

Tennis and Pickleball



Tennis History



Mike Lawver was hired by S&S Management as Director of Tennis at Heritage Palms on March 13, 2000. Mike oversaw six clay courts and a small pro shop. All the courts had lights, and water jugs court side for the players convenience.

As the tennis program grew, so did the tennis amenities. Improvements included benches, water coolers, canvas shades for spectators, and eventually an upgraded pro shop. Lennar/US Homes added two lighted courts (#7 & #8), along with an adjacent parking lot to handle the growth of the tennis program.

Heritage Palms tennis program participates in Lee County Men's and Women's League play as well as Heritage Palms USTA teams.

Mike Lawver retired in October 2024, after almost 25 years at Heritage Palms.



Mike and Carolyn Lawver July 2011

HP's tennis staff at Mike Lawver's November 7, 2024 retirement party (L-R): Larry Albritton, Carolyn Lawver, Chad Dyer, Mike Lawver, Danny Camacho, and George Freije.



Chad Dyer and Danny Camacho.



Upon Mike's retirement, Chad Dyer, former HP Assistant Tennis Professional, was promoted to Director of Racket Sports in October, 2024.

On January 1, 2025, Tennis Professional Danny Camacho was promoted to Head Tennis and Pickleball Professional.

Women's Lee County Tennis Leagues

Representing HPGCC

1st season: 4 Teams

2nd season: 7 Teams

From 2010 through present, our Women's Teams have fielded between 10 – 12 teams per year, rostering over 250 teams.



**2011 Heritage Palms Spring Doubles
Challenge
Winner Ruby Division**

Women's 3.5 Tennis Team



**2014-2015 season: 2nd place in Lee County Sportsmanship Award
Lee County Women's Tennis in 2016.**

L - R: Gwen Berestecki, Connie Rosellini, Becky Hurwitz, Phyllis Welsh, Sue Bauerschmidt, Karen Mazzula, Dorothy Slovak, Cheryl Somers, Captain Lucille Zaccardo, Mary Houska, Tennis Pro Carolyn Lawver, and Director of Tennis Mike Lawver.

Women's 3.5- Tennis Team 2019



The 3.5- tennis team relaxing after an away match at the Cape Coral Yacht Club.

Back row (L-R): Donna Gray, Rita Barry, Maggie DeBonis, and Eileen Spinola.

Front row (L-R): Janice Cox, Mary Lou Kreis, Lynda Dechert, and Phyllis Welsh.

Men's Lee County Tennis Leagues

Representing HPGCC

1st three seasons: Men's leagues
were undefeated.

We average 7 teams per year.



**2011 Heritage Palms Spring Doubles
Challenge
Finalist Sapphire Division**

Heritage Palms Men's Tennis Champions

Year	Name	Year	Name
2002	Rich Gallo	2016	Jeff Hossler
2003	Jeff Jewitt	2017	Jeff Hossler
2004	Steve Pollock	2018	Jeff Hossler
2005	Steve Pollock	2019	Mark Lohr
2006	Bob Green	2021	Mark Wood
2007	Eric Critt	2022	Rob Shovin
2008	Steve Callaway		
2009	Steve Callaway		
2010	Steve Callaway		
2011	Gary Rogers		
2012	Rich Wood		
2013	Mark Lohr		
2014	Rich Wood		
2015	Rich Wood		

Heritage Palms Women's Tennis Champions

Year	Name	Year	Name
2002	Stacie Potanovic	2016	Kirsten Shovlin
2003	Stacie Potanovic	2017	Kirsten Shovlin
2004	Gretta Storrs	2018	Francine Davis
2005	Rachel Polakoff	2019	Charlotte Fennell
2006	Jennifer Heatherington	2020	Charlotte Fennell
2007	Carol Green	2021	Fran Davis
2008	Wendy Hechler	2022	Michelle Rogers
2009	Isa Wolf	2024	Michelle Rogers
2010	Wendy Hechler		
2011	Stacie Potanovic		
2012	Stacie Potanovic		
2013	Paula Meihaus		
2014	Paula Meihaus		
2015	Debbie Wells		

