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### **PALMETTO TENNIS CENTER NAMED TOP INNOVATION CENTER**

**SUMTER, SC (11 APRIL 2019)** – RedClay USA LLC has named the City of Sumter’s Palmetto Tennis Center (PTC), as an exclusive Southern Section Innovation Center for its expansion into engineered red clay courts.

The PTC announced expansion plans in early 2019, with the addition of eight red clay pro courts. “We will be one of the first facilities in the United States to have engineered red clay courts available,” stated Susan Wild, City Recreation Director. “The engineered red clay courts are porous, which means less rain saturation and they are more economical for long-term maintenance.”

RedClay USA is the leading U.S. organization promoting the advancement of red clay tennis in America and an authoritative voice for introducing European red clay courts as a "new" sport and lifetime cultural activity.

“We eagerly look forward to working hand in hand with Sumter and PTC to create the finest high-profile and leading-edge tennis facility in North America,” stated Brian Osterberg, CEO of RedClay, USA LLC. “We believe the leadership exhibited by Sumter will spearhead a change in American tennis.”

The PTC is one of the largest facilities in the region with 24 lighted hard courts with state-of-the-art Deco Turf surface. The facility is known nationwide for the consistent speed of play, true ball bounce, durability, low maintenance, vibrant long-lasting colors, and overall customer value. The facility hosts on average 15 tournaments and events annually, boosting the local economy by more than \$18 million annually.

Red clay courts are known worldwide to be more favorable to player by allowing players to slide into shots, reducing stress on the body. Red clay is also known to aid in the development of the game, as it presents players with slower ball movement to allow for better development of balance and skills.

According to the Director of Tennis at PTC, Clemson University plans to hold a NCAA Division I match at their facility, when the new courts are open. In addition, an International Tennis Association event, which includes 32 singles and 16 doubles, hosted by The Citadel and coach Chuck Kriese are in planning for the new courts as well.

For more information on the PTC, visit [www.sumtertennis.com](http://www.sumtertennis.com) or call 803-774-1651.

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