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Jewish Community News

News of the Jewish VA Peninsula Community

August 2022/5782



From our infants to our highschoolers, summer is in full swing on our campus!



LOOK INSIDE!

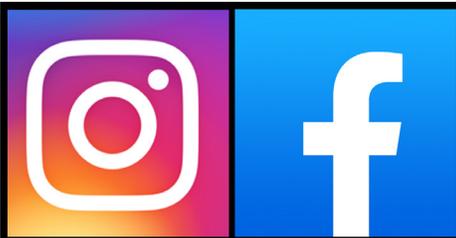
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Camp Chaverim Fund

In honor of Sarah Barnett's
service to the UJCVP
In honor of Steve Wendell's
service to the UJCVP
Joan & Steve Marks

Eric & Jack Luckman

Memorial Endowment Fund

In honor of Elaine Abrams' adult
b'nai mitzvah
In honor of Sarah Barnett's
dedication & service
In honor of Jody & Ed Sarfan on
Matthew's engagement
In honor of Barbara Gordon's
special birthday
In memory of Patrick O'Connell
In memory of Donald Gene
Fendrick
Lori & Jeff Luckman

Mikveh Fund

In honor of Elaine Abrams' bat
mitzvah
In honor of Wendy Eisner's
presidency
Meryl & Bob Kessler

Reimagine Camp Fund

In honor of Charlene & Steve
Wendell's retirement
Sara Traster & Dave Harriss

Senior Meals Fund

Get well soon wishes for Mitzie
Ashe
In honor of Sadie dog Blaes
Ernestine Adelman

UJC Preschool Fund

In honor of Steve Wendell's
retirement
Gavrielle Bargash

UJC Youth Fund

In honor of Sarah Barnett
Eddie & Jackie Cohen
Barbara Rosenbaum

Ukraine Emergency Fund

In memory of Ann Kleinman
Bobbi & Ralph Goldstein

FBI Honors David Brackins, *SCN Regional Advisor*

Prestigious Award Recognizes Brackins' Leadership to Protect the Jewish Community



David Brackins, who directs the communal security programs for the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula, the Federation of Richmond, and the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, has been selected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as the 2021 recipient of the Director's Community

Leadership Award (DCLA) for the Richmond Division. As the Regional Security Advisor, Brackins' work is part of the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America.

"Dave Brackins has been the SCN representative to the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula for the past several years. During that time, his ability to connect with members of the local Jewish community, both on and off the UJCVP campus, and to solidify the relationships between the UJCVP, area synagogues, and local law enforcement agencies has greatly enhanced the safety of the Jewish community on the Virginia Peninsula," said Mike Stupar, Vice President of Programs and Operations and Security Committee Co-Chair at the UJCVP. "Dave's recognition through receiving this leadership award is well deserved and a testament to his work ethic and excellent efforts in support of our community."

Brackins has been instrumental in taking proactive steps to keep the UJCVP community safe, and in making sure leadership, staff and members are educated and kept abreast of local, national and international situations. He is detail-oriented in his communication and consistent in ensuring that the UJCVP community is trained in the most up-to-date safety and crisis-control techniques.

"With the dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents and acts of hate over the past several years, Jewish communal security has never been more important," said Eric Maurer, Executive Director of the UJCVP. "We are very fortunate to have Dave at the helm of our security efforts on the Peninsula and pleased to see the FBI take note of his leadership to keep our community safe."

"Mr. Brackins' commitment to information-sharing to

promote the safety and security of the Jewish community is a benefit to all faith-based communities," said Stanley Meador, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Richmond Division, who recommended Brackins for the award and presented it to him at a ceremony July 8, 2022 in Richmond. "FBI Richmond is grateful for this long-standing partnership, as protecting houses of worship is one of its highest priorities."

The DCLA is the primary means for the FBI to recognize individuals and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to communities across the United States. One recipient per year may be nominated by each of the FBI's 56 field offices, or divisions. The Richmond Division includes 106 of the 133 cities and counties in Virginia.

"We are extremely proud of Dave's tireless efforts to help protect the Jewish community across Virginia," said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. "This recognition is testament not only to the high caliber of Dave's work, but also to the effective relationship Dave has fostered with the FBI and SCN's other law enforcement and community partners."

As part of the Federations' security programs, Brackins provides physical security consultations, building and organizational assessments, training and drills, and threat mitigation to Jewish organizations across much of Virginia, including schools, daycare centers, synagogues, camps, assisted living facilities, and other centers of Jewish life.