Heritage Palms Men's Doubles Tennis Champions

Year	Name	Year	Name
2002	Larry Parvin & Ralph Hicks	2016	Mike Duffy & Bill Dunn
2003	Bob Smart & Hugh Marshall	2017	Mark Lohr & Rich Wood
2004	Dave Gran & Tom Guzik	2018	Mark Wood & Gary Rodgers
2005	Hugh Marshall & Bob Russel	2019	Adrian Stevens & Daniel Camacho
2006	Hugh Marshall & Bob Russel	2020	Gary Rodgers & Scott Wells
2007	Hugh Marshall & Earl Claypool	2021	Adrian Stevens & Daniel Camacho
2008	Hugh Marshall & Earl Claypool	2022	Rudy Mathis & Gary Rodgers
2009	Tom Guzik & Art Ramirez	2023	Rob Shovlin & Scott Wells
2010	John Deresky & Joe Pare	2024	Gary Rodgers & Jim St. John
2011	Scott Wells & Rich Wood	2025	Ron Assise & Richard Furgiuele
2012	Scott Wells & Rich Sherwood		
2013	Mike Haffey & Steve Pollock		
2014	Mark Lohr & Rich Wood		
2015	Mark Lohr & Rich Wood		

Heritage Palms Men's Doubles Tennis Champions



2023 Diamond Division Winners
(L-R): Rob Shovlin & Scott Wells

**2024 Diamond
Division Winners:**
Gary Rodgers & Jim
St. John



2025 4.0 Division (L-R): Richard Furgiuele & Paul Ingram, lost to John Whitney & Ron Assise 6-2, 6-3.

Heritage Palms Women's Doubles Tennis Champions

Year	Name	Year	Name
2002	Valerie Petracco & Marilda Monserrate	2016	Debbie Wells & Paula Meihause
2003	Marcia O'Neil & Sylvia DeFalco	2017	Sharon McGrath & Nancy Johnson
2004	Chris Buzenius & Lisa Steele	2018	Kristen Shovlin & Sandy Piazza
2005	Georgia Freiswick & Patty Gedra	2019	Sandy Piazza & GiGi Labrun
2006	Chris Buzenius & Lisa Steele	2020	Sandy Piazza & Debbie Wells
2007	Marlyn Warner & Jennifer Heatherington	2022	Sandy Piazza & Michelle Rogers
2008	Marlyn Warner & Jennifer Heatherington	2022	Nancy Johnson & Michelle Rogers
2009	Marlyn Warner & Jennifer Heatherington	2023	Chris Hoch & Susan Smith
2010	Marlyn Warner & Jennifer Heatherington	2024	Kim DiGangi & Michelle Rogers
2011	Peggy Henry & Jodie Ellis	2025	Lisa Pavichevich & Michelle Rogers
2012	Kathy Hazard & Sue Ribiero		
2013	Marcia Leadbetter & Marlyn Warner		
2014	Debbie Wells & Paula Meihause		
2015	Debbie Wells & Zoe Wood		

Heritage Palms Women's Doubles Tennis Champions



**2023 Diamond Division
Winners (L-R):** Chris Hoch
& Susan Smith



**2024 Diamond Division Winners
(L-R):** Kim DiGangi & Michelle
Rogers.



2025 4.0 Division (L-R): Nancy Johnson &
Michelle Rogers, lost to Lisa Pavichevich &
Julie Whitney 6-1, 6-1.

Heritage Palms Mixed Doubles Tennis Champions

Year	Name	Year	Name
2002	Bob & Lorraine Smart	2016	John & Helen Deresky
2003	Joe & Carol Pare	2017	Jim St. John & Sandy Piazza
2004	Hugh & Esther Marshall	2018	Rob & Kristen Shovlin
2005	Rich Gallo & Jennifer Heatherington	2019	Mark Wood & Gwen Berestecki
2006	Hugh & Esther Marshall	2020	Daniel Camacho & Yolanda Ramirez
2007	Earl Claypool & Marilyn Warner	2021	Paul Ingram & Michelle Rogers
2008	Steve Callaway & Peggy Henry	2022	Paul Ingram & Michelle Rogers
2009	Steve Callaway & Peggy Henry	2023	Steve Geller and Susan Smith
2010	Steve Callaway & Peggy Henry	2024	Michelle Rogers and Paul Ingram
2011	John & Becky Hurwitz	2025	Paul Ingram & Michelle Rogers
2012	Steve Callaway & Peggy Henry		
2013	Walter & Ellen Belcher		
2014	Rich & Zoe Wood		
2015	Rich & Zoe Wood		

Heritage Palms Mixed Doubles Tennis Champions



**2023 Diamond Division
Winners: Steve Geller &
Susan Smith.**



**2024 Diamond Division
Winners: Michelle Rogers
and Paul Ingram.**



**2025 8.0 Division (L-R): Paul Ingram &
Michelle Rogers defeated Dom & Kim
DiGangi 6-1, 6-1**

A New Tennis Court, February, 2025



The Pickleball Expansion Project started with the clearing of vegetation at the site of the new tennis court. Once cleared, Ritzman Contractors began work on the new tennis and four pickleball courts simultaneously.



