

Edgemoor playing with idea of jai alai

By **LORRIE LYKINS**
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Traveling to Miami or Orlando to catch a spirited game of jai alai could become a thing of the past.

Fans may soon be able to watch a game played by neighborhood association members in St. Petersburg.

While there will be no quiniela, exacta or trifecta betting, the Edgemoor Neighborhood Association is hoping there will be plenty of fun if their plan to start a jai alai team at Puryear Park comes to fruition.

Representatives of the neighborhood association have contacted City Council member Bill Foster and staffers from the city's parks and recreation department, and there seems to be enthusiasm and support for the idea, said Stan Kordecki, of the Edgemoor Neighborhood Association.

"It'll be the first neighborhood jai alai park in the Tampa Bay region," Kordecki said.

Puryear Park, at 5701 Lee St. N, already has the cement courts needed to play the high-speed ball game, which requires three walls and a back fence, Kordecki said.

"But we don't want to impede the tennis and other activities already going on there. We'll need to come up with a plan to extend the cement courts."

While funding is still a matter to be explored, the Edgemoor Neighborhood Association has committed \$100 to get the idea rolling, and they have a team captain.

The group hopes to play in tournaments and bring in other teams from neighborhoods around the state. Kordecki said play would be open to children and adults.

The Harris Park Neighborhood Association will hold a candidates forum Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Vietnamese Alliance Church, 44th Avenue N at 21st Street.



The Northeast Park Neighborhood Association will hold its September meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Masonic Home, 3201 First St. NE. Guest speaker Rick Stiff with the city of St. Petersburg Emergency Management Department will discuss hurricane readiness.



The Central Oak Park Neighborhood Association will meet Tuesday at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 4444 Fifth Ave. N. Neighborhood Watch will meet at 6:30 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 7 p.m. Guest speaker Stacy L. Cirillo, assistant vice president of BB&T-Iler Wall & Shonter Insurance, will present "Hurricane Hangover."



The Edgemoor Neighborhood Association will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Mangrove Bay Golf Course Club House, 875 62nd Ave. N. Guest speakers Capt. John Adams and Chief Richard Johnson of St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue will discuss fire rescue issues.

