

THE PLEX...Changing the Tennis Landscape!

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The two bubbles which house eight courts allow for play with no worries regarding inclement weather.



Winners of the 2016 “Stars of Tomorrow” junior competition at the Citi Open Pro Tennis Tournament

Martin Blackman, head of USTA Player- Development has this to say about the now five-year old tennis facility in upper Montgomery County Maryland. “The Montgomery TennisPlex has, under the direction of Jack Schore, produced high caliber programming that helps strengthen both grassroots and high-performance tennis not only throughout the Mid- Atlantic region, but the United States as well. I look forward to working with them for a long time.”

On any afternoon, you can walk onto any of the eight indoor courts at Montgomery TennisPlex and watch junior players of all ages and levels playing with unbridled intensity and joy. Under the direction of top coaches Patricio Allendes and Claude Grady, children ages three and up, beginners to highly-ranked national players, learn to play this incredible game that they will be able to play for a lifetime. Considering that the TennisPlex works with over 700 children per week, and is one of the largest training facilities in the United States, it is hard to imagine that before the TennisPlex opened, tennis participation in northern Montgomery County was quite limited.

County Executive, Ike Leggett, had this to say about the TennisPlex: “As a life-long tennis player, it has been particularly rewarding for me to see how our county has embraced the Montgomery TennisPlex. This award-winning



Campers gather for a “team photo” at one of the Summer Camps held at th Plex.

facility serves all ages: children, adults, and seniors, and it is one of the largest and fastest growing programs in the United States.”

Located on the grounds of South Germantown Recreational Park, between the SoccerPlex and the Swim Center, the 9-acre TennisPlex quickly won the United States Tennis Association’s Outstanding Facilities Award. In 2016, it was awarded the USTA Mega Provider award. Of note, at a time when three major mid-Atlantic tennis facilities have had to close, The Plex has grown and has plans to add an additional four indoor courts. Perhaps this is not as surprising as it sounds. Led by Hall of Fame, nationally-recognized coach and tennis entrepreneur, Jack Schore, and his award-winning manager, Vicki Datlow, each have over four decades of experience growing tennis and influencing the lives and career of thousands of young people.



A repeat winner of the 2017 “Stars of Tomorrow” junior competition at the Citi Open last year.

A mother of one of the Plex’s nationally-ranked players had the following to say, “The Montgomery TennisPlex has made tennis so much more accessible to residents in our county. Growing as a tournament-level player requires commitment and a lot of hard work. We have met many wonderful families at the TennisPlex, and we are grateful for the supportive community that makes our son’s training so much more enjoyable.”

In addition to junior players, the TennisPlex currently has 250 adults per week enrolled in its adult programs. There are over 50 seniors per week in the senior-play program and there are 40 TennisPlex adults competing on the various teams in the Greater Washington Tennis Association leagues. In 2017, over 25 sanctioned USTA tournaments were held at the TennisPlex for both adults and juniors.

Moreover, the TennisPlex employs approximately 55 people, including approximately 20 summer students who teach at the summer camp.

“When we first planned the TennisPlex,” Schore says, “it was my dream to create a facility which would have a major impact on tennis in the United States and, more importantly, a major impact on the lives of Montgomery and Frederick County residents. We were fortunate enough to be located in the number one diverse community in the country and to partner with M-NCPPC at South Germantown Recreational Park.”

From the start, the management of the TennisPlex wanted to be involved with the community. They founded elementary school tennis clubs in six local schools where students played several times a week, and ran training classes for physical education teachers to teach them the fundamentals of tennis instruction. The TennisPlex has run fundraisers such as: Tennis Supports the Troops and Veteran Adaptive Tennis Clinics. And, they work with area tennis associations such as Washington Area Chinese Tennis Association and Montgomery County Tennis Association.

Most tennis aficionados know Jack Schore and his many accomplishments. He is perhaps the most diversified coach on the tennis scene today. Schore has coached five players in the ATP top fifty in the world, including a U.S. Open winner, and a quarter-finalist in Wimbledon. He holds the all-time winning percentage record at the University of Maryland in any sport, and led the Bullis School boys’ tennis team to a national championship and coached and mentored a multitude of junior and NCAA champions. Over his career, he has affected the lives of over 50,000

Montgomery County families.

Two-time Grand Slam Champion, Richey Reneberg says: "I worked with Jack periodically when I was playing professionally and know first-hand that he has great perspectives on the sport. Jack has developed players at every level, including several who play professionally on the ATP Tour. Jack and Montgomery County have created a world-class facility that is available year-round to all."

Vicki Datlow, Manager, has worked with Schore for over 22 years. Among her many awards, she has received the USTA Maryland Maury Swartzman Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Junior Development and the USTA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Talking of awards, the facility has been open only 5 years and has already garnered several prestigious awards, including the following:

- **Tennis Industry Outstanding Facility Award**
Two-time winner
- **2014 USTA Facility Award**
- **USTA Designated Early Development Center**
- **USTA Certified Competitive Training Center**
- **2016 USTA Mid-Atlantic Award for Impact, Inclusion, and Innovation**
- **2016 USTA Mid-Atlantic Mega-Provider Award**
For promoting the USTA commitment to providing tennis in every community through innovation and dynamic, responsive programming.

Jack Schore's hope has come true. The Montgomery TennisPlex has indeed greatly increased participation and quality of tennis in the Washington metropolitan area. The future looks bright.

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