THE FLASH

FOUNTAIN LAKES MASTER ASSOCIATION · NOVEMBER 2026

2026/2027 SPORTS SCHEDULE INSIDE

The Season Starts Here.

This is the sports issue. The full 2026/2027 schedule is on page 2. Pull that page out and put it on the refrigerator.

League play is open to every resident and every renter. You do not have to be a golfer to find something on that page. Billiards is on Tuesday, cornhole on Tuesday, shuffleboard on Wednesday, bocce twice a week, and pickleball every morning.

Most leagues start the first week of January. A few run before that. Golf returns after the greens are overseeded, with Night Golf on November 18 and Guys and Gals on November 19. Bocce runs informal games all through November and December, so you can play before the season starts.

Every league on page 2 runs because a resident volunteered to coordinate it. Their names, emails, and phone numbers are printed with each listing. If you want to play, or want to help run something, call them.

Joe Ballerine
FLCA PRESIDENT

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GOLF COURSE CLOSED

Closed October 26 through November 16 to overseed the greens. The November 5 and November 12 golf dates are cancelled.

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE

Thu Nov 5	Thu Nov 12	Wed Nov 18	Thu Nov 19	All month
Guys & Gals **Cancelled**	Linksters **Cancelled**	Night Golf 6:45 PM	Guys & Gals 8:45 AM	Bocce, informal games

NEW ON THE COURSE

The 6th hole is playing on new artificial turf. The new tee box gives a clean, level lie in any weather and will not wear thin through the season. Every dollar came from the Night Golf league, so those Wednesday evenings have bought the course a permanent improvement.



2026 / 2027 Sports Schedule

GOLF LEAGUES & EVENTS

Ladies Golf

Mondays at 8:45 AM. Starts January 4, 2027.

No need to sign up in advance. Simply show up, and we will draw cards for the groupings.

Kate Lewis | katemlewis44@gmail.com | (416) 886-6942

Melissa Lafayette | (802) 318-0211

Pam Dionise | (239) 359-9323

Men's Golf

Tuesdays at 8:45 AM. League fees are $10 for the season.

Open play is available after the golf league concludes.

Mike Monti | monti.michael@gmail.com

Night Golf

Select dates at 6:45 PM. Spots are limited. Email Joe if interested.

2026: Nov 18. 2027: Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10. All Wednesdays.

Joe Ballerine | jaballe166@gmail.com

Linksters (Golf & Lunch)

Thursdays at 8:45 AM. $2 golf fee, $5 lunch fee.

2026: Dec 3 & 17. (Nov 12 cancelled.)

2027: Jan 14 & 28; Feb 11 & 25; Mar 11 & 25; Apr 8.

Diane Moulton | dmoulton87@yahoo.com | (508) 916-1943

Guys & Gals

Thursdays at 8:45 AM. $2 golf fee.

2026: Nov 19; Dec 10. (Nov 5 cancelled.)

2027: Jan 7 & 21; Feb 4 & 18; Mar 4 & 18; Apr 1.

Pam Dionise | pdionise@comcast.net | (239) 359-9323

FLOP Event

Friday, March 12, 2027. Everyone is welcome. Advance sign-up is required.

CLUBHOUSE & COURT SPORTS

Billiards

League play Tuesdays at 4:00 PM. Starts January 5, 2027.

Open play group Thursdays at 5:00 PM.

Regis Sexton | regis2001rg@yahoo.com | (248) 974-5849

Cornhole

Tuesdays at 2:00 PM. Note: new day. Starts January 5, 2027. Open play, everyone welcome.

Mike Dernfeld | (219) 545-3278

Shuffleboard

Wednesdays at 8:45 AM. Starts January 6, 2027.

Mary Carey | maryacarey1@gmail.com | (508) 776-4132

Bocce

Pre-season informal games throughout November and December.

2 on 2: Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, starts January 2027.

4 on 4: Fridays at 9:00 AM, starts Friday, January 8, 2027. Note: new time.

2 on 2: Ron Kadey | rkadey@yahoo.com

4 on 4: Robert Hopley | bhopley99@hotmail.com

Pickleball

Daily from 8:00 AM to noon. Open rotation.

TJ Parisi | parisiland@gmail.com | (781) 603-2222

Clubhouse Activities

Sewing Group: Monday mornings, Community Center.

Card Playing: afternoons, Library.

Mahjong: Thursday and Friday afternoons, Library.

GENERAL FACILITY HOURS

Open sports play, golf and others: dawn until dusk, except during designated league play times.

