

Pelican Sound Opens New Racquet Center



Pelican Sound Golf and River Club officially opened its new Racquet Center in February at a ceremony attended by members, staff and Estero officials. The state-of-the-art facility, located in a newly developed part of the 350-acre campus, features 8 hydro grid tennis courts and 8 pickleball courts and a new building with offices, a pro shop, indoor meeting spaces and covered outdoor gathering areas.

"Improving our tennis facilities and adding the pickleball courts came up through our strategic planning process" said PS Board President Neil Severance. "We want to keep up with member's interests and activities and the new Racquet Center is part of that commitment. We strive to be the best bundled community in SW Florida."

Both tennis and pickleball are expanding activities for members according to Frank Fourgeau, Director of Racquet Sports. "We have 400 tennis players and a growing number of league teams; 35 this spring. There's a great excitement about the expanded facility and the ability to have more round robins, training and expanded league play." The facility will have covered areas between courts for spectators and players, and the Racquet Center clubhouse will have elevated viewing of the courts as well as night lighting for all the tennis courts. As part of the Grand Opening, the club hosted the SWFL Tennis Pro League March 1st.

Pickleball has developed from zero to 800 players since converting a basketball court to our first pickleball court in 2014 said Fourgeau.

"They play in round robin groups,

neighborhood teams and competitive travel teams; our new Racquet Center will help accommodate that growth." Fourgeau noted that Pelican sound will be hosting a local pickleball tournament, running parallel to the US nationals in Naples, from April 27th to May 3rd."

The new Racquet Center is part of a two-year, 14-million-dollar Amenity Enhancement program approved by members in 2018. It includes an expansion and re-imagining of the main clubhouse, additional restaurants, a new golf pro shop and improvements to the golf cart staging area as well as new administration offices.

General Manager Eric Long said member input was key to moving the project forward. "We spent a lot of time listening, refining the details, and making sure we had the right plan. In the end we had overwhelming member support." Geography helped as well, Long noted. "We are fortunate to have the room to grow and accommodate new activities. Over the years we've been able to acquire adjoining parcels which gave us tremendous flexibility in developing our resort style assets. Now we plan to develop a park area where the old tennis courts were, to support club activities including our monthly outdoor concerts."

The project was designed by RG Architects, engineered by RWA Civil Engineering, constructed by Envirostruct and Welch Tennis built the courts. All improvements will be completed by fall 2019.

Pelican Sound Golf and River Club

is a 1,299-door bundled community located in Estero, West of 41, between Williams Road and Corkscrew Road. With direct access to the Estero River and the Gulf of Mexico, boaters can launch at the club dock and store their vessels on-site. Members also enjoy complimentary shuttles to Lover's Key and free kayaks and paddleboards are available. Complementing the new Racquet Center, the community has two clubhouses, multiple dining facilities and 27 holes of championship golf. In 2015 the club added 5 bocce courts and a two-story fitness and learning center.

A Bundled
Community
Resort Style
Amenities

Gulf & River
Access

Active
Lifestyles

Dining
Options

Outdoor
Concerts



Pelican Sound
Golf & River Club

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