However, if it were mandated that all players wear a face covering with a filter ... wear latex gloves which are discarded after play ... hands are washed with soap and water or at least sanitized before being tempted to touch one's face ... there is no meeting at the net after a game ... any coughing or sneezing is done facing away from a court and into an elbow ... balls are sterilized after play or discarded ... sitting or standing at least 6' from nearest human ... and no one is allowed to touch a paddle of another player (if paddle racks are in use, that means a line of four players each 6' apart with the front player taking only his/her paddle and heading to the court) ... IF all those restrictions were in effect, I'd feel comfortable playing tomorrow. So, I guess it's safe to say that there is no "one size fits all" answer to that question.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND ME ...

As detailed on page 7, I'll look forward to receiving pics of you involved with one, or many, of your quarantine activities ... photos of your pets, along with their names ... links to fun/interesting videos ... and one or more of the Palatine Pickleball Club events you've most enjoyed. Thanks to all who shared for this month's newsletter.



Bear Shatwell

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com