

JUN 21 '22 PM 1:27

June 03, 2022

David Kramer, PE
Bureau Chief
Environmental Resource Permit Bureau
Regulation Division
Southwest Florida Water Management District
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, FL 33637

Re: Permit No. 43-21171-037 Challenge
VGRC Pickleball Courts Site and Development Plans

Dear Mr. Kramer:

The above referenced permit was issued to the Venetian Community Development District for the placement of pickleball courts. The applicant for the permit requested and received an exemption for the final condition upon completion of construction.

This letter takes exception to this exempt permit issuance as the construction activity does not conform to Sec. 62-330-050 (9-b1) and Sec 62-330-051. Our Civil Engineer, Mr. Arnold Weitzman, PE has reviewed the plans and the applicant's engineer February 22, 2022 response letter submitted to the Bureau. Specifically, Item 2 regarding the conveyance of runoff.

The response fails to mention the proposed activity results in a 30% increase in impervious surface and the filling of a retention area. Additionally, the proposed redirected swale will not have the same storage capacity or function as claimed, resulting in redirecting a portion of the runoff flows away from the existing drainage swale west of the proposed pickleball court onto a concrete sidewalk and roadway. This activity will increase the amount of stormwater runoff during critical storm events in the high precipitation season when the ponds and lakes are at capacity.

This activity is in direct violation of the original Storm Water Management permit of the Venetian Golf & River Club Community.

We believe that this activity is not in the best interest of the community and does not fall under an exempt permit and the agency has not complied with the requirements necessary to process this permit.

As an affected property owner, I expect immediate action regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Harvey Feltquate
105 Bella Vista Terrace, Unit D
North Venice, FL 34275

June 16, 2022

sent by Emael

Dr. Mr. Thornton

The Situation - I live in a gated community in Florida called the Venetian Golf and River Club, in Venice Florida, about 20 miles south of Sarasota. Our Board has been looking for a site to build 3 pickleball courts. A previous site under the Power and Light power lines was denied by the City of Venice. Now the board wants to tear up part of our club parking lot and put them next to the tennis courts. About 80% of our residents are opposed to this plan but the Board is not listening to us.

There are condos right across the street and other adjacent homes are very concerned about the noise impact from the close courts on their lives and their property values.

Myself and a couple other members from our community have talked to you on the phone. I have been trying to get our Board to hire you for a noise impact study. At this point, they have chosen to use our landscaping engineer's conclusions which are amateurish and inconclusive.

Our engineer has concluded that tennis is louder than pickleball by taking one reading from his handheld decibel reader. He also concluded that tennis is 55db and pickleball is 50db. Of course this conclusion is ridiculous because you can't look at a db reader and quote a number. You have to measure noise over a period of time as your graphs indicate. And, you have to express noise in averages at the receiving party end. In short –

- We have 6 tennis courts – Our engineer measured dbs with only 2 courts in play.
- Our pickleball courts have not been built. But our engineer is concluding that pickleball is 50db by measuring one pickleball being bounced off of 1 paddle.

I have explained to our Board that you have to measure the ambient noise when all 6 tennis courts are in use at the receiving party (in this case the condo driveways) and create a graph over a period of time that shows the spikes and valleys. Then determine an average db level.

Since our pickleball courts have not been built, we have to consult with a professional acoustic engineer such as yourself because you have a database of hundreds of other pickleball and noise studies to extrapolate from. You did tell us that you would be able to produce a Total Noise Impact report if we had an accurate measurement of the ambient noise. We cannot get that for you because our engineer who is not in residence here does not have the knowledge, equipment or training to get those numbers for you. In addition, he seems to be clueless about noise measurement. In a previous conversation with you, you indicated that you could use Google Earth etc. to come up with a noise impact prediction model. You had indicated a report could be produced for around \$2,000 ball park number.

This picture shows you the location of where our community wants to put 3 pickleball courts. They are in the recreation area next to our 6 tennis courts. There will be a 10ft fence on the north and west sides, and the other sides left open.

Your report to the City of Punta Gorda concludes that the noise from the courts cannot be stopped even with noise dampening material on the surrounding fences. Our engineer plans to use the Acoustifence product which you say does not use the correct numbers in their advertising materials. I have read your report to the City of Punta Gorda and the study that you did in Ft. Myers that you sent to us.



Aerial view – Several condos and homes will be affected by the noise

The condo owners across the street are very concerned about being battered with noise from the courts. This is a very valid concern since news stories around the country indicate noise complaints are always present when the courts are placed too close to residential housing. Many have resulted in legal battles between homeowners and their own Community Associations. This may be our fate.

