



For Immediate Release

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Capital City Pickleball Classic

Springfield will host its first major Pickleball tournament July 13-14 at Iles Park Pickleball courts, located off South Sixth Street. The sponsors for the tournament are Scheels, Bunn, D'Arcy's Pint, the Springfield Park District, and the Springfield Pickleball Club.

The public is invited out, free of charge to watch the action. Food and drink will be served. Pickleball is a paddle game played on a court that is one third the size of a tennis court. It is a combination of ping pong, badminton, and tennis. An oversized ping pong paddle and a whiffle type ball are used to play the game.

Approximately 75 players from nine states will participate in the tournament, which will be a skill based round robin format. Player categories will be 5.0, 4.0, and 3.5. The tournament will feature some of the best pickleball players in the US, and will include men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

The schedule for the weekend is as follows:

Friday, July 12 at 6:00 PM--- Informal Play Time - Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 AM --- Men's and Women's Doubles; Saturday, July 13 at 4:30 PM --- Men's and Women's Singles; Sunday, July 14 at 9:00 --- Mixed Doubles. If there is inclement weather, the tournament will be relocated to Nelson Center rink #2 with doors opening at 8:30am.

The Springfield Pickleball Club, formed in 2012, has 70 members. The group plays Monday through Thursday at 5:30 PM each night, Saturdays at 9:30 AM, and Sundays at 1:00 PM. Beginners are invited to play with the group at any of the play times. Extra paddles and balls are available.

For more information about this tournament or the Springfield Pickleball Club, please contact Mr. Jack Handy, tournament director and president of the Springfield Pickleball Club. He may be reached at 217-415-9174.

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