



MT. LEBANON RACKET CENTER

Dear Mt. Lebanon Racket Center Community,

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Summer has arrived, and we're excited to welcome players back outdoors for another great season. With longer days, warmer temperatures, and busy courts, there's no better time to enjoy everything we have going on!

At the time of publishing this newsletter, our pickleball courts are currently closed for painting. We anticipate reopening the courts June 18, weather permitting. We appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming players back onto the freshly painted courts soon!

We're also pleased to announce that our fencing replacement project is scheduled to begin June 17. As part of this project, the fencing surrounding Tennis Courts 1–4 and Court 10 will be completely replaced. While we will make every effort to minimize disruptions, we will have periodic court closures throughout the construction process. Please check CourtReserve and facility communications for the latest updates on court availability.

As outdoor play ramps up, we'd also like to remind players of our weather cancellation procedures. When courts must be closed due to weather or unsafe conditions, affected reservations will receive an email notification. Any reservation fees will be credited back to your CourtReserve account for future use. We will also post weather-related court closure updates on the CourtReserve homepage, so please check there for the most current facility information. I know that court cancellations can be a nuisance, however as a fully outdoor facility we are subject to weather and must cancel due to court conditions and player safety. We do our absolute best to remain open when we can and also give all players enough notice when there's a closure. The weather in Pittsburgh can be extremely unpredictable, even when following the forecast. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated as we navigate every rainfall.

We have been pleased with our new reservation software, CourtReserve, now a month since launch. The added features and mobile app have been a great improvement for our players and staff, and we hope you are enjoying the new system. We've received a lot of positive reviews, and look forward to adding more features!

Finally, be on the lookout for announcements regarding upcoming social events, mixers, clinics, and special programming throughout the summer. We have many exciting opportunities planned to help players connect, compete and enjoy the facility.

Thank you for your continued support of the Mt. Lebanon Racket Center. We look forward to seeing you on the courts this summer!

Darin Rauso, Racket Center Manager



About Our Facility



HOW TO FIND US:

Mt. Lebanon Racket Center
900 Cedar Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Phone: (412) 343-3411

YOUR STAFF:

Darin Rauso, Facility Manager
drauso@mtlebanon.org

Megan Foster, Head Pro
mgustinefoster@mtlebanon.org

David Armbrecht, Maintenance
darmbrecht@mtlebanon.org

Tennis began in Mt. Lebanon as a backyard sport. The original private court that belonged to first Mt. Lebanon solicitor, Samuel Schreiner, still exists behind the house he built on St. Clair Drive in 1929. Over the years, however, the sport grew in popularity - both to play and to watch. Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department, in partnership with the previous Indoor Tennis of Mt. Lebanon, has been able to expand from one scruffy public court to the 13 well-maintained courts we now enjoy, including six with winter "bubbles" that provide year-round play. In addition, we have viewing stands, and a tennis center building with a community room. Located next to our Racket Center building, is our popular state of the art hitting wall, available to be used by reservation during operating hours of the Racket Center.

In addition to our tennis courts, we also have four platform tennis courts and a newly built paddle hut. The Mt. Lebanon Platform Tennis Association (MLPTA) and the municipality operate as partners in the maintenance and upkeep of the platform tennis facilities. Platform tennis, also known as paddle tennis, is thriving in Mt. Lebanon. Mt. Lebanon fields a number of teams in both the men's and women's Western Pennsylvania Platform Tennis Association (WPPTA) leagues.

Racket Center Hours of Operation (Outdoor)

Monday:	8 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Tuesday:	8 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Wednesday:	8 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Thursday:	8 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Friday:	8 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Saturday:	8 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Sunday:	8 A.M. - 9 P.M.



Websites: Online Reservations/Programs:

[CourtReserve](#)

Racket Center Facility Info:

mtlebanon.org

STAY UP TO DATE!

Be sure to check out our Bulletin Board on your way in for information, flyers, events, and other notices!

RACKET CENTER NEW SOFTWARE COURTRESERVE

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- 1** | Scan the QR code below to download the CourtReserve mobile app
- 2** | Select Get Started, enter your email then search "Mt. Lebanon"
- 3** | Create the primary household account first, then add additional family members










QUESTIONS? CALL THE RACKET CENTER AT (412) 343-3411

Updated Court Numbers



Court Fencing Project

FENCE PROJECT COURT CLOSURE SCHEDULE

 COURTS 1&2/3&4	CLOSED 6/17 to 6/22	 COURTS 3&4 REOPEN 6/23
 COURTS 1&2	CLOSED 6/17 to 6/29	 REOPEN 6/30
 COURTS 3&4	CLOSED 6/29 to 7/14	 REOPEN 7/15
 COURT 10	CLOSED 7/15 to 7/22	 REOPEN 7/23



SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



WEEKEND COURT AVAILABILITY MAY VARY
BASED ON CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS.
Please check [CourtReserve](#) for the most
current court schedule.