I have done extensive research on this subject in other communities. Pickleball and close housing do not mix. Horror stories abound in several states.

This inconclusive plan is heading to the Venice City Council for review and maybe a vote on June 28th.

Is there something that you can provide for us that would indicate that a professional noise study must be done before advancing the plan, or is there any other material you can send that may help us?

Thank you for your knowledge and help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tyler Cassell
201 Medici Terrace
Nokomis, FL 34275
(917) 202-0448 Cell

(For the Pickleball Courts and Dog Park site development Plan on Pesaro in the FP&L easement)

DECISION BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION

February 2, 2021

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION THAT

Section 1. The above witness clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct.

Section 2. Based on the testimony and the evidence presented, Site and Development Plan Petition 20-38SP **is hereby DENIED as it does not meet the requirements of Section 86-23 (m); (2), (5), (9), & (10) of the City Land Development Code**, for the following reasons; & the proposed improvements;

a: **incompatible with adjacent residential properties** and

b: **adequate supporting facilities such as parking, water, and restrooms are not provided.**

Section 3. This order constitutes the written notice of the denial of the Petition required by Section 1666.333, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. The Order shall become effective immediately upon adoption. However, the applicant and any other aggrieved person has 15 days from the date of the rendition of this Order to appeal the decision of the Planning Commission to the Venice City Council by filing a written request with the City Clerk ORDERED at a meeting of the Venice Planning Commission of the 2nd day of February 2021.

June 21, 2022

NOTE: By the adjacent residential property owners.

THIS IS A PRECEDENT SETTING DECISION

There is no wording in this decision that it only applies to the Pesaro location under the power lines.

The words "power lines" are not mentioned in the decision; therefore the precedent applies to other locations whenever there are adjacent residential properties.

The Parking Lot location, Site and Development Plan Amendment Petition No 21-56P, has several adjacent residential properties.

This precedent must be applied to that plan.

Judge bans pickleball playing on outdoor courts in Virgil



Evan Saunders: Local Journalism Initiative Reporter - Niagara Now



The pickleball courts at Virgil's Centennial Sports Park have been ordered to close for two years after a noise complaint found its way to provincial offences court. Evan Saunders

Pickleball play has been banned from the town's six outdoor courts in Virgil.

A court in Welland ruled on Wednesday that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the NOTL Pickleball Club violated the town's noise bylaw by allowing pickleball games on six courts in Centennial Sports Park.

Lambert's Walk resident Oana Scafesi complained about noise from the courts and took the town and the club to court when there was no resolution to her concerns.

"The town and the club permitted noise which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the town," Justice of the Peace Mary Shelley said in her provincial offences court ruling convicting both parties.

Shelley ordered the pickleball club and the town to each pay a fine of \$1,000.

Noting that Scafesi was more concerned with relief from the sound of pickleball rather than financial penalties, Shelley also ordered the courts not be used for two years.

"The defendant shall not commit the same offence or any related or similar offence in this case by permitting pickleball play ... outside on the courts of Centennial Sports Park in Virgil," said Shelley.

"The period of probation will be for two years."

That means the courts are effectively shut down for any resident to use, whether they are a member of the club or a private individual.

Lawyer Ian Langden, who represented the pickleball club in the case, unsuccessfully asked Shelley to levy a lower fine for the club, stating the club only has \$2,000 in its bank account.

“To lose 50 per cent of its revenue in a fine will devastate the club financially and it will find itself in a position that it will struggle to pay the fine and to overcome that financial penalty,” Langden said.

In an email to the Lake Report, John Hindle, president of the NOTL Pickleball Club, said club members were “in shock” at the outcome.

“We will now be looking into what subsequent actions need to be taken. Regretfully, any other comment would likely not be printable,” he said in an email to The Lake Report.

Hindle said more than losing the case, he is upset that the hundreds of people who use the courts will suffer because the ruling favoured Scafesi.

“On a strictly personal note, and not speaking on behalf of the club, my level of frustration and sadness is severely deep, that so many people’s lives, their physical and emotional well-being, their search for a healthy active lifestyle, will be so negatively impacted by this decision,” Hindle said.

After a request from Langden, the judge gave the club a year to pay the fine. Terrence Hill, who was representing the town, said the town’s fine would be paid within 30 days.

Throughout her ruling, Shelley made it clear that she is enforcing the town’s own bylaw and that its wording was very much an important part of the verdict.

