

RICHMOND TENNIS ASSOCIATION

IMPACT REPORT 2025



Our goal is to keep Richmond a top tennis town in America

The RTA continues to be one of the most successful community tennis associations in the U.S.

We honor our legacy and look to the future.

In 2025, we created more tennis pathways for youth and eclipsed 1,500 who participate in our programs.

We actively build and promote healthy futures.

RTA events brought together a record 3,700+ players in competition and camaraderie across 2025.

We welcome all players to join our community.

We change the trajectory of Richmond's youth. We champion sportsmanship. We crown champions.

It's all possible because of you. Thank you!

JP LaFors | RTA President



**RICHMOND
TENNIS**
A S S O C I A T I O N

Since 1954, we've
supported the growth
and love of tennis in RVA

DEVELOPMENT | PARTICIPATION | COMMUNITY



23

RTA Board Members in 2025 who volunteered their time to support the growth and love of tennis in RVA.

3,700+

Junior & adult players in RVA supported by RTA programs and tourneys in 2025.



1954

71 years strong—one of the oldest and most successful non-profit community tennis organizations in the U.S.

1,500+

Juniors in RTA's tennis pathways in 2025.

We're growing healthy futures and the next generation of Richmond tennis.

RTA Junior Pathways

Rising Stars Tennis Academy: A partnership with City of Richmond for juniors ages 6-14 who might not otherwise have the chance to play.

Junior Team Tennis: RTA-led USTA small-team year-round leagues for ages 12-18. Largest JTT in Mid-Atlantic.

Richmond Junior Tennis Circuit: Saturday morning tournament series, making competition more available.

Richmond Elite Development: Richmond's top players (18 boys, 18 girls) in 8th-12th grade looking to play in college.

Junior "City" Tournament: This U12-18 tournament in May is the largest in the Mid-Atlantic.

Junior Travel Support: Financial support to offset high-level tournament travel expenses.





RTA Featured Programs

Richmond “City” Championships:

Since 1947, these tournaments have provided an opportunity to win a coveted City title.

Thalhimer Challenge: Since 1993, this 12-club tournament rosters 1,000+ players for 396 matches.

Autumn Cup: Since 2007, this 8-club tournament brings 350 players together to compete for the cup.

Hugh Waters Memorial Family Tennis Championship:

Long standing family-format tournament that honors Hugh Waters and his ‘to play is to win’ motto.

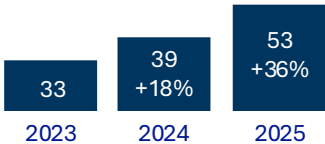
Tennis Under the Lights: Thursday night no-cost summer series at Byrd Park and Battery Park.

RTA Charity Golf Classic: Golf tournament to raise funds for junior tennis programs.

Rising Stars Tennis Academy

RTA partners with the City of Richmond to offer free lessons for youth who might otherwise not be exposed to the game.

In 2025, we've made this a year-round program with fall JTT and weekly winter indoor.





Junior Team Tennis (JTT)

The RTA has the highest JTT participation rates in the Mid-Atlantic.

In 2025 we brought back summer JTT and included 4 Rising Stars teams in the fall.





Richmond Elite Development

The RTA partners with Richmond's pros, clubs and former college players to provide training for top juniors.

In 2025, the program's second year, we graduated 7 seniors to play in DI and DIII varsity college programs.

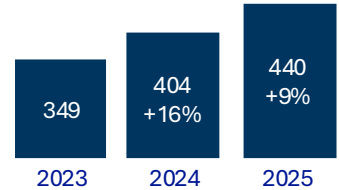




Richmond Junior Tennis Circuit (RJTC)

RJTC's summer Saturday tournaments are designed to make competitive play more accessible.

In 2025 we added four tournaments for 16s which were all a success.



Junior Banquet

Each February, the RTA recognizes the accomplishments of junior players in the USTA Mid-Atlantic region from Richmond.

In 2025 we maxed out the room at Willow Oaks with 150+ and applauded 88 players from U12-18 in the Top 100 of their age group.

89	94 +6%	88 -5%
2023	2024	2025



Junior 2025 Awards

Sam Woods Award—Most Improved
Grant Kroodsmma

Ellen Smith Maloney Award—Most Improved
Sierra Vagi

Richard Passloff Award—Outstanding Sportsmanship
Cole LaFors

Sue Cain Award—Outstanding Sportsmanship
Vivian Morris

Greg Semon Award—Love for the Game
Justin Fratkin

Dorothy Chewning Award—Love for the Game
Rita Taylor



RTA Charity Golf Classic

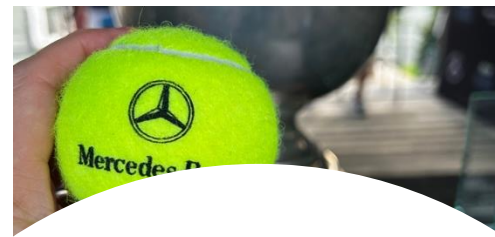
In its second year, and presented by TowneBank, this golf tournament supports junior tennis programs.

