



"Golf is a game of seasons- and the best ones always leave you wanting more." - Unknown

Dear Members and Friends,

The final newsletter of the 2026 season is here. It is a bittersweet thing to write, and we hope it finds you warm and well as the island settles into autumn.

Congratulations- Billings League Champions!

A well-deserved congratulations to Connor Morey and Kevin Melanio, who came out on top this season in Billings League. Well played, gentlemen- what a way to close out the year!

Last Day- Today, Monday, October 12th!

Today, Monday, October 12th, is the last day the clubhouse will be open for the 2026 season. If you have not yet stopped in, there is still time! Starting tomorrow, ICC officially enters its off-season.

Off-Season Play

The course remains open for play through the off-season, and we are proud to be one of the few clubs that offers year-round golf. To keep it that way, we ask everyone- members and visitors alike- to respect the following:

Please continue to follow the same rules and etiquette expected during the regular season. Visitors and guests are welcome to play at a reduced rate of \$10 per person, per round, deposited in the honor box by the front door.

Why pay? Maintaining the course takes time and money even in the winter. We can only continue to offer year-round play if players respect the honor system. Thank you for your integrity- and please note that camera surveillance is now in use.

Off-Season Golf Cart Use

We are updating our off-season cart access procedures to keep our equipment secure and ensure carts remain available for authorized members. Only designated carts will be available, and access is limited to members with annual cart privileges. If you do not have an annual cart rental membership but have circumstances that may require a cart during the off-season, please reach out to us at islandcountryclubmaine@gmail.com to discuss your situation.

Tennis and Pickleball

The nets will be stowed away near the end of October, weather permitting, and the courts will be locked for the season. Before we close the chapter on this year's tennis program, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Will Mason for being a truly pro Pro this summer. His weekly clinics and private lessons brought players to the courts, sharpened skills, and added so much to the ICC experience this season. And thank you to everyone who made this such a wonderful inaugural season for pickleball at ICC. What a year it has been on the courts- we cannot wait to see you back out there in the spring!

Frost means FREEZE!

It is vital that we do all we can to maintain the health and integrity of the course- to that end, playing (walking or driving) is not permitted on frosted grass. This includes the putting green, tee boxes, greens, and fairway. Even footsteps on frosted grass that has not gone through the first hard freeze can leave lasting impressions.

A reminder that no play is permitted before 8am. With the later sunrise, the grounds crew needs that time to work safely, and we appreciate your cooperation in giving them the space to do so.

Staying in Touch

For the most reliable off-season communication, please email islandcountryclubmaine@gmail.com. Our phone remains active, but there will be no one in the clubhouse to answer calls. You are welcome to leave a message, but please be aware that voicemail is not checked regularly. Email is always your best bet.

A Note from the Editor

As I write these final lines of the 2026 season, I find myself sitting with something that is hard to put neatly into words.

Six months. In six months, we have celebrated great victories and mourned unthinkable losses. We have welcomed new friends and said farewell to longtime members of this family. The great room has been filled with matrimonial cheer and solemn remembrance. We have opened pickleball courts and a putting green. We have laughed at Wine Wednesday and cried at Thanksgiving dinner. We have done, in short, what this club has always done- gathered, persevered, and found meaning in one another.

We are nearly 100 years into this legacy. And yet, in some ways, we have only just begun to rise to our full potential.

I know it is perhaps an overdone thing- to wax poetic about the changing of the seasons, the weathering of storms. But I think that is exactly what the Island Country Club has done for nearly a century, and I believe, with continued dedication and love for this place, it will do so for a hundred more.

As the sunsets come earlier and the winds carry that particular October chill, I want to leave you not with a goodbye, but with an invitation. This quieter season is a gift- a chance for reflection, for rest, for remembering what is truly important. The course will be here. The courts will be here. And so will the community that makes all of it worth having.

I will leave you with a piece of music that captures, far better than words can, everything I am feeling as I close this chapter. Roberto Cacciapaglia's *Moonrise*. Put it on. Go for a walk. Look up at the sky.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd94PMo-lfc>

Take good care of this place- and each other.

With warmth and gratitude,
Willow

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than one seeks." - John Muir

Best regards,
Island Country Club

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