Before joining SCN and the Federations in 2019, Brackins served for more than three decades in law enforcement, government, and private homeland security, including as a supervisory special agent with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security for 27 years.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to do this important work and deeply honored by this award," said Brackins. "I will continue to work with my colleagues in partner agencies and organizations to keep the Jewish community safe, secure, and resilient."

Your generous support to the UJCVP's Annual Campaign ensures that the Jewish community of the Virginia Peninsula is prepared to prevent and – if need be – quickly respond to any security threat.



MAKIN' WITH MRS. JESSI

Would you like to be a guest on the next episode of Makin' with Mrs. Jessi?

If so, email Jessi Malkin:

jmalkin@ujcvp.org

and let her know!

BLOOD DRIVE

Red Cross Blood Drives

Tuesday, August 16th (in the UJC Lobby)

Tuesday, August 23rd (in the UJC Gym)

Thursday, Sept 1st (in the UJC Gym)

10am-3pm

Visit ujcvp.org to schedule an appointment

Questions? Email Sara Traster

straster@ujcvp.org



Kibbitz & Create

Sunday, August 28th

10am-12pm

Join our group at the J for a morning of snacks and crafts.

All fiber arts crafts welcome!

RSVP to Jessi Malkin: jmalkin@ujcvp.org

NCJW[®]

National Council of Jewish Women Book Club

Wednesday, September 21st

1:30pm @ Temple Sinai

Discussion: What I Read During the Summer - come with a brief review of your favorite summer read. *Free Community Event*

Questions/RSVP:

Lucy Sukman, lmoomaw15@aol.com



A Rabbi's Reflections, Part 3

The Mikveh of Time by Rabbi Gershon Litt

Every time of year on the Jewish calendar is significant, but this time of year could arguably be the most significant despite its lack of publicity. There is no "high holiday" associated with it, no gifts given, no special kiddush or challah to be eaten and no parties to dress up for. This time of year, from the Hebrew date of the 17th of Tamuz through the 9th of Av is about our speech and how we treat others. It is about our personal relationships. This time of year is about perfecting the most powerful tool we have – our unique human power of communication.

This period of the year is called the "three weeks." It starts with a fast day and ends with a fast day. The last fast day is called *Tisha B'Av*, or the 9th of Av. It was on this day that many horrible things happened to the Jewish people, most notably the destruction of our holy Temple in Jerusalem. Why bring all of this up for an article about the mikveh? I'm glad you asked.

Because we are human, we want to be right. We need to be right. We want to show how right and good and perfect we are and so others, therefore, must be wrong, "less than," and otherwise lower than we are on many levels. This mentality takes over our lives, our relationships, and our personal happiness. We get so engrossed

in this mentality that we forget who we truly are and how much we care about others. The ego can encompass us until we no longer lift others up but find ourselves alone with nobody who wants to listen anymore.



Mikveh Mermaid painting by Israeli artist, Yael Harris Resnick

<https://yaelharrisresnick.com/>

The solution to this is to immerse ourselves in the opposite energy. We need to surround ourselves with positive people. We need to work on speaking in a positive way. We need to think about how to only talk about others' positive traits and never judge others negatively. This time of year is like a mikveh.

It receives us as we are and helps us transform. These three weeks pull us in with all our bad traits and through active contemplation, fasting, and prayer we can come out the other side joyous about ourselves and others, happy to be in this world at this time despite difficulty, optimistic about life and those around us, and non-judgmental to those we love and find ourselves close to. The mikvah cleanses us from our past and

allows us to emerge anew. It is an essential tool in personal and communal Jewish life. May Hashem guide us through these three weeks of prayer, fasting, and contemplation so that we can emerge on the other side free of our personal chains of negativity and ready to head into the high holidays with optimism and positivity.

Our UJCVP is a member of the consortium RISING TIDE, a national network devoted to opening the mikveh experience to the entire Jewish Community.

For more information, or with any questions, please contact Steve Shapiro,
UJC Mikveh Chairman: stevenishapiro@outlook.com

Executive Director's **Message** - *Eric Maurer*



Our Jewish calendar starts August with Tisha B'Av – the 9th day of the month of Av – a day of mourning the destruction of both ancient Temples in Jerusalem. Over the centuries, other tragic events have come to be commemorated on this day, including the brutal massacres of the Crusades and the Jewish expulsion from Spain. For some in our community, this day is a symbol of Jewish suffering and loss, while others might wonder why the day continues to matter into modernity.



