



JUNE 2025



HEY SNOWBIRDS AND FULL-TIMERS,

We have decided to try keep the FLASH going through the summer so our snowbirds and seasonal renters can stay up to date on what's happening here at Fountain Lakes—even while you're away.

As many of you know, we're currently experiencing the worst drought in 8 years across Southwest Florida. The last time it was this dry was back in May 2017. Our lake levels are down, and the grass is brown—we really need some rain soon!

We're hopeful that relief will come with the start of rainy season, which officially begins on June 1st, also marking the beginning of hurricane season. Summer in Southwest Florida is not for the faint of heart—temperatures soar into the 90s, and storms can turn things from bad to worse in a matter of hours. It's important for everyone to take summer weather seriously.

There is a lot of talk and confusion surrounding swales, culverts, lakes, and grasses. Our goal is to help explain the importance of this to our community and the health of our eco system

Why Swales Matter

As we prepare for the rainy season, it is a good time to talk about swales—why the Master Board monitors them so closely, and their importance to our community and lake system.

Simply put, a stormwater system manages runoff from rainfall. When rain falls on rooftops, roads, parking lots, and other hard surfaces, the water doesn't soak in—it flows. This stormwater runoff is directed into grates, swales, or ditches, which lead to stormwater ponds (like our lakes). These ponds help prevent flooding and filter pollutants before the water reaches the groundwater (our main drinking source) or natural waterways like rivers, lakes, and the Gulf.

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MASTER BOARD MEETING 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 6PM COMMUNITY CENTER**
PLEASE VISIT WWW.FOUNTAINLAKESESTERO.COM FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES AND ISSUES CONCERNING OUR COMMUNITY

Our Lakes

Our lakes are man-made stormwater ponds, designed either as: Retention ponds, which hold water permanently, or detention ponds, which temporarily store water and slowly release it. Both types of ponds help manage stormwater and reduce flooding. But our lakes are more than just water management tools—they are a vital ecosystem. They require regular care and maintenance to function effectively. Healthy lakes help filter pollutants, stabilize shorelines, and support habitats for local wildlife. Protecting these systems ensures a cleaner, safer environment for both residents and nature. Spikerush is important to lakes as a native plant that provides food and habitat for various wildlife, including waterfowl, fish, and invertebrates as well as stabilizing our banks. However, it can become invasive when it spreads too rapidly and outcompetes native vegetation, potentially disrupting the lake's ecosystem. That is why the Master Board is working with our lake management company on a long term solution to our spikerush issue.

Maintenance Responsibility

Maintaining this system is the responsibility of the Master Association. That includes labor and costs to ensure everything functions properly. This responsibility is shared by all property owners—even if you don't live next to a lake or swale—because all of our stormwater eventually flows into the same system. Let's all do our part to protect the infrastructure and natural resources that help keep Fountain Lakes a safe and beautiful place to live—rain or shine.

Stay cool and stay informed,
Joe

**** MUCH OF THE INFORMATION WAS DIRECTLY TAKEN FROM THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BROCHURE****



**MOBILE
BLOOD
DRIVE
JULY 26TH
8 AM - 12**



A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNTAIN LAKES MASTER BOARD TREASURER LORI SMITH



UNDERSTANDING OUR BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

Careful budgeting and responsible spending are essential to ensuring that our association can meet its financial obligations, maintain and enhance the beauty of our community, and continue offering the recreational and entertainment opportunities that make Fountain Lakes such an enjoyable place to live.

While it's important to maintain the quality of our community, we must also remain fiscally responsible. Staying within budget is critical. Rising costs must be managed carefully to minimize increases in HOA dues and, importantly, to avoid the need for special assessments.

To achieve this balance, our financial planning is guided by two primary budgets:

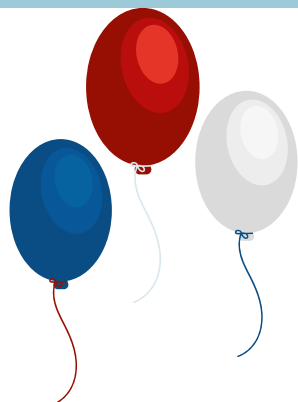
- The Operational Budget covers the community's day-to-day expenses—everything from landscaping and maintenance to utilities and management fees.
- The Reserve Budget is dedicated to future and larger-scale projects. It ensures we have funds set aside for major repairs and replacements, such as roofing, paving, or amenity upgrades.

In 2024, we conducted a Reserve Study to help guide our long-term financial planning. This study included:

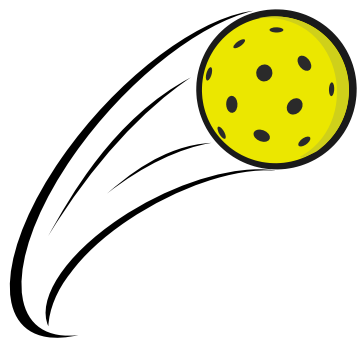
- A physical inspection of our common areas
- A financial analysis of our reserve fund
- A recommended funding plan to ensure adequate resources are available when major projects arise

Our ultimate goal is to preserve and improve Fountain Lakes while maintaining a strong financial position—protecting both our property values and our residents' wallets.

THE VILLAS AT FOUNTAIN LAKES PREPARES FOR THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND



★ MEMORIAL DAY ★



COACHES CORNER W/T.J PARISI



2025 PICKLEBALL U.S. OPEN

The Pickleball U.S. Open is pickleball's biggest event of the year, where thousands of pickleball amateurs and professionals compete for national recognition. This year's event had a record-breaking 3,000+ participants and 50,000+ spectators.

This was my sixth US Open and year after year the event continues to grow and evolve. If you are at all into Pickleball this is a must do event. The 60 courts offer unlimited viewing opportunities and for everyone there is a great "party" atmosphere with food trucks and vendor tents.

This year's tournament kicked off in Naples on April 26th and lasted through May 3rd. The emphasis of the US Open is amateur players but this year had some very notable professional players as well. Headlining the event on the pro side was world's best player and teenage phenom, Anna Leigh Waters who partnered with all time great tennis legend Andre Agassi. Rounding out the pro side was another tennis legend, Ivan Lendl and Heisman Trophy winner Danny Weurffel. Many APP professional players took part including Megan Fudge, Jack Monroe, Bobbi Oshiro, Chris Hayworth and local legend Simone Jardin.

In addition to big name athletes the event features players from all fifty states and many foreign countries and is a showcase for future talent as we see the trend of Pickleball becoming more mainstream with younger players. Age and ranking divisions allow all abilities to compete and the greater Estero- Bonita- Naples area was well represented with familiar faces.

The 2026 event will take place from April 11-18 at the USOP National Pickleball Center in East Naples

