



From the Picklehood

September 2024

By Jack Hodges

"Sometimes all it takes to be happy is a dime on the sidewalk" ~ Ted Kooser, American poet and winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 2005.

I remember those days when finding a coin at my feet was a big deal. A gift from the Universe. I would bike to Kalapawai Market at the end of Kalaheo Ave in Kailua (Oahu) and buy baseball cards. A penny would get you a pack with one card and a nickel bought six cards. Finding a dime meant six cards and a jelly donut. I always spent the find right away because I believed spreading prosperity meant continued prosperity.

Which brings me—in a round about way—to this month's column. On Monday, September 16, I received a text message from Lucia Bartels, our pickleball Ambassador for westside Kaua'i. She was reminding us of a Thursday, 9/19 meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the Hanapepe tennis courts, hosted by our Parks and Recreation Planning and Development Department and spokesperson Kylan Dela Cruz. This would be the third and final meeting to discuss new tennis and pickleball courts at the current location. I would guess 30-35 interested people were in attendance. It was a good meeting with different proposals for the new venue. The hour long session ended with our pickleball and tennis communities attendees agreeing on this final plan: The current four court tennis venue would be divided evenly between pickleball and tennis. One half would be for two stand alone tennis courts and the other half would be stand alone, dedicated pickleball courts. Tentative plans would be six pickleball courts on the allotted space. The proposal will now be sent on for review and final approval. It was a good meeting and I was encouraged by the cooperation and sharing of ideas.

Play on Kaua'i started nine years ago. One venue. Kalaheo Neighborhood Center. That first 'gift' began a movement on our island that many describe as life changing. We spent that figurative 'dime' finding new friends, old friends,

competition, camaraderie, humor, exercise and better health. It's been an interesting and oftentimes tough journey. But we've always had this one constant....a place to set up our nets and play with good friends. Always. And the prosperity story just keeps getting better.

Jack Hodges

District Pickleball Ambassador-Hawaii

Kaua'i Resident

Previous Month's Articles:

[Jan'24](#) [Feb'24](#) [Mar'24](#) [Apr'24](#) [May'24](#) [Jun'24](#)

[Jul'24](#) [Aug'24](#)

[Jan'23](#) [Feb '23](#) [Mar '23](#) [Apr '23](#) [May '23](#) [Jun '23](#)

[Jul '23](#) [Aug '23](#) [Sep '23](#) [Oct '23](#) [Nov '23](#) [Dec '23](#)

[Jan'22](#) [Feb'22](#) [Mar'22](#) [Apr'22](#) [May'22](#) [Jun'22](#)

[Jul'22](#) [Aug'22](#) [Sep'22](#) [Oct'22](#) [Nov'22](#) [Dec'22](#)

[Dec'21](#)