Adult Weekly Drop-in Tennis/Pickleball Clinics

- **New registrations each week! Choose based upon your schedule**
- **Registrations open for each class 7 days in advance at 8 a.m.**
- **Sign up through [CourtReserve](#)**
- ***No pickleball clinic through 6/18 due to court painting***

Day of Week	Clinic & Level	Time	Price
Mondays	Live Ball Tennis (3.0-4.0)	9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	\$18
Mondays	Private Tennis Lesson	10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	\$80
Mondays	Beginner Plus Pickleball (2.5)	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	\$24-\$27
Mondays	Adult Tennis Clinic (3.5+)	5:30 to 7 p.m.	\$24-\$27
Mondays	LiveBall Pickleball (3.0)	6 to 7 p.m.	\$16-\$18
Tuesdays	LiveBall Tennis (3.0-4.0)	6 to 7 p.m.	\$18
Tuesdays	Adult Tennis Clinic (3.0+)	7:30 to 9 p.m.	\$24-\$27
Wednesdays	Private Tennis Lesson	10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	\$80
Wednesdays	LiveBall Pickleball (3.0)	6 to 7 p.m.	\$16-\$18
Wednesdays	Intermediate Pickleball (3.0+)	6 to 7:30 p.m.	\$24-\$27
Wednesdays	LiveBall Tennis (3.0-4.0)	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.	\$18
Wednesdays	Adult Tennis Clinic (3.5+)	7:30 to 9 p.m.	\$24-\$27
Thursdays	Cardio Tennis (3.0-4.0)	9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	\$20
Thursdays	Private Tennis Lesson	10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	\$80
Thursdays	Intro to Pickleball (2.0-2.5)	6 to 7 p.m.	\$16-\$18
Thursdays	Pickleball Skill of the Week	7:30 to 8:30 p.m.	\$16-\$18
Fridays	Cardio Tennis (3.0-4.0)	9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	\$20
Saturdays	Intro to Pickleball (2.0-2.5)	9 to 10 a.m.	\$16-\$18
Saturdays	Beginner Plus Pickleball (2.5)	10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	\$24-\$27
Saturdays	Private Tennis Lesson	12 to 1 p.m.	\$80
Sundays	Private Tennis Lesson	10 to 11 a.m.	\$80
Sundays	Organized Play Pickleball	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	\$10
Sundays	LiveBall Tennis (3.0-4.0)	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	\$18

Junior Programming (Session)

JUNE-JULY SESSION CLINIC (6 weeks) June 8 - July 19

Day of Week	Clinic Level & Age	Time	Dates
Mondays	Big Kids 5-6 yrs	10 to 11 a.m.	June 8-July 13
Mondays	Red Ball Club 10 & Under	10 to 11 a.m.	June 8-July 13
Mondays	Orange Ball Club 10 & Under	10 to 11 a.m.	June 8-July 13
Mondays	Big Kids 5-6 yrs	4 to 5 p.m.	June 8-July 13
Mondays	Red Ball Club 10 & Under	4 to 5 p.m.	June 8-July 13
Mondays	Red Ball Plus 10 & Under	4 to 5 p.m.	June 8-July 13
WEDNESDAYS			
Wednesdays	Big Kids 5-6/Red Ball Club/Orange Ball Club	10 to 11 a.m.	June 10-July 15
Wednesdays	Youth 1/Youth 2	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	June 10-July 15
Wednesdays	Junior Varsity	1 to 3 p.m.	June 10-July 15
Wednesdays	Big Kids 5-6/Red Ball Club/Red Ball Plus	4 to 5 p.m.	June 10-July 15
Wednesdays	Orange Ball Club 10 & Under	4 to 5 p.m.	June 10-July 15
Wednesdays	Youth 1 11-17 yrs	5 to 6:30 p.m.	June 10-July 15
Wednesdays	Youth 2 11-17 yrs	5 to 6:30 p.m.	June 10-July 15
THURSDAYS			
Thursdays	Big Kids 5-6 yrs	4 to 5 p.m.	June 11-July 16
Thursdays	Red Ball Club/Orange Ball Club 10 & Under	4 to 5 p.m.	June 11-July 16
Thursdays	Youth 1 11-17 yrs	5 to 6:30 p.m.	June 11-July 16
Thursdays	Youth 2 11-17 yrs	5 to 6:30 p.m.	June 11-July 16
SUNDAYS			
Sundays	Big Kids 5-6 yrs	11 a.m. to Noon	June 14-July 19
Sundays	Red Ball Club 10 & Under	11 a.m. to Noon	June 14-July 19
Sundays	Orange Ball Club 10 & Under	11 a.m. to Noon	June 14-July 19
Sundays	Youth 1 11-17 yrs	Noon to 1:30 p.m.	June 14-July 19
Sundays	Youth 2 11-17 yrs	Noon to 1:30 p.m.	June 14-July 19
Sundays	JV/Varsity 11-17 yrs	2 to 4 p.m.	June 14-July 19