“The bylaw itself is subjective. It reads, ‘No person shall make, cause or permit sound or vibration at any time, which is likely to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment or comfort of inhabitants of the town,’ ” Shelley said.

“It was open to the town to enact a noise bylaw that was objective and quantifiable, not perfect, but within reason. It’s for all of these reasons that I find (the club and town guilty of breaking the noise bylaw).”

Shelley referred to the installation of a windscreen and the town reducing the hours of play on the courts as “meagre” sound-mitigating actions.

At one point, Hill said there is a motion going before town council next week to update the noise bylaw to permit the sound of recreational activities at parks even if they breach the noise bylaw.

“Municipalities changing bylaws is nothing that concerns the court until, and if, it comes before the court,” Shelley said.

Shelley said she would consider changing the length of time of the probation if the case came back before her.

“But there’s going to have to be extensive submissions on that point,” she said.

Hill cautioned that reaching this verdict could mean the broadness of the bylaw, which prohibits any noise that disturbs a resident, could snowball into absurd cases.

For that reason, Shelley said she specifically referred in her decision to the courts at the sports park only.

In her ruling, Shelley declared the town and the club were partners in the case, although she also said “it’s clear from all the evidence that the two parties didn’t equally contribute financially.”

HOA LAWYER BLOG

Pickleball Installation

November 18, 2020 | by Steven J. Tinnelly, Esq.

Several members of our association have requested that we convert a portion of our common area into a pickleball court. Does your office recommend moving forward with the installation?

Answered – Generally, no. For those who may not know, pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. Two or four players use solid paddles to hit a wiffleball over a net. It is an activity that can be played amongst all age groups and provides various health benefits and has increased in popularity in recent years. However, with its benefits comes numerous issues.

Considering that pickleball is played with a solid paddle and a wiffleball, it is an extraordinarily loud sport. Moreover, as it grows in popularity, it generally brings large gatherings of people together whose yells and cheers can be heard over great distances. This noise may result in a substantial nuisance to those within earshot and may subject the association to various lawsuits unless the pickleball courts are constructed far out of the earshot of the residences.

Unfortunately, our office has seen many associations attempting to convert croquet lawns, bocce ball courts, etc. into pickleball courts that are centrally located to other amenities provided by the association. These are typically areas which many members regularly visit as a place of quiet enjoyment and relaxation. Unfortunately, this quiet enjoyment could be severely disrupted once the pickleball courts are installed.

Even more concerning is when associations attempt to install the pickleball courts in areas immediately adjacent to residences. The owners of the surrounding homes will be routinely battered with the noise emanating from the pickleball courts. This will no doubt result in substantial frustration to those residents, may have a negative impact on their property value, and will, almost certainly, result in a nuisance lawsuit for the association.

The nuisance created by this loud sport has resulted in various lawsuits and settlement agreements costing associations tens of thousands of dollars and has severely harmed many associations' financial wellbeing. This, in turn, is then passed back to the membership by way of increased assessments.

As such, if the association decides to move forward with the installation of the pickleball courts, it is not a matter of if, but a question of when a lawsuit may be filed. Thus, unless the association has an area far removed from the residences and other common area amenities, it is likely not worth exposing the association to the increased risk of liability.

California HOA lawyers If your association has any questions as to whether to install a pickleball court in your association, contact your attorney to provide an in-depth analysis to ensure the association is not needlessly exposing itself to liability.

-Blog post authored by TLG Attorney, Corey L. Todd, Esq.



Pickleball Noise Complaints – Simple And Effective Solutions To Tackle It

Rate this post

Pickleball noise complaints are a major problem that every pickleball player needs to consider. While it is a simple and joyful sport that helps you exercise, the noise generated from playing pickleball is a real annoyance to nearby residents.

The noisy pop-pop sound of pickleball may cause inconvenience for people around. This post will provide you with simple solutions to get rid of this drawback.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

Why Are Your Pickleball Courts Receiving Complaints from Neighbors?

Is Pickleball a Nuisance?

In real life, pickleball noise is an actual bugbear for many people. This sound is the result of the ball hitting the paddle. Compared to the other common sports, such as tennis, this sound is much more high-pitched.

Human ears are more sensitive to high-pitched sounds in nature. For this reason, pickleball is more annoying to hear. There have been many cases where neighbors make pickleball noise complaints from the local courts.

Many people have filed requests with authorities or even sued the pickleball centers for the mental health harm they have caused. Research indicated that pickleball generates approximately 60dB to 70dB.

