

City of Poulsbo

Parks & Recreation Department



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Poulsbo Welcomes Pickleball Kingdom

Poulsbo, WA – The City of Poulsbo is excited to welcome Pickleball Kingdom and franchisee owners - John and Mara Hylton - to “Little Norway”. This new venture will convert the vacant Office Max building in the Olhava area into a premier indoor pickleball facility, the closest dedicated indoor space near the birthplace of pickleball on Bainbridge Island.

Clay Roberts, President of Bainbridge Island Pickleball, was instrumental in highlighting the possibility of converting the vacant Office Max building into a community indoor pickleball facility. Earlier this year, during his presentation to the Poulsbo City Council, Roberts highlighted how pickleball “is a sport that’s incredibly inclusive that allows 8-year-olds to play with 80-year-olds. It has as many women as it does men playing and is growing at an incredible rate, over 10 percent a year. It’s an economic engine for communities.”

The Hyltons expressed the importance of connecting with community as well as getting people active and involved. The facility will help provide introductory 101 classes, tournaments, and be a hub for the community.

Mayor Becky Erickson stated “How wonderful of an opportunity this is for our Poulsbo community. There are players all over the region, especially here in the city, looking for places to gather with friends, meet neighbors, and play indoors. We are so pleased to welcome John and Mara and look forward to them opening Pickleball Kingdom.”



From left: Jeff Ozimek, Poulsbo Parks & Recreation Director, John Hylton, Mayor Becky Erickson, and Mara Hylton.

The timing couldn't be better as the City of Poulsbo moves forward with the Poulsbo Event and Recreation Center (PERC) which will host several new outdoor courts, tournament fields, walking paths, and a playground a stone's throw away from Pickleball Kingdom's new facility.

"Not only are we very excited to work with John and Mara and explore creative ways to serve our community, but our local pickleball citizen advisory group is fund raising to improve our outdoor multiuse courts right now" stated Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Ozimek. "There is quite a bit of energy as citizens, business owners, and service organizations become involved in improving parks and programs that matter to them. Having Pickleball Kingdom join the effort here in Poulsbo is a real win for our community."

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