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## Upcoming events

**June 26-28:** [Ad-In Classic](#) adult tournament at the Leftwich Tennis Center. Register online or pick up a form at the tennis centers.

**June-July:** Summer Tennis Camps & Jr Development at [Leftwich](#), [Eldon Roark](#), [Frayser](#) and [Wolbrecht](#)

**July 3-5:** [Memphis City Jr Championships](#)



## Inside The Service Box - From the Executive Director

Junior tennis players from the Memphis area recently traveled to Chattanooga and Murfreesboro to compete against Tennessee's best in the USTA TN State Junior Qualifying, a qualifier tournament for the Southern Closed Championships. This tournament has been around for a long time.....

I can remember my first TN State Junior Qualifying like it was yesterday. I was 13 years old, the year was 1978, the place was Cookeville, TN. For all the young guns now days, my ammunition was a wooden Jack Kramer racquet with a leather grip, Blue Star string, continental grip forehand and a one-handed backhand. It was a memorable experience. I beat a guy named Carlos Garcia in the finals of the consolation, finished 5th place, and qualified for Southern. You would have thought I had won Wimbledon.

Up to this point my tennis skills had been honed in playing with a group of 3.0/3.5 men on the tennis courts in the apartment complex where I grew up with my mom and brother. I owe a lot to these guys for taking a liking to an emotional gangly young kid who would be waiting each and every afternoon on the courts for them to get off work and hit tennis balls. They did more than teach me tennis or take me to local tournaments. They were my role models and who I looked up to, along with my long-haired 70's baseball coach who drove a Pontiac Trans Am and who would pick me up and take me to and home from practice while my mom worked. Bottom line they each took a genuine interest in me and I trusted them. Looking back, their influence in my life was pivotal.

Fast forward, today wooden racquets and blue star strings may be a thing of the past and the open stance and inside out forehand is the tennis lingo. But what has not changed is that kids need attention and positive people in their lives. For many kids the family structure is just not there. Tennis players can be that person and a public tennis center that place.

We all have a wonderful opportunity to give back to the sport of tennis that has given us so much. Why not [volunteer](#) to mentor a child on the court, as a tennis instructor, or off the court, as a tutor, or [sponsor a child](#) for week of tennis camp? The child will be glad you did and both of you will feel like you just won Wimbledon.

Bravo to First Serve Memphis kids and staff, all the juniors who participated in the 2009 TN State Qualifying tournament and those who qualified for Southern for your hard work and dedication. Better yet, bravo, bravo to all who have made a difference in each of these kids lives. Til next time, I wish you good hitting!

Stephen Lang

## Memphis City Council Honors First Serve Graduates

Memphis City Council members





recognized (8) First Serve Memphis, students and staff during its June 2, 2009 council meeting at City Hall. Presenting Councilwoman Janice Fullilove gave each student and First Serve Memphis Coordinator Aaron Mayo a certificate of recognition for their achievements.



The Memphis City Council's Resolution stated that First Serve Memphis continues to provide academic, life skills and tennis programming that challenges and inspires underserved young people who are dedicated to succeed in life.

In addition, the resolution stated First Serve Memphis should be applauded for their commitment to foster the enjoyment of the lifetime sport of tennis by promoting the development of health, character and responsible citizenship and that congratulations and best wishes be extended to these outstanding students in an effort to encourage them to keep up the work. Congrats go to the students and our outstanding staff, Aaron Mayo and Kent Smith, for all their dedication and hard work in achieving this special recognition.

## Summer Junior Development "Heats Up" at Eldon Roark

Summer Junior Development Tennis Clinics began June 8th and continue through July 23rd at the Eldon Roark Tennis Center in Whitehaven. The six-week session meets Monday through Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Clinics are directed by Stephen Lang. Excellent program for players competing in USTA tournaments and who want to develop and improve their games. For more information, contact Stephen Lang at  901-374-0603 . Download a [registration form](#).

## Local Juniors Shine at TN State Qualifying Championships

Memphis was well represented at the USTA TN State Jr. Qualifying in early June. Over 750 players from around the state traveled to Murfreesboro, TN, for the Boys and Girls 10, 12, & 14 age divisions, and to Chattanooga, TN., for the Boys and Girls 16 & 18 age divisions, to compete for a spot in the Southern Closed Jr Championships.

Congratulations to all the juniors and their coaches from across the Memphis area who competed in this year's TN Jr State Qualifying tournament. For complete tournament results click the following links [10,12,14 age divisions](#) or [B/G 16 & 18 age divisions](#). Highlighted below are juniors that had an outstanding tournament:

### Singles Results:

Ezekiel Sansing, B18 - 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Epiphany Turner, G18 - 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Alexa Flynn, G18 - Runner up  
Marshall Sharp, B14 – Winner  
Jarryd Woog, B14 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Kayla Jones, G14 – 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Spencer Ritchy, B12 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Emerald Able, G12- Winner

Kenya Jones, G12 Runner up  
Claire Sullivan, G12 4<sup>th</sup> place  
Fredrick Danielson, B10- Runner up  
Caroline Culpepper, G10-Runner up

Doubles Results:

Will Carruthers/Cliff Guyton, B18 –Runner up  
Taylor Barnes/Kayla Jones, G14 – Runner up  
Emerald Able/Kenya Jones, G12- Winner

Tennis Memphis |  901-374-0603 

[www.tennismemphis.org](http://www.tennismemphis.org)

City of Memphis, Division of Park Services

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