Adult Programming (Session)

JUNE-JULY SESSION CLINIC (5-6 weeks)

June 13 - July 19 (*No Class 7/4*)

For questions on class placement, email [Megan Foster](#)

[*Register through CourtReserve*](#)

Day of Week	Clinic Level	Time	Dates
Saturdays	Beginner (2.0-2.5)	8 to 9:30 a.m.	June 13-July 18
Saturdays	Beginner Plus (2.5-3.0)	8 to 9:30 a.m.	June 13-July 18
Saturdays	Intermediate (3.5+)	9:30 to 11 a.m.	June 13-July 18
Saturdays	Advanced Intermediate (4.0+)	9:30 to 11 a.m.	June 13-July 18
Sundays	Beginner (2.0-2.5)	8 to 9:30 a.m.	June 14-July 19
Sundays	Beginner Plus (2.5-3.0)	8 to 9:30 a.m.	June 14-July 19
Sundays	Intermediate (3.5+)	9:30 to 11 a.m.	June 14-July 19
Sundays	Advanced Intermediate (4.0+)	9:30 to 11 a.m.	June 14-July 19

Summer Session 2 - Registration

July-August

Mt. Lebanon Residents - Friday, July 3 @ 9 a.m.

Non-Residents - Friday, July 10 @ 9 a.m.



Pickleball Operating Procedures/Rules

Operating Procedures/Rules

1. Timeslots - Timeslots on all courts are in half-hour increments. A one-hour minimum reservation is required. There are no designations for singles or doubles courts. Operating hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday-Friday, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays. The Racket Center reserves the right to close early in the evening if there are no reservations.
2. Online reservations are encouraged for pickleball courts. You may make a reservation up to one week in advance. Payment is due at the time of reservation.
3. Fees - Court fees are \$12/court/hr. There are no additional convenience fees for online reservations.
4. Everyone must check in with the Racket Center cashier before going to their court.
5. Splitting payments for court reservations is not permitted. Each group must pay for their court with a single payment/single transaction. Credit card payments preferred.
6. Time played is time paid. Staying on and playing after your scheduled reservation is not permitted. Please be considerate of others and leave the court promptly at the end of your reservation. If available, time can be extended at the front desk with payment.
7. Walk-up reservations - Walk-up reservations are welcomed if space is available.
8. Cancellations - Anyone may cancel their reservation online up two hours prior to the start time, and a credit will be issued to the account. Within four hours of the start time, reservation fees are nonrefundable.
9. If your reservation is rained/snowed out and you cannot play at least half of your time, we will put a credit on your account. If you have played for at least half of your court time, no credit will be issued.
10. Only instructors employed and certified by the Mt. Lebanon Racket Center are permitted to teach lessons. Outside instruction/coaching is not allowed.
11. Water is the only drink permitted inside pickleball court area. All other drinks/food must stay outside court area.
12. Pets, bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards and scooters are prohibited.
13. Shirts are required and must be worn at all times.
14. No smoking, vaping, or tobacco products of any kind.
15. No abusive language, shouting, or aggressive behavior.
16. Do not walk behind active courts while points are in play.
17. Non-marking tennis shoes are required.
18. Playing music is not permitted except through earbuds or headphones and only audible to the individual listener.
19. Younger Children - Children must be at least 11 years old to play on the courts unless they are playing with a parent or guardian. Regardless of age, children must be capable of observing all the rules and regulations while at the Racket Center.
20. Junior Pickleball Clinics - Children 10 and younger must be dropped off and picked up at their designated court by a parent or guardian. Please be prompt. Children 10 and younger will not be released without a parent or guardian present. Regardless of age, children must be capable of observing all the rules and regulations while at the Racket Center.
21. Questions? If you have any questions, you may call the Racket Center at (412) 343-3411.
22. All rules and policies are subject to change.

