



THE SWAMP GAZETTE 2025/2026 SEASON  
THE FLORIDA EVERBLADES FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

**2025-26 Board of Directors**

**President – Belinda A. Hanley**  
(239) 851-0871  
[Starkeaton@aol.com](mailto:Starkeaton@aol.com)

**Vice President – Karen McKenzie**  
(586) 212-5808  
[dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net](mailto:dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net)

**Secretary – Jackie Wholey**  
(954) 401-6141  
[fefcsec@gmail.com](mailto:fefcsec@gmail.com)

**Treasurer – Jasin Marth**  
(570) 4017889  
[fefctr@gmail.com](mailto:fefctr@gmail.com)

**Members At Large**

**Carol Grubbs**  
(239) 571-4236  
[Imagrubby@yahoo.com](mailto:Imagrubby@yahoo.com)

**Linda Bruns**  
(239)571-7635  
[Linda.j.bruns@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.j.bruns@gmail.com)

**Linda Raybuck-Bender**  
[raybuckbenderl@gmail.com](mailto:raybuckbenderl@gmail.com)

***President's Message***

**President's Letter November 10, 2025**

Our season has been a slow start in the winning column, but we all know that Coach Ralph will get the team there where they need to be.

I would like to reflect on this team's players' gratitude for the Fan Club and everything that we do for them. This season I have had numerous guys tell me that they are so grateful and thankful for the Fan Club with everything we provide and do for them from the apartments, locker room and bus food and rides to the airport and back. I would like to share a few of their comments:

John Sellars recently told me that "*We really appreciate everything that you guys do for us! Nothing goes unnoticed.*"

*"You guys are the best!!" ~Isaac Nurse  
"Apartments look great, thanks for organizing everything" ~ Jesse Lansdell*"

*"We really do have the best Fan Club" ~ Oliver Cooper*

On another note, Our Christmas party with the team will be here before we know it. We will be sending out an email to sign up, and we will provide all the information on the fee for the event. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card. I look forward to seeing our team continue to improve their skills on the ice and gel as a team. I believe we will have a great season. "In Brad we Trust!".

I would also like to thank everyone who actively contributes their help in whatever way they can. Let's continue to cheer on our Blades for a long successful season.

**Belinda Hanley, President  
Florida Everblades Fan Club**

## History of Our Florida Everblades

### **Florida Everblades: A Legacy of Excellence on Ice**

#### **From Swamp Roots to Championship Glory**

Founded in 1998, the Florida Everblades have become one of the most successful and respected teams in the ECHL (East Coast Hockey League). Based in Estero, Florida, the team brought professional hockey to Southwest Florida, playing their home games at what is now Hertz Arena. Their name “Everblades” is a clever nod to the nearby Florida Everglades and captures the spirit of toughness, grit, and Florida pride. The team’s fierce alligator-skate logo perfectly blends Florida’s wild side with the excitement of hockey.

#### **Building a Winning Tradition**

From their very first season, the Everblades established themselves as a powerhouse franchise. They have never recorded a losing season and have made the playoffs in nearly every year of their existence—an incredible achievement in professional sports.

In 2012, the Everblades captured their first Kelly Cup Championship, defeating the Las Vegas Wranglers and thrilling fans with their relentless drive and teamwork.

A decade later, they reached new heights—winning three consecutive Kelly Cups in 2022, 2023, and 2024, becoming the first team in ECHL history to claim a *“three-peat.”* This accomplishment cemented the Everblades’ reputation as one of the league’s most dominant and well-run organizations.

#### **Community, Character, and Commitment**

Beyond the rink, the Florida Everblades have become a beloved part of the Southwest Florida community. They host youth hockey clinics, school events, and charity fundraisers, helping to grow the sport and give back to the region that supports them.

Founded by Craig Brush, Peter Karmanos Jr., and Thomas Thewes, the franchise’s success is rooted in a strong commitment to teamwork, community engagement, and professionalism. Over the years, the

Everblades have also partnered with several NHL affiliates, offering players the opportunity to advance to higher levels of professional hockey.

## Why Their Story Matters

The Everblades are proof that with passion, perseverance, and community support, excellence can thrive anywhere—even in a place best known for sunshine and beaches rather than ice. Their success serves as a reminder that **great teams don't just play hard—they work together, lift each other up, and inspire pride far beyond the rink.**

### Everblades Fun Facts

-  **Home Ice:** Hertz Arena (opened in 1998 as Everblades Arena)
-  **Championships:** Kelly Cup winners in **2012, 2022, 2023, and 2024**
  -  **Team Colors:** Navy, green, silver, and white
  -  **Mascot:** Swampee, the friendly alligator!
-  **Community Impact:** Hosts annual charity events and youth hockey programs
-  **Team Motto:** “*Work Hard. Play Hard. Leave It All on the Ice.*”

Thank You

### Thank You to Our “Sponsor a Blade” Supporters!

The Florida Everblades Fan Club would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the amazing supporters who helped make this season's **Sponsor a Blade** program a success! Your generosity plays a vital role in supporting our players and keeping the Everblades spirit strong—on and off the ice.