In 2025 we succeeded in adding more players, sponsors, prizes and bragging rights with perfect weather.

80
2024

88
+10%
2025





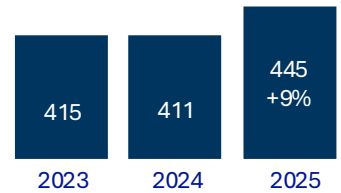
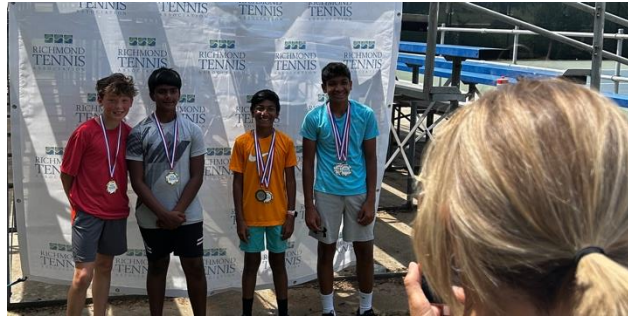
Richmond 'City' Championships

Since 1947, these tournaments have provided an opportunity to win a coveted City Championship.

Mixed: 72 (-1%)

Juniors: 242 (+10%)

Open & 40s: 113 (+12%)



2025 City Champions

Men's Open Champion
Zach Fleishman

Women's Open Champion
Sierra Vagi

Men's Open Doubles Champions
Rishi Shankar & Evan Fisher

Women's Open Doubles Champions
Emily Dunbar & Andrea Campodonico

Mixed Open Doubles Champions
Olivia Wright & Rishi Shankar

Over 40s Men's Champion
Romain Albert

Over 40s Women's Champion
Ann Hall



Tennis Under the Lights

Tennis Under the Lights began as part of the 2019 renaming of Arthur Ashe Boulevard and relaunched in 2023 after a covid hiatus.

In 2025, each event had a different focus:
Jul 10: Ashe Wimbledon Win 50th Anniversary
Jul 24: Rising Stars Academy Graduation
Aug 7: Black Tennis Hall of Fame Exhibit (rain)
Aug 28: US Open Live on the Movie Screen

Estimated due to rain stopping Aug 7 play during the clinic.

247

2023

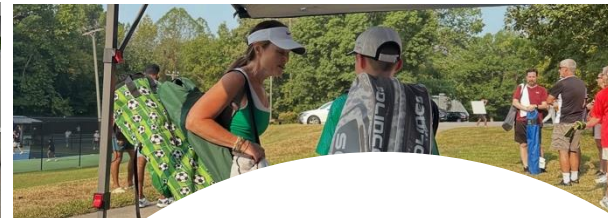
275
+11%

2024

302
+10%

2025

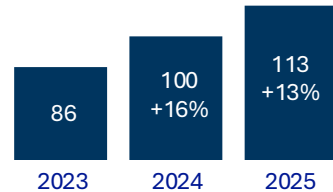




Hugh Waters Memorial Family Championship

“To play is to win”

The family of Hugh Waters honors his legacy each year, with the event proceeds benefitting the Hugh Waters Fund at the Richmond Tennis Association.

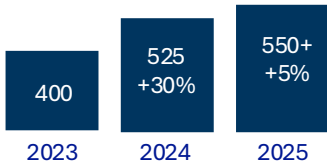


Thalhimer Club Challenge

For 32 years, this has been the biggest and most anticipated tennis event of the year. The 12 largest clubs compete across four days—CCV won in both 2024 and 2025.

In 2025 we raised the player experience bar for consolation Sunday and grew Thursday night.

1,000+ rostered players
396 matches



Attendees for the Thursday night event





Autumn Cup

This annual fall tournament at Avalon Recreation Center features eight clubs in a team format similar to Club Challenge.

Rain stymied play on Saturday, making Friday and Sunday the days on the court. Avalon won for a second straight year.

Big thanks to Bill Carli—he has led this event so strongly for many years. Bravo!



350

2023

350

2024

350

2025

Maxed out each year





RTA is RVA's Tennis Resource



1,700 followers
206,700 views



1,300 followers
151,600 views



1,850 on e-list



Supporting the growth and
love of tennis in Richmond



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