This volume is not yet dangerous to human ears, but it still causes major disturbance. The sound of playing pickleball is equal to that of a normal conversation or traffic. Unfortunately, this noise comes at a much higher frequency.

It is the volume and the characteristics of a sound that make it more or less unenjoyable. The constant and repetitive sound of hitting the pickleball makes it so annoying.

If you play this sport outside, you may affect the mental life of your neighbors. The nearby people will feel as if someone is hammering in their heads for many hours. This effect can cause major distractions, serious headaches, or even hearing loss in the long run.

How Far Does Pickleball Noise Travel?

It is important to keep in mind that the volume of the sound is different depending on the distance it travels. Many people care about how far the noise of pickleball can reach. At 100 feet away from a pickleball yard, the typical noise measured is approximately 70dB.

Meanwhile, the normal surrounding sound of quiet residents only stands at about 40 dB. It is obvious that the sound of playing pickleball is much noisier, and nearby people can hear it from your yard.

For the residents familiar with a quiet environment, the noise of this sport is a serious disturbance. They cannot concentrate on routine tasks such as watching television or reading newspapers.

Many pickleball centers claim that the seriousness of the noise is often exaggerated. Meanwhile, evidence shows that the negative impacts of noisy pickleball courts are real.

Are you playing this sport or planning to set up a pickleball court in your yard? If that is the case, the noise of playing pickleball is a problem that you need to consider.

Solutions for Pickleball Noise

We have addressed the cause and problems of noise pollution from pickleball courts. If you want to avoid complaints from neighbors and enjoy playing pickleball, you need to get rid of the issue.

Here are a few simple and effective measures you can take to reduce the noise:

Quiet Balls

One of the most affordable and effective solutions is to use special balls with sound-proofing materials. The most common type is special balls made of foam, a super light and soft material developed to reduce noise.

These balls, which generate no or little sound when hitting the surface, were developed to tackle the noise problem. You can look for and buy these special items on the marketplace at affordable prices.

As we have mentioned, the beeping sound of the ball hitting the paddle is the root of the disturbance. Plastic or foam balls are a perfect solution to avoid the annoying beep sound when playing.

Please keep in mind that these balls are generally lighter than the normal ones, which has minor inconveniences. They are not suitable for outdoor play as the wind can affect their movements. These models are also smaller in size, but the difference is insignificant.

Quiet Paddles

What if the quiet balls fail to meet your requirements and continue to make loud noises? Don't hesitate to buy a pair of special paddles developed to help reduce the sound when playing. There are many quiet paddles in the marketplace that generate little sound on impact.

These paddles have passed the noise tests and requirements in many populated areas. Using this special facility, you can spend all day on the pickleball court without disturbing nearby people. Apart from the noise-reducing function, these paddles have other great advantages.

Don't worry if you are a beginner because these paddles' specific designs help players control the ball better. You can use these paddles to make beautiful swings with ease and surprise the other players.

Polymer Core Paddles Are Generally Quieter

If you are opting for quietness when playing pickleball, you should consider polymer-core paddles. The polymer core has better sound-absorbing abilities compared to the other materials.

In fact, this is the quietest [type of paddle](#) in the marketplace. You can use these paddles to make powerful strikes without bothering your neighbors.

Use Indoor Pickleball Outdoors

There are actually two kinds of balls used for indoor and outdoor pickleball. The outdoor ball is generally heavier to make it less susceptible to wind. Meanwhile, the indoor ball is softer and lighter, thus generating less noise when hitting.

If you don't have a pickleball court inside your house, you should consider using the indoor balls for outside play. The indoor balls are also easier to control, but be aware that their movements are susceptible to wind.

Acoustifence Installation

If you prefer traditional facilities such as balls or paddles, then you might need the final solution on this list: acoustical fencing. This type of fence is set up to absorb the noise and prevent the sound from traveling outside the court area.

This effect also increases the ambiance of the pickleball courts and makes your play more enjoyable. You might put up another layer of the acoustic fence if your neighbors' living places are too close to the pickleball courts.

Conclusion

Playing this sport generates loud and annoying sounds which may lead to **pickleball noise complaints**. If you don't take measures to tackle this noise problem, you will disturb the daily lives of your neighbors and nearby residents.

Pickleball is a fun and exciting sport for people of all ages. Playing pickleball with your friends on outdoor courts is a perfect way to seek entertainment. Make sure that you follow the provided solutions to enjoy your pickleball matches with peace of mind.