A special thank-you to:

**Matty & Karoline Bonacci**

**Pam & Roger Butts**

**Kate Falzone**

**Belinda Hanley**

**Cathe Harvey**

**Tim McDonald & Kathy McGuire**

**Karen & Dave McKenzie**

**Arynne & Scott Morich  
Janice Mudd  
Jackie & Dennis Wholey  
Ally Wisler  
Gary Wisler**

Your kindness, commitment, and community pride truly make a difference.



### Reminders and Upcoming Events

#### Future

**Christmas Party - Sunday December 14, 2025  
Children's Party - Sunday January 4, 2026  
Spaghetti Dinner – Monday, February 16, 2026 \*  
March Picnic - Sunday March 29, 2026**

**\*Please note this date has changed from Tuesday, February 24 to  
Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**



### Birthdays

#### October

**Anthony Romano  
Hunter Sansbury**

**October 7<sup>th</sup>  
October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Anthony Beauchamp**

**October 23rd**

**November**

**Logan Lambdin**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Ben Brar**

**November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**David Tendeck**

**November 25th**

**December**

**Hudson Elynuik**

**December 10th**

**From the Editor**

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any additions or changes you would like to see in the newsletter. My email is [swampgazette@gmail.com](mailto:swampgazette@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Megan Johnson  
FEFC Newsletter Editor

**FLORIDA EVERBLADES FAN CLUB MISSION STATEMENT**

*Please go to [www.floridaeverbladesfanclub.org](http://www.floridaeverbladesfanclub.org)*



From left to right. 1st Row Hunter Sansbury #8, Anthony Romano #29, Craig Needham #13, Reid Duke #27, Oliver Chau #20, Ben Brar #18, David Tendeck #30, Isaac Nurse #11, Kurtis Henry #44, Logan Will #62, Jett Jones #71, Will Cranley #31, Sam Stange #3, Carson Gicewicz #15, Logan Lambdin #7, Jesse Lansdell #34. 2nd Row Nick Bufinsky, Trainer, Oliver Cooper #17, Kyle Betts #26, Kyle Penney #22, Gianfranco Cassaro #23, Jordan Sambrook #6, Sean Allen #4, Zach Berzolla #19, Connor Doherty #28, Quinton Burns #55, Cam Johnson #33, Kade Landry, #5, Tarun Fizer #16, Coach Ralph, Asst. Coach Mountain.



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**2025-2026**

**Apartments** – currently open

**Membership** – Jackie Wholey [\(954\) 401-6141](mailto:fefcsec@gmail.com)

**Breakfast/Road Supplies** - Kate Falzone [\(239\) 989-7304](mailto:Kathleen_falzone@comcast.net)

**Fundraising** – Karen McKenzie [\(586\)212-5808](mailto:dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net)

**Hospitality** – Carol Grubbs [\(239\) 571-4236](mailto:imagrubby@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter** – Megan Johnson [\(303\)641-4206](mailto:Swampgazette@gmail.com)

**Photo Buttons** – Belinda Hanley [\(239\) 851-0871](mailto:Starkeaton@aol.com)

**Raffle Table** – Belinda Hanley [\(239\) 851-0871](mailto:Starkeaton@aol.com)

Jackie Wholey [\(954\) 401-6141](mailto:fefcsec@gmail.com)

**Sponsors** – Karen McKenzie [\(586\) 212-5808](mailto:dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net)

**Transportation** – Belinda Hanley [\(239\) 851-0871](mailto:Starkeaton@aol.com)

**Website/social media** –[fefcwm@gmail.com](mailto:fefcwm@gmail.com)



Support our Affiliates

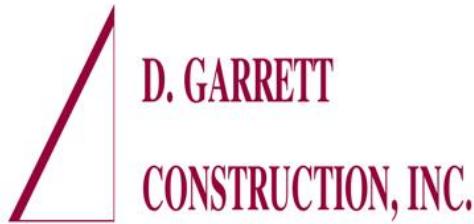


**St Louis Blues and Springfield Thunderbirds**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING – Monday November 17th**

## Sponsors





D. GARRETT  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION - CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

*“Building Relationships for Over 40 Years”*

*Tree T'Tietsort, President*

 LM Engineering, PLLC

5294 Summerlin Commons Way  
Suite 1201  
Fort Myers, Florida 33907  
Phone: (239) 590.0263  
Fax: (239) 590.0281  
Cell: (239) 834.2194

*“Experience Matters”*



2018 & 2019  
Gold Award Winner  
2017 & 2020  
Platinum Award Winner

*The Perfect*

Venue for any  
Occasion



*Contact us today!*

KATIE BOYLE | 239-985-1706 | KBOYLE@HERITAGEGOLFGROUP.COM

 The Club  
at Pelican Preserve

Elegant Venue for  
Unforgettable Moments



9802 Pelican Preserve Blvd  
Fort Myers, FL 33913