Construction Updates

Cedar Blvd Court Lighting Improvement:

- Pickleball courts and tennis courts 1-6 lighting fixtures have been upgraded to LED. This allows a better evening experience for all our players starting now! We hope you enjoy!

Court 13 Railing:

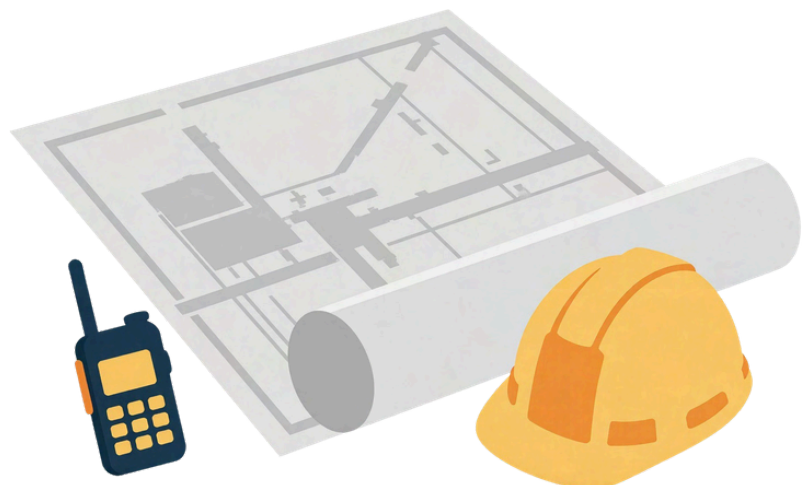
- Railing will be installed on the walkway around court 13 on the hill for safety. Completion is set for this summer.

Fencing Improvements:

- Courts 1-4, and Court 10 fence will be updated. Project will start June 17.

Pickleball Court Construction (Currently being painted):

1. Pickleball courts will not have a bubble.
2. We have six pickleball hard courts.
3. Players pay a fee to use the courts.
4. Reserving courts is the same process as reserving tennis courts.
5. Many program and lesson offerings for pickleball are offered!



How to Play Better Tennis Rallies

ita.org.uk

Playing more and longer tennis rallies will give you the most fun experience on court, but it's not always that easy.

Start closer and work back

A common misconception when you start playing tennis is that you have to start playing from the back of the court straight away.

Actually, the best way to get into hitting plenty of rallies is to start playing on a shorter court – rallying in the service boxes.

This brings you closer together, takes the net away as a big barrier, and makes you focus a bit more on the control over the net, as well as working on your footwork. You don't need to hit with as much power and instead you just need to place the ball to be more consistent.

As you gain confidence, you can then start to move back to the mid-court and then to the back, only needing to increase your swing path slightly each time, it's not all about power and speed.

Get in position

If you want to play longer rallies or stay in more points, your positioning before, during and after every shot is key.

Tennis court positioning:

- When the ball is on the other side of the court, stay on the balls of your feet with the racket in front of you, ready to react to your opponent's shot
- When your opponent hits the ball, you need to move into position, a comfortable distance from the ball to make contact on your forehand or backhand side, often standing side-ways on
- Once you've played your shot, you want to jump straight back into that ready position back at the middle of the baseline (or between the angles you opponent could hit) with the racket out in front

Getting your positioning right for every shot will mean that you're prepared for each ball to give you the best chance of playing your most effective shot, and will help you build more consistency in your rallies.

Net clearance

It can be very tempting to hit the ball as hard as you can – just clearing the top of the net. That's what the pros do right?

Actually, that's not quite the case. In fact, as a general rule you should try to clear the net by double the height to give plenty of clearance.

Having this as a target will help you avoid making more mistakes by hitting the net and will also give you more depth on your groundstrokes, which is great for when you start playing points to put your opponent under pressure.

You can also use simple tennis rally drills to practice net clearance, such as hitting back and forth aiming for targets a few feet above the net cord.

Count your rallies

It might sound a bit strange, but counting your rallies out loud is a great way to make you focus on getting the ball back and in so you try to beat your highest score, and will help you exhale on contact.