What can't be forgotten on this day of loss is all that came out of it. The destruction of the Temples forced the Jewish people to rebuild and reimagine ourselves. We established the synagogue and created the prayer book. We elevated the work of the study hall and became a community committed to education. We embraced the idea of holiness existing in every person and shaped sacred communities throughout the world. Our survival in a post-Temple world depended on our ability to adapt, to innovate and to dream.



We know too well from own experiences over the past few years what the impact of disruption and change can have in our own community. The Covid pandemic made obsolete overnight so much that we cherished and loved. But, the loss through Covid can't be overshadowed all that was gained. We can't lose sight of the innovation that was created as our program team worked tirelessly to keep our community connected and engaged.



One of the things that impresses me most about our community is our ability to dream. To look beyond the challenges and imagine what can be – what needs to be. One example that seems particularly relevant now is our Camp Chaverim summer camp. Our community embarked on a mission to reimagine the camp experience. Through the help of the Jewish Day Camp Network (JDCN), the hard work of Naioki & the rest of the UJCVP team and the generosity of supporters in the community, we pushed ourselves to dream about what camp can be.



And the generous investment that you made in our community is already paying dividends. Summer camp enrollment is the highest it's been in recent memory. But more than the numbers, the smiling faces of the campers tell the real story as they climb on our brand new playscape, swim in the Glendale pool, scale the ropes course, sing Hatikvah and create glass art projects. The spirit is contagious on campus and a testament to what can happen when we dream bigger together.

As we mark Tisha B'Av, let's recommit ourselves to embracing the disruption and longing for what can be.





Important Information

Anyone experiencing a mental health crisis has a **new way** to reach out for help in the United States.

Simply call or text the numbers 9-8-8.

Modeled after 911, the new three-digit 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is designed to be a memorable and quick number that connects people who are suicidal or in any other mental health crisis to a trained mental health professional.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

No matter where you live in the U.S.,
you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat to
chat with a caring counselor.

We're here for you.



.....

Raise Your Hand Day

Thursday Aug. 25th, 9am-2pm

If you have a problem or
issue, PLEASE call for
assistance to find out how
we can help.

Call or email our UJC
Jewish Family Service Office
Libby Batten, MSW
757-223-5635
lbatten@ujcvp.org



It's ok to not be ok. We are here to listen. Better starts here!

Summer Fun - Naioki Wood Camp Chaverim / Sarfan Early Childhood Center



Camp Chaverim is bigger than ever with a total of 108 spirited kindergarteners through 10th graders and an amazing summer staff team of professionals. Our *Calendar of Fun* block schedule is packed with activities such as swimming, athletics, STEM, arts & crafts, parkour, nature trail, gaga, climbing tower, color war, cooking, and so much more! Our coveted camp spirit stick continues to make its way around our groups, inspiring kindness, strength, solidarity, and the Camp Chaverim spirit within the campers. With each week we grow stronger as a team and as individuals. The Teens As Leaders (T.A.L) have been sharing great ideas, the group explored the open waters on Steve Wendell's boat, and they are working on their 2022 summer philanthropic project. The summer fun just keeps getting better by the day!



Our booming Sarfan Early Childhood Center is taking a few pages out of the camp book by taking their fun outdoors with lots of water play, nature walks, exploration, and even a mock campfire or two with their junior camp themed summer. Our little ones are showing off how big they are getting as each day passes. Making purposeful messes while learning about the world around us is what we do best; and we are doing it loud and proud!





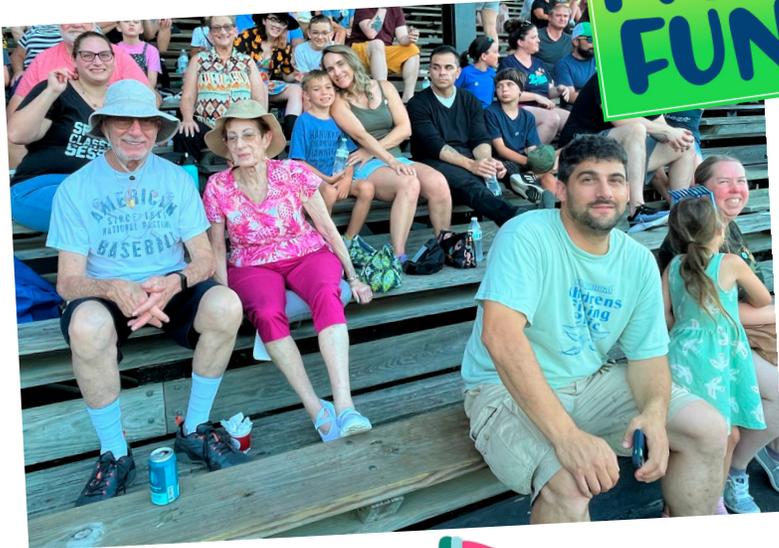
PJ Library at the Pool
Sunday, August 14th
3-4pm

Join Mrs. Jessi for storytime in the baby pool and a popsicle!