The new tennis court – renamed court #6 - was open for play on February, 2025.

Remaining Seven Tennis Courts Get a Facelift - April 28, 2025



The renovation will be in three stages. Each stage will take about six weeks to complete. The overall tennis renovation is targeted for completion by the end of September, 2025. As well as the courts being refurbished, all the existing lights will be upgraded to brighter LED lights.

Pickleball History



History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms



Pickleball was introduced at Heritage Palms in 2012, when residents Kathy Moore and Jane Simon brought in a Pickleball Pro for an informational session, with instructions, at the Lodge.

History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms



At the Lodge in 2012. The sport took off from there.

History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms



In 2014, the pickleball courts were moved to the parking lot where the Activity Center is located now.

History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms

As the sport became popular, and the Pickleball parking lot space became the Activity Center, a movement began to have regulation Pickleball courts built here. After much discussion and research, two courts were opened at the corner of Washingtonia and Queen Palm in 2019. From day one, the two courts have remained busy with members willing to wait 30-45 minutes for a court during morning open play, and afternoon reservations were consistently full during season.



Two new Pickleball courts
open - March 9, 2019

History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms

In 2021, as the popularity of Pickleball increased here, the Tennis and Pickleball Committee agreed that a Pickleball Association, similar to the Tennis Association, was needed to improve the Pickleball experience. Larry Chalk, Duane Fakler, and Joy Weiner, pickleball players and members of the committee, created Bylaws and received approval from the HP Board to create a Heritage Palms Pickleball Association (HPPA).

The purpose of the HPPA was threefold: to promote the game of pickleball; to provide recommendations relative to the operation of the pickleball programs and maintenance of the pickleball facility; and to provide organized social pickleball events. The committee then approved a self-appointed Board consisting of Larry as President, Duane as Vice President and Joy as Secretary. Cindy Norris later joined as the first Treasurer. Since its conception the HPPA has been a very active association, growing in numbers each year.



Ladies Pickleball luncheon:
February 24, 2021

History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms



“Pickled Monday” Pizza Party on April 4, 2022. L-R: Greg & Cindy Norris, and Mary Lou & Jim Reid.

Breakfast at the Tiki prior to Pickleball.
Front row (L-R): Joy Weiner, Judy Chalk, Brenda Ginter, Louise Saunders, Peg Earley, Debbie Keysor, and Nancy Rogers. Back row (L-R): Susi Green, Kim Schoch, Cindy Norris, Becky Stokes, Lynn Roberts, Borgi Wieger, and Maureen Hanrahan.



History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms



A huge thank you to Larry Chalk, the outgoing HPPA President. March, 2023

2023-24 HPPA Board (L-R): Cindy Norris, Joy Weiner, Becky Stokes, David Ginter, Lynn Roberts, Pam Hendricks, and Debra Egan. Not pictured: Duane Fakler.

History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms



2024-25 HPPA Board (L-R):
Debbie Egan, Member at Large,
Larry Gutting, Vice President, Joy
Weiner, President, Pam Hendricks,
Secretary, Becky Stokes, Member
at Large, Cindy Norris, Treasurer
and Shari Cullen, Member at
Large. Not pictured: Tim Cullen,
Member at Large.

Pickleball Expansion Project: A New Tennis Court, February, 2025



The Pickleball Expansion Project started with the clearing of vegetation at the site of the new tennis court. Once cleared, Ritzman Contractors began work on the new tennis and four pickleball courts simultaneously.



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Four New Pickleball Courts - From start to finish



Scraping the clay off of the existing tennis court.



Sand arrives to level the courts.



Leveling the courts.

Gravel layer.



Four New Pickleball Courts – It's a Wrap



One of many layers to seal the courts



Painting completed



Nets up!

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Pickleball Courts - April 25, 2025



L-R: Cad Dyer, Director of Racket Sports, and Board President Ron Assise.



First ceremonial game players (L-R): Bobby Roberts, Bryan Dean, David Ginter, and Ron Assise.

HPPA members who followed (L-R): Lori Borga, Brenda Ginter, Cindy Norris, Lynn Roberts, and Cheryl Penkalski.

