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Home > Pickleball Players Give Back to the Community

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## Pickleball Players Give Back to the Community <sup>[1]</sup>

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**By:**

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*Above: Dan O'Toole presents a \$3,000 check to Helena Niblett of the American Cancer Society.*

Over three hundred pickleball players, volunteers and spectators gathered the first weekend of September for the second annual Jim Savage Memorial Pickleball Tournament. The event, held at Patriarche Park in East Lansing, raised money for the American Cancer Society in memory of Jim Savage, a local pickleball player and friend to many who lost a courageous battle with brain cancer several years ago.

The tournament drew over 170 players from the mid-Michigan area and beyond, and raised \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society. This doubles the amount raised last year and plans are already under way for a third edition of the tournament in the Fall of 2019.

Volunteers from the Greater Lansing Pickleball Club donated their time to make this a fun event for all who participate. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports, and the East Lansing area is no exception. Pickleball players participating in the tournament take part in play throughout the

year at venues around the Lansing area including Patriarche Park, Hannah Community Center, Delta Mills Park, Mason Park, McCormick Park and Hillbrook Park. Other private opportunities are also available at the Michigan Athletic Club, Court One and the West Side YFCA.

Most mornings or evenings courts are ping-pong with the sound of pickleballs hitting paddles. The sport, which originated in the western United States, has quickly spread to retirement communities around the country. It is now being played by young and old in parks, community centers, gymnasiums and warehouses in most cities in the United States.

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[2] <https://eastlansinginfo.org/sport>

[3] <https://eastlansinginfo.org/randomacts>

[4] <https://eastlansinginfo.org/community>

[5] <https://eastlansinginfo.org/panksnrec>