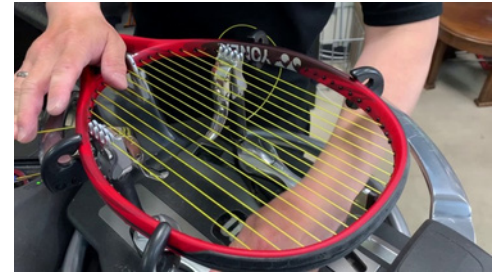
Alternatively, you can also say 'bounce and hit' in time with the balls bounce and contact on the racket strings as well. This will help you time the ball better and keep your technique consistent during rallies.

STRINGING / FOR SALE

Racket Stringing Service

Need a fresh set of strings? We've got you covered! Our in-house stringing service offers a 4-day turnaround to keep you on the court and playing your best. Labor is just \$20 - simply bring your racket and string, and we'll handle the rest. Don't have string? No problem, we have options available for purchase at the front desk.

Have questions? Stop by or give us a call!





TENNIS STRINGING

— QUALITY STRINGS. EXPERT SERVICE. BETTER PERFORMANCE. —

STRINGING LABOR

	RACKET STRINGING – LABOR ONLY	\$20.00
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POLYESTER STRINGS

	BABOLAT RPM BLAST 16G – BLACK	\$45.00
	GAMMA POLY 16G – BLUE	\$36.00
	GAMMA POLY 17G – BLACK	\$36.00
	GAMMA POLY 17G – BLUE	\$36.00

SYNTHETIC / MULTIFILAMENT STRINGS

	GAMMA SYNTHETIC 16G – SILVER	\$28.00
	GAMMA SYNTHETIC TNT 16G – NATURAL	\$32.00
	WILSON MULTI 16G – NATURAL	\$40.00
	WILSON SYNTHETIC 16G – WHITE	\$32.00

HYBRID OPTION

	HYBRID STRING SETUP	\$40.00
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 TURNAROUND TIME 4 DAYS	 ASK OUR STAFF ABOUT RECOMMENDED TENSION & SETUP	 QUALITY STRINGS. EXPERT SERVICE. BETTER PERFORMANCE.
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PLAY YOUR BEST. WE'LL HANDLE THE REST.
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
MT. LEBANON RACKET CENTER!

Other Items for Sale



PRICE LIST

Can of tennis balls	\$5
Pickleball	\$5
Can of paddle balls	\$14
Replacement grip	\$12
Overgrip	\$4
Logo Dampener	\$8

HITTING WALL

Our state of the art hitting wall is available to be reserved during Racket Center operating hours online or by calling the front desk at (412) 343-3411. The wall has two sides, A & B, as each are able to be reserved. The wall is FREE and located up the stairs to the left of the Racket Center building.

Racket sports ONLY.



Lost something? We may have it! Stop by the Lost & Found area inside the Racket Center to pick up any misplaced items.



PLATFORM TENNIS

Fees: \$18 per court, per 1.5 hours, weekdays prior to 5:30 p.m., and \$22 evenings and weekends.

[Online Court Reservations](#)

Courts are available for a maximum of eight days in advance and you must have a reservation to play on the courts. You may cancel your reservation online up to one hour prior to the start time, and a credit will be issued to your account. Beyond one hour prior to the start time, your reservation fees are nonrefundable. For access to lights or heaters email platformtennis@mtlebanon.org or call (412) 343-3411.

No one under 21 is permitted to reserve facilities. The responsible party reserving the facility must be present at all times during the reservation. Pickleball is prohibited on the Platform Courts.

What is Platform Tennis?

It has been described as “the chess game of racket sports.” It is a unique outdoor tennis game, generally played in cold weather, that requires the patience of a tortoise combined with the speed of a hare. It is a game in which raw power is not the ultimate weapon, but finesse and accuracy are rewarded. Primarily a doubles game, teamwork between partners is also an important feature.

Platform Tennis, also known as paddle tennis, is played on a 20-foot-by-44-foot court, about one-third the size of a conventional tennis court, and is surrounded by 12-foot high “chicken wire” screens. These are located eight feet behind the base lines and five feet from the sidelines. Service lines are drawn in the same manner as tennis.

Rules of the Game

Most of the rules follow regular tennis including the scoring which is 15, 30, 40 and game. There are, however, a few major differences that make Platform Tennis a significantly different game. The first major rule difference is that there is only one serve. If the initial serve is not hit in the receiving area the server loses the point. There is no “second chance” as in tennis.

The most intriguing difference, however, is the use of the screens to keep the ball in play. Just as in tennis, a player may return a shot by either hitting it before it hits the deck or after letting it bounce one time, playing it as a ground stroke. In platform tennis, however, the player has an additional option. The ball is allowed to rebound off the screen after hitting the deck and then is hit before it hits the deck again.