Reference source:

1. <https://nypost.com/2021/07/20/noise-pollution-of-senior-citizen-pickleball-has-suburb-outraged/>
2. <https://wsvn.com/news/help-me-howard/what-to-do-about-constant-pickleball-noise/>



Pickleball is growing in popularity among people of all ages — *except for, perhaps, people who live right next to tennis courts that now have turned into pickleball courts.*

It gets a lot of criticism for being noisy. Pickleball fans don't seem to get disturbed by the popping noise that the pickleball makes when it hits the paddle. It does sound cool, but for those who find the popping sound annoying, the neighbors can get very disturbed by it.

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So much so that there have been many instances where people have complained a lot about this noise. And these complaints have made the news too. It's something to keep in mind if you're thinking of setting up and [buying a portable pickleball net](#).

(Some of the below links are affiliate links which means we get paid a bit if you click through and buy something — don't worry it doesn't add anything to your cost! Just helps keep the site running.)

The pickleball controversy

Many people even think about [suing](#) their noisy **pickleball playing neighbors**. Many people have been [complaining](#) to the local authorities about the noisy pickleball courts in Punta Gorda's Gilchrist Park.

The City Council even held a committee to discuss the pickleball noise issues and to reduce the noise in the park due to the game. Two neighbors of a pickleball center also filed an [injunction](#) to stop this play and the disturbance caused by it.

The issue of noise has gone to the city leaders in the [Pacific Grove](#) as well. So this has been a serious issue for the city management to

consider for a long time. But the concerns haven't influenced the [growing popularity](#) of the game as well.

So this noise part of the game is not so entertaining for many people in the surroundings. Local authorities have not been able to decide on the issue yet because, currently, there are no rules devised to tackle this issue. Some localities have banned playing this game while others have made the courts distant from the houses.

It's something to keep in mind if you're playing in a neighborhood or if you want to set up a court at home in your front or back yard.

How loud is pickleball?

According to the [experts](#), the sounds created by the game of pickleball are fairly. A normal conversation goes at 60 dB to 70 dB. And all the ambient sound is around 40 dB to 48 dB. When you introduce pickleball noise to that, which is roughly 18 to 20 dB, the overall noise gets up to 60 dB to 70 dB. It means that when somebody is playing pickleball outside, you will hear the sound as if someone is continuously conversing with you. It can get pretty annoying in the long run. For those of you who ask: **"Is pickleball louder than tennis?"** The answer is a simple yes.

The decibels of pickleball are surely louder than tennis due to the popping sound that comes from the pickleball paddle. The materials used in the making of pickleball balls and paddles make that sound. And even with a shot without much effort behind it, the sound is quite loud.

The "Experts" used are S & W Engineering in Phoenix. AZ



WTWH Media, LLC
Club and Resort Business
1111 Superior Avenue, 26th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114
(888) 543-2447

Residents File Lawsuit Against The Reserve at Woodside in Pickleball Dispute

By Brandi Shaffer | March 15, 2017
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Dale and Marilyn Theesfeld first filed suit against the Aiken, S.C., club in July 2015, claiming that the pickleball courts create noise issues and the strobe lights from the facility shone into their home at night. The club has denied the couple's claims.

A dispute between two residents and The Reserve at Woodside in Aiken, S.C., has moved from the pickleball court to civil court, the *Aiken Standard* reported.

First filed in July 2015 by Dale and Marilyn Theesfeld, the suit said newly constructed pickleball courts at the club disrupted their quality of life. The family is seeking injunctive relief as well as unspecified direct, consequential, special and punitive damages, costs, expenses and prejudgment interest, the *Standard* reported.

According to court records, the pickleball courts, built in December 2014, create noise issues, and strobe lights from the facility shine into the Theesfelds' home at night, the *Standard* reported.

Woodside Golf LLC, which does business as The Reserve at Woodside, and Sidewood Development LLC, are listed as co-defendants. Its attorneys couldn't be reached as of press time, the *Standard* reported.

In an amended answer filed September 10, 2015, the defendants admit that pickleball courts were built, but denied claims the courts are creating loud noise and shining bright lights into the plaintiffs' home, the *Standard* reported.

“The plaintiffs knew and appreciated the risks and dangers of the course of conduct engaged, to wit; purchasing and occupying their home with knowledge and understanding that their home was located near or adjacent to a clubhouse, golf course, golf cart paths, multiple tennis courts, a pool, bocce ball and croquet areas and other recreational and social amenities,” the response stated.

