



For Immediate Release
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Gamma Pickleball Classic to be held in June

The fastest growing sport in the U.S. is coming to Pittsburgh's David L. Lawrence Convention Center June 3-5, 2016. Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the Gamma Pickleball Classic will bring players of all ages and skill levels together from around our region. Requiring finesse, mental concentration and camaraderie, the sport is an ideal activity for those living with Parkinson's disease. All proceeds from the event will go to support the mission and programs of the foundation.

Pickleball is particularly appreciated by baby boomers, but numerous school systems throughout southwestern Pennsylvania are also adopting the sport. A mix of tennis, ping pong and badminton, Pickleball is played mostly as a doubles contest. It can be played indoors on a gym floor or outdoors on a tennis court. The game requires more strategy than power, which is why seniors are adopting the sport in record numbers.

Co-chairs of the Pickleball Classic are Michael Wertz (CEO of Apple Box Studios and Board Chairman for Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania) and Wayne Dollard (Publisher of Pickleball and InCommunity Magazines). Dollard states "he is determined to make the Classic one of the premiere Pickleball events in the country." At least 300 competitors are expected to enjoy the tournament this first year. "This event is unlike any other in the sport as it's set in the heart of Pittsburgh's cultural district. The city will be alive on this weekend with the Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival, a Pirate home stand and Pickleball," Wertz adds.

To learn more about how to participate, sponsor or volunteer, call 412.692.3971 or visit www.pickleballclassic.org.

MEDIA: Interview and photography opportunities available. All interested media that would like to inquire about interviews, attend and review, photograph and/ or videotape events should contact Apple Box Studios at 412.642.3971. **For more information about the Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania, please visit www.pfwpa.org or call 412-837-2542.**

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