Passport Members - FREE!
 Non-Members - \$5 pool guest fee
Please pay the lifeguards

Visit ujcvp.org to RSVP
 Questions? Email: jmalkin@ujcvp.org

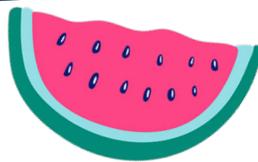
SUMMER FUN



WATER AEROBICS

Thursdays: 8/4, 8/11, 8/18 - 6:30 - 7:30pm
 Passport Members - Free | Non-Members - \$5

Visit ujcvp.org to sign up!
 Questions? Email Sara:
straster@ujcvp.org



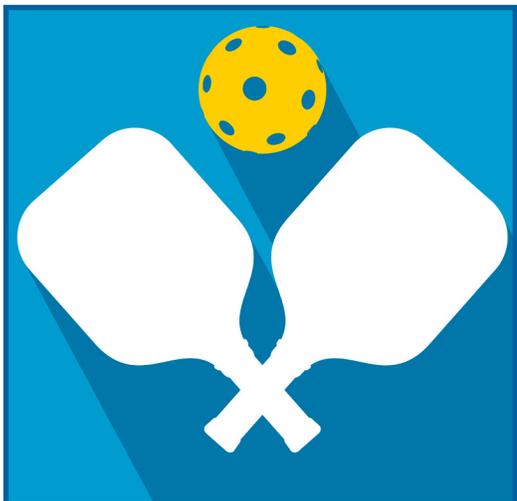
**20/30 Something Young Adult
Group: Gather on the Grass**

**Wednesday, August 10th
5:30pm @ Port Warwick**

**Hang out with our fun group for the
Jesse Chong Band.**

BYO blankets & chairs, we'll bring the snacks!

RSVP on our UJC website: ujcvp.org



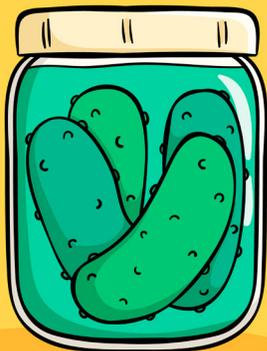
**Do you love pickleball?
Have you always wanted to learn to play?**
Join our UJC Pickleball group!

**Tuesday Evenings @ 7:00pm in the UJC Gym
Sunday Mornings, Outdoor Courts Off Campus**

Open to all adults 18+ Beginners & couples welcome!
Balls & paddles will be provided.

**Passport Members - FREE!
COVID IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED**
Email Kelli Caplan (nnkidsville@aol.com) for registration info.

Check out our new UJC Blog: Chai Lights!
ujcvp.org/ujc-chai-lights



Pickle-Making Workshop

Thursday, August 18th, 7pm

Come taste and learn how to make your own pickles!
Each participant will go home with 2 quarts of
hand brined pickles.

SPACE IS LIMITED

**Passport Members - Free
Non-Members - \$10 / person**

Register at ujcvp.org to reserve your spot!

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Do you have a business you'd like
to promote? Become a UJC
Program Sponsor!

WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- *Ad space in our UJC Newsletter
(this thing that you're reading!)
- *A postcard / coupon / business card
included in one of our take-home
programs
(can be your own design or created by us!)
- *Your name / business name on
marketing materials for the program
you are sponsoring

*Sponsorship Price: \$100

Contact Jessi Malkin
jmalkin@ujcvp.org for more info.



UJCVP Senior Lunches & Grand Club

Meet at the J for in-person lunch and bingo on Thursdays throughout the summer!

Bingo begins at 10:45am, Lunch at 12:00pm

Lunch for ages 60+ - \$2.50 | Lunch for Passport Members - FREE!

Additional charges for Bingo Cards

Email Layne: lmunley@ujcvp.org for more information or to RSVP



Glendale Pool Events

Tues. 8/9, Time TBD - Food Truck Tuesday

Fri. 8/12, 9-11pm - Moonlight Swim Floats and Floats

Thurs. Aug. 18, 8-10pm - Teen Night

Fri. Aug. 19, 9-11pm - Adult Swim

Tues. 8/23, 5pm - Food Truck Tuesday

For Pool/Passport Membership questions, please email straster@ujcvp.org

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Rabbi Gershon Litt, 757-559-1836



Come visit us at AJ!

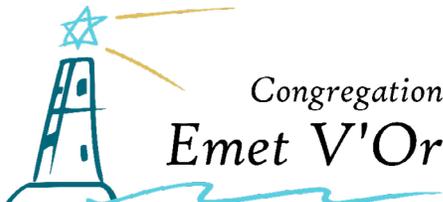
We have Shabbat services with Rabbi Litt once a month (see dates below) and we welcome everyone. It might be a little daunting to visit a synagogue with which you are unfamiliar.

Every shul/temple is a little different but we promise there's no secret handshake required upon entry. We promise we're a friendly bunch. It is recommended that men cover their heads. Men sit to the right and women sit to the left. If you want a buddy to go with you or more information, contact rabbi@ajshul.com.

Kiddish, lunch and kibitzing follow every Shabbos. We'd love to have you as our guest!

Rabbi Litt's Shabbos Schedule:
August 5-6, September 2-3, Yom Tov schedule to be announced

Shabbos Candle Lighting Times:
August 5 - 7:50pm, August 12 - 7:42pm, August 19 - 7:33pm, August 26 - 7:24pm



Congregation
Emet V'Or

Truth and Light in the Reform Tradition

Office.CEVO@gmail.com
www.emetvor.org
757-952-3737

Rabbi Scott Gurdin
Cantorial Soloist Dr. Jonathan Rathsam
Musical Accompanist Dr. Ben Corbin

Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat services are held Friday evenings at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

August 5 – Lay led service

August 12 – Rabbi led service with cantorial and musical accompaniment

August 19 – Lay led Shabbat service with musical accompaniment

August 26 – Lay led Shabbat service

September 2 – Shabbat in the Home
(Labor Day weekend)

Special Events & Other News

CEVO Board Meeting – August 8 (Zoom)

Are you interested in having your child attend a fun, well rounded, educational religious school? CEVO is taking applications for children from ages 2-5 (Parent and Me), and grades 1st – 10th. Please contact us at office.cevo@gmail.com for more information.

CEVO's website address has changed! The new website is www.emetvor.com. Visit us often to stay in touch with CEVO news.

All are welcome to visit! Our location:
101 Production Drive, Suite 101, Yorktown, VA 23693

 fb.me/CEVOcommunity

Temple Sinai
11620 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, VA 23601
(757) 596-8352



WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, August 5th @ 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Alice Rubinstein

Friday, August 12th @ 7:30pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Marvin Kaplan

Saturday, August 20th @ 10:00am - Sisterhood Shabbat Service led by Irene Jacobson followed by light Kiddush luncheon

Saturday, August 27th @ 10:00am - Shabbat Service led by Randy Rainville followed by light Kiddush luncheon

Contact Rabbi Sokol at rabbiseverine@gmail.com or (314) 628-9196 if you are interested in attending services.



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UJCVP Community August 2022 Calendar

Monday, Aug. 1, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool

Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
6:30pm - Water Aerobics

Friday, Aug. 5, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Monday, Aug. 8, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
TBD - Glendale Food Truck
Tuesday
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, Aug 10, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
5:30pm - Gather on the Grass

Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
6:30pm - Water Aerobics

Friday, Aug. 12, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool
9-11pm - Glendale
Moonlight Swim

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool
3pm - PJ Library at the Pool

Monday, Aug. 15, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022

10am - Red Cross Blood Drive
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022

11am-8pm - Glendale Pool

Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022

10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
6:30pm - Water Aerobics
7pm - Pickle-Making Workshop
8-10pm - Glendale Teen Night

Friday, Aug. 19, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool
9-11pm - Glendale Adult Swim

Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Monday, Aug. 22, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022

10am - Red Cross Blood Drive
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
5pm - Glendale Food Truck
Tuesday
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022

1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022

9am - Raise Your Hand Day
10:45am - Grand Club/Bingo
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool

Friday, Aug. 26, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022

11am-9pm - Glendale Pool

Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022

10am - Kibbitz & Create
1-8pm - Glendale Pool

Monday, Aug. 29, 2022

SARFAN CENTER CLOSED
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022

SARFAN CENTER CLOSED
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool
7pm - Pickleball

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022

SARFAN CENTER CLOSED
11am-8pm - Glendale Pool