According to the suit, the Theesfelds state they bought their custom-built home in 2008. It’s located near the first tee of the golf course, and the plaintiffs said in the litigation there weren’t been any problems until 2014, when the pickleball courts were built, the *Standard* reported.

According to the suit, three courts were built immediately south of the tennis courts, near the first tee, about 250 feet from where the Theesfelds live, the *Standard* reported.

“The sound of a pickleball paddle strike is less like the low-frequency strike of a tennis racket, and, instead more like the high-frequency strike of a ping pong paddle,” the suit said. “The sound of the abrupt, high-frequency and irritating sound of paddle strikes on the pickleball courts can be heard on the plaintiffs’ property both inside and outside of their home.”

Court records further state the pickleball courts were originally open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., but hours were expanded to allow pickleball play to begin at 8 a.m. on Mondays and 9 a.m. every other day. The defendants denied claims of the courts opening before 10 a.m., saying in the suit that the courts operate from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday, the *Standard* reported.

The plaintiffs stated in the suit that despite the noise issues, the club continues to actively promote pickleball play. At night, the suit adds, bright lights shine into their home, assertions the defendants also deny, the *Standard* reported.

“The ongoing use of the pickleball courts has resulted in unreasonable interference with the plaintiffs’ use and enjoyment of their property and home, including the irritating noise of paddle strikes, the noise of boisterous players and spectators, and the light emanating from the courts at night,” the suit stated.

A trial date of June 26 has been set, the *Standard* reported.

Los Angeles Times

California Times

Daily Pilot

Lawsuit claims pickleball is making Newport park's tennis courts too noisy

BY JEREMIAH DOBRUCK

MARCH 30, 2016 9:35 AM PT

A Corona del Mar woman has sued the city of Newport Beach, claiming that public tennis courts about 100 yards from her house are too noisy.

The lawsuit by Sarah Thomas alleges that the noise has driven down the value of her home and caused her “severe mental suffering, frustration and anxiety.”

The suit, filed March 1 in Orange County Superior Court, seeks undetermined monetary damages and an injunction forcing Newport Beach to fix the alleged nuisance.

But the city says it has already installed two fences designed to block noise at the courts and has cut playing hours in efforts to assuage Thomas’ complaints.

“I think we did a lot of things to work with her,” City Attorney Aaron Harp said. “I’m not sure why they decided to initiate litigation over it.”

Thomas’ lawsuit accuses the city of creating the noise problem in February 2014 when it had new lines painted on one of the four tennis courts at San Joaquin Hills Park so it could be used for pickleball, a relatively new sport in which players use paddles to swat a ball over a short net.

Thomas lives in a home on Jetty Drive next to the park and closest to the repainted court, according to the lawsuit.

Pickleball has been described as part tennis, part ping-pong and part badminton and is popular partly because it can be played by almost anyone and is gentle on the body.

Players told the Daily Pilot last year that the sport is indeed noisy.

“The beauty of pickleball is you don’t have to be real quiet,” Lynnette Holloway of Huntington Beach said. “You can have fun talking and laughing. It’s more of a relaxed environment.”

But since the pickleball players arrived, Thomas has been exposed to “substandard conditions,” her lawsuit claims.

Thomas says she’s had to endure noise above 50 decibels before 7 a.m. and bursts of sound louder than 80 decibels at various times during the day.

Fifty decibels is comparable to hearing a dishwasher in the next room; 80 decibels is about the volume of a garbage disposal a few feet away.

Generally, Newport Beach considers noise acceptable as long as it doesn’t exceed 55 decibels for more than 15 consecutive minutes, Harp said. City tests found noise from the courts to be within that limit, according to Harp.

Thomas, however, says she suffers through noise louder than 60 decibels for extended periods during the day. She claims the noise has affected her sleep and even made her leave home at times to get away from the sound.

“The noise and vibration interfere with [her] ability to hear people on the telephone, to hear the telephone ring, to hear when people are at the front door and to simply hold a conversation,” the lawsuit states. It says Thomas worries about “health risks associated with long-term exposure to these excessive noise levels.”

Lawyers representing Thomas did not respond Tuesday to messages seeking comment.

Harp said he’s only aware of the city receiving two noise complaints about the pickleball court, one of them from Thomas.

After the city reduced playing hours, put up the acoustic fencing and soundproofed one side of the court, one of those complaints was resolved, he added.

“The city wants to be a good neighbor,” Harp said.

Writer Susan Hoffman contributed to this report.