Tennis and pickleball courts: 8:00 AM until dusk.

Community pool: 7:30 AM until dusk.

SAVE THE DATES · 2026/2027 SOCIAL SEASON

Every event is a Saturday. The season opened October 24 with the Spooktacular breakfast, hosted again by Joe and Joni.

Dec 12	Breakfast with Santa time to follow	**Feb 27**	Residents Craft Fair Community Center
Dec 19	Christmas Golf Cart Parade 10:30 AM	**Mar 20**	Spring Fling 5:30 to 9:00 PM
Jan 9	Festa Italiano 5:30 to 9:00 PM	**Apr 10**	Let's Flamingle and Fly Home 5:30 to 9:00 PM
Feb 20	Chinese Lantern Festival 5:30 to 9:00 PM		

The Fountain Lakes Residents Craft Fair will be held in the Community Center February 27. For more information about reserving a table to sell or display your crafts at our craft fair email Csonka117@gmail.com.

Kathy and Diana are assembling a Fountain Lakes Activities Program covering every scheduled event and activity in the community, not only the seven above. It goes out to residents by e-blast once the list is complete, and it will run here as well.

FACILITIES

Every Court Resurfaced, Every Net New

The work on the courts is finished. Every court at Fountain Lakes has been resurfaced and every net has been replaced. The surfaces are fresh, the lines are crisp, and the courts are open.

The tennis courts have also been double lined. The second set of lines lays out pickleball inside the tennis court, and the portable nets now on order will let us put six pickleball courts in play at once during season.

Pickleball already runs an open rotation every morning from 8:00 AM to noon. Six courts will take the waiting out of it and give the morning crowd room to play.

The bocce court was taken down to grade, leveled and relaid. The roll is true now from end to end. Pre-season informal games run through November and December, so there is time to try it before league play starts in January.

All of it belongs to the whole community. The schedule on page 2 shows when each league has the courts. Everything outside those hours is open play, residents and renters alike.



New surface, new nets



Double lined for pickleball



Bocce, leveled and relaid

The Orange Blossom Special Ran Along Our West Boundary

Idea submitted by Sara Devilder from Forest Ridge Shores.

Look west from Fountain Lakes and you will see the FPL power lines. Most of us never give them a second thought. Those lines follow the route of one of the most famous trains in American history.

The Orange Blossom Special was the Seaboard Air Line Railway's luxury winter train. It first ran in November 1925. It carried wealthy travelers from New York to Florida in comfort. It ran on the east coast to Miami, and a west coast section served Tampa and St. Petersburg.



Orange Blossom Special arrives in Naples, 1927. Courtesy of the State Archives of Florida.

In the land boom of the 1920s, the Seaboard raced its rival, the Atlantic Coast Line, to reach Naples. The Seaboard built a line south from Fort Myers. It followed the Tamiami Trail and crossed the Estero River just west of the Koreshan Unity settlement. Estero had its own stop. From there the tracks ran south through Bonita Springs to Naples.

The line opened on January 7, 1927. Seaboard president S. Davies Warfield rode a special section of the Orange Blossom Special to mark the day. Governor John W. Martin rode with him. The train stopped along the way so crowds could cheer. Thousands turned out. It was one of the largest railroad publicity events of its time.

The good times did not last. The land boom collapsed. The Seaboard went bankrupt in 1930. Passenger trains stopped running on the line by 1933, just six years after opening day. The tracks between Naples and Fort Myers were abandoned in 1942 and later removed. The Orange Blossom Special made its last run in 1953. The fiddle tune named for it lives on, made famous by Bill Monroe and Johnny Cash.

The old railroad bed did not disappear. Florida Power & Light built its transmission lines along it. Today that corridor forms our western boundary. The Estero Bay Preserve State Park notes that hikers can still spot the old rail bed near the FPL easement.

The Naples depot where the train arrived in 1927 still stands. It is now the Naples Depot Museum and is well worth a visit.

So the next time you walk by the power lines, picture a gleaming passenger train rolling past on its way to Naples, nearly a century ago.

KEY DATES

November 21, 1925. The Orange Blossom Special makes its first run from New York to Florida.

January 7, 1927. The Seaboard opens its line through Estero to Naples. The Orange Blossom Special carries the opening day party.

1933. Passenger service on the line ends after the Seaboard's bankruptcy.

1942. The tracks between Naples and Fort Myers are abandoned. The corridor later becomes the FPL power line route along Fountain Lakes.