

Executive Summary
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
January 9, 2015

**Lee County Commissioner Larry Kiker, County Manager Roger Desjarlais
and County Attorney Richard Wesch**

Lee County will continue to provide services to the Village of Estero without interruption.

Conservation 2020 is being changed in the characteristics of the program by putting the emphasis on water quality instead of just land conservation. The problem will be how the County will be able to continue to fund the program, which will go to a referendum in 2016.

The Board of County Commissioners will be looking at impact fees; if nothing is done, they will go back to 100% on March 13. There are three sources of revenue to support growth: gas tax dollars, excess toll revenues from the toll bridges which can only be used in those corridors leading to the bridges, and impact fees. Impact fees are the most volatile as they are dependent upon the economy, the number of building permits and the kind of building permits being issued; these all dictate the collection of monies.



Estero Fire Rescue – Chief Scott Vanderbrook

A new fire prevention code went into effect recently requiring 10-year batteries in smoke detectors. There are also new car seat requirements; children up to 5 years of age must be placed in an approved car seat. EFR has a certified technician who will place car seats in residents' cars, upon appointment.

Finance Director – Bob Lienesch

The Defense, Planning and Incorporation budget was set at \$90,000; the ECCL received a total of \$99,328 in contributions through 2014. In addition, the City of Bonita Springs reimbursed the ECCL \$4,181 for the costs associated with the annexation efforts in Pelican Landing.

Election of ECCL Board of Directors

The Slate of Officers for 2015 was voted in, with no nominations from the Floor. They are: Chairman Nick Batos, Governmental Affairs Director Howard Levitan; Community Planning

Director Roger Strelow; Transportation Director Jim Boesch; Communications Director Marilyn Edwards; Environmental Director Phil Douglas and Finance Director Bob Lienesch.

There will be another election in March to fill any vacancies which result from the election of council candidates for the Village of Estero.

Council Candidate Forums – Marilyn Edwards

The ECCL is sponsoring two Council Candidate Forums at **9:30 a.m., Saturday, January 31**, and **6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 3** at the Living Waters Church, 22100 S. Tamiami Trail. Each candidate will be allowed up to 3 minutes to state their background, why they are running and what their vision is for the Village of Estero. Then they will be presented questions from the Moderator. Both forums are expected to last two hours, followed by an informal “meet & greet” for up to an hour. The forums will be videotaped and available on the ECCL website.



In addition, two communities are conducting forums. On Monday, January 26, 2015, at 9 a.m., a Candidate Forum will be held at The Estero Country Club at The Vines. Reservations are requested at vinesforum@gmail.com. On Tuesday, January 27, 2015, at 7 p.m., there will be a Candidate Forum at The Preserve at Corkscrew.

Important voting information is available at www.EsteroToday.com including links to the Lee Elections Office for registering to vote and receiving your ballot by mail; candidate background, photos and contact information; and key dates in the election process.

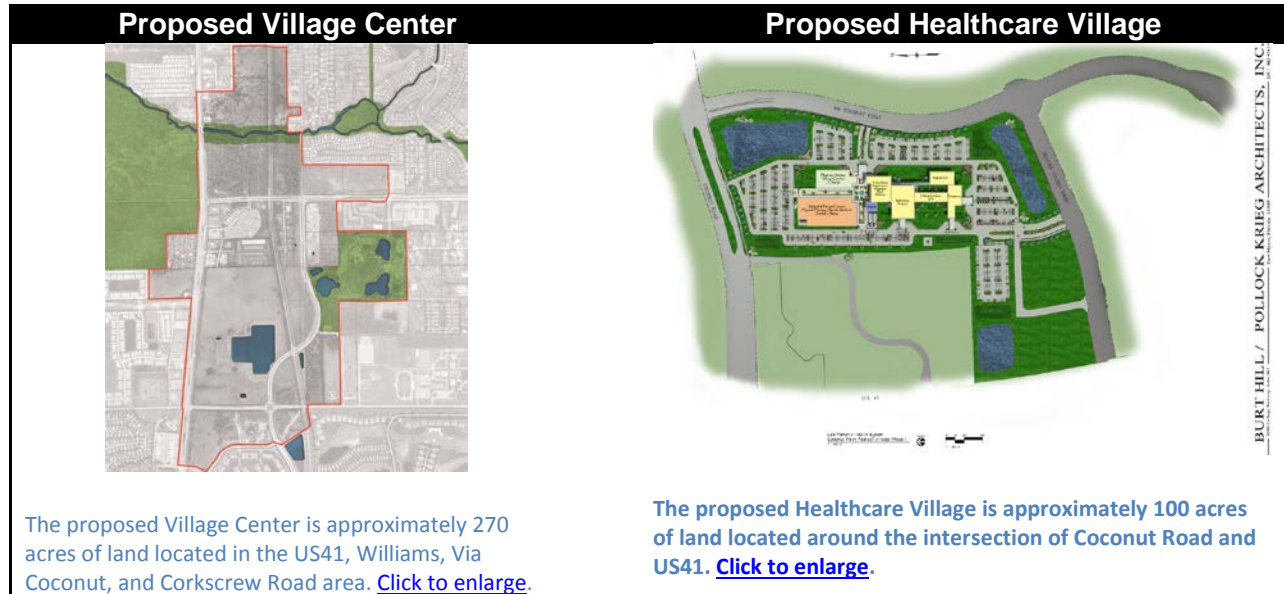
Update on Incorporation – Chairman Nick Batos

The Supervisor of Elections will be sending postcards to all registered voters informing them of the schedule of the upcoming election, including information about vote by mail ballots. People who have voted by mail in the past will need to make sure the Lee Elections Office has the correct address where they will be residing in March as the post office will not forward ballots. The Lee Elections