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Schipani of Houlihan Lawrence negotiates 80,000 s/f Pickleball America lease in the Stamford Town Center

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Mia Schipani

Stamford, CT Houlihan Lawrence Commercial Division negotiated a lease of more than 80,000 s/f of anchor space in the Stamford Town Center to Pickleball America for what will become one of the world's largest indoor pickleball venues. Mia Schipani of Houlihan Lawrence represented Pickleball America in the transaction.

Pickleball America is moving into the former two-story Saks Off 5th retail space at 140 Atlantic St. in the downtown. Pickleball America plans to roll out 28 courts in two phases – Phase 1 will begin immediately with the first floor (43,000 s/f), and then the second floor (37,000 s/f) opening in the coming months. In addition to Pickleball, the venue will become a multi-use flex space for tournaments, exhibitions, live music and events.

“This is the best possible reuse of a large retail anchor space in a mall! Pickleball America is planning for over 500,000+ people to come through the venue each year,” said Schipani. “What is most exciting about this deal is, we are changing the purpose of malls, especially since most shopping takes place online, and we are making the Stamford Town Center a major destination.”

“We are thrilled to be the catalyst that fosters growth in Stamford, by building a larger player community like Pickleball America,” said Jay Ross, co-founder.

“We’ve been focused on health and wellness, and Pickleball America works perfectly with that strategy, especially in this large format as an anchor,” said Alexander Yaraghi, owner of Stamford Town Center.

“Sports-tainment, a sports-first experience appeals to not only avid players but to people who may want to try something new,” said Jay Waldner, co-founder. “We are hoping to inspire and encourage the community to join a healthy and fun form of socializing.”

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