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On the inside

Levittown Editorial

• Page 4A •

VIEWPOINT

MICHAEL A. MILLER

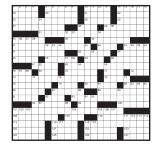
Page 8A •

EYE ON THE ISLAND
MIKE BARRY

• Page 10A •

Puzzle Pages

Pages 12A - 13A •



Classifieds

• Pages 18A - 19A •



Levittown
Community Calendar
• Page 21A •

July 30 - August 5, 2014



Kickball: Not Just For Kids Anymore

BY MARLO JAPPEN

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While, for some, the sport brings back memories of gym class and the bright red ball as it's sent hurtling towards home plate. But for the women of the Kickin' It Kickball League in Levittown, the old playground sport is a fun way to spend their Sunday evenings.

"Kickball is something everybody can play it doesn't matter how well of a shape you're in," said Long Beach resident Lori Fiore. "Some people are hesitant and say 'I never played anything before. Am I going to feel stupid?' You don't feel stupid because it's kickball."

After participating in a similar league in Long Beach, Fiore was inspired to bring the sport back to the town she grew up in.

On July 13, the ladies celebrated opening day at the Gabrielle Vitalle Field on Carmen Avenue. In the opening game, the team 'Our Kicks Don't Lie' defeated 'Chicks with Kicks' 4-2; and in the final game, the 'Lady

Kickers' pulled through in the last inning to defeat the 'Ball Breakerz' 5-0.

Dust permeated throughout the air as the players ran across the field from base to base. The women's children sat in bleachers chanting "Go Mommy!" and their husbands applauded and took snapshots of the game from the sidelines.

"These women are moms. They work hard everyday," Fiore said. "This is one hour a week that it's not about that," she said.

The Levittown League has four teams with fifteen players on each team. The players range from their mid twenties to sixty years old. For the six-week season, they wear colorful uniforms that are unique to each team. Last fall, the Levittown team sported breast cancer t-shirts and sold raffle tickets and snacks to raise money for the cause. The \$1700 they fundraised was donated to the 1 in 9 Hewlett House, a Long Island charity which helps breast cancer patients and their

"This is the most fun I had in the longest time," said first time player, Alissa Kauffman of Levittown.

For Levittown resident Shandy Arroyo, it was a nice switch to have her children sit on the sidelines and cheer her on, instead of vice versa.

"This is just so empowering," Arroyo

For players, there's no fear of being "picked last" because Fiore encourages women of various skill levels to join her league. The Levittown kickball league has four teams with 15 players on each side. The players range in age, from the mid-twenties to sixty years old. During the six-week season, the teams wear colorful uniforms that are unique.

Lisa Iovine of Wantagh said she didn't know any members of the league before she joined, but decided to sign up after discovering the league's group page on Facebook.

"It's a great way to meet new people," said Iovine. "It's a lot of fun."