

From the Foundation

Game on! Pickleball Tournament returns March 29 in Westfield



Pickleball players pose together after the July 20, 2025, tournament at The Picklr in Westfield.

It's back and it's on! Get your team together and register for Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's (GSHFH) second-ever Pickleball Tournament on Sunday, March 29. The all-day event held at The Picklr in Westfield is sure to serve up kitchen-legal levels of fun.

That's right, we're down with the lingo and we mean this Habitat fundraiser will be all good. How could it not? The round-robin-style event features two-player teams. Play time will be divided into timed sections by skill level to ensure everyone gets

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Less roses. More roofs.

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Safe, affordable housing?
Now that's true love, too.

This Valentine's Day, show us your love in a way that really lasts.

Make a donation to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity and help build strength, stability, and self-reliance for families right here in Hampden County.

Because nothing says "I care" like helping someone build a place to call home.

Donate today and be our Valentine: habitatspringfield.org/donate



Greater Springfield
Habitat
for Humanity™

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY
March 29
8 AM to 6:30 PM

All proceeds benefit Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity.

THE PICKLR

Tickets are: \$50/each
This is a Round Robin-style 2-player teamed event.
Registration: bit.ly/4ri4lyK

Must pre-register to participate.
Event will be divided into timed sections based on skill level.

- Raffles
- Merchandise

The Picklr
415 E Main St
The Westfield Shops
Retail A-1
Westfield, MA

Registration:



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worthwhile matchups and court time.

“The game itself is a fun way to get your body moving and is not as intimidating as tennis,” said Olga Callirgos, GSHFH Homeowner Services manager, who played her first match at last year’s tournament. “Players are super welcoming to newbies who don’t know what they’re doing. It’s definitely a community that looks out for one another. I’m still slowly learning the rules, though, because when I played, I just knew I had to hit the ball but not to hit it out of bounds.”

We’ll start the day at 8 a.m. with beginners on the courts, roll into intermediate play, and finish strong with advanced matches. Tickets are \$50 per person and pre-registration is required. Snacks will be available and bragging rights are up for grabs. Plus, raffle tickets and merchandise are on hand for purchase.

“Pickleball has a way of bringing people together across ages and experience levels,” said Bree D’Amours, a member of GSHFH’s Board of Directors who’s also part of the planning committee. “I love the idea of being a part of an event that’s genuinely fun while still promoting Habitat in a meaningful way. If people leave feeling energized, informed, and more connected to Habitat’s network, then we’ve done well.”

Greater Springfield Habitat’s first pickleball tournament held in July 2025, attracted nearly 50 people, including children and Springfield Thunderbirds mascot Boomer. Among the raffle prizes were a tabletop charcoal grill, gift baskets, pickleball swag, and Funko POP dolls.

“I had some fun and met some great people,” said Andy Szalai via a Facebook comment after last year’s tournament. “I’m looking forward to this being a tradition.”

GSHFH is a housing ministry dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home repair opportunities. This is accomplished by working in partnership with diverse people, from all walks of life, to build and repair simple, decent, affordable housing. Habitat’s mission to provide homeownership opportunities to low-income families is unique as it requires partner families to work alongside the community that is



Top: Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Board of Directors Vice President Michael Clemente gets ready to serve at Habitat’s first-ever Pickleball Tournament in July 2025, Bottom: Expert players participate in a volley during GSHFH’s first-ever Pickleball Tournament at the Picklr in Westfield.

reaching out to help them. GSHFH has helped roughly 100 local families realize their dream of homeownership over the last 39 years.

For more information or to register, visit habitatspringfield.org/pickleball



HOPS for HABITAT beer passport is back!

To participate:

1. Purchase a Hops for Habitat beer passport by clicking on the QR code to the right. Follow the instructions. Physical passports will be mailed to the address listed on the order form. Participants may also pick them up at the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity administrative office (268 Cold Spring Ave, West Springfield).
2. Visit each brewery listed on the passport. Order and pay for beverage. Show the passport to the bartender, who will stamp the box of the correlating brewery. As a participant in the Hops for Habitat promotion, the bartender will fill your order and give you a gift of equal value (which may include a gift card for a second beer).
3. After you've visited and collected stamps from each of the passport's listed nine breweries, make sure your name and contact information is written on the document. Return the passport to one of the breweries or mail it to Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity administrative office (268 Cold Spring Ave, West Springfield, MA 01089) to be entered into a raffle for a grand prize

Frequently asked questions:

- Q. How soon after I order a passport will it arrive at my home?
A. Passports are mailed via two-day priority mail.
2. Can I purchase a passport at a participating brewery?
A. No.
3. When I visit a brewery, will the bartender know to stamp it?
Yes, when you make a purchase and show the bartender the passport, they will know to stamp it



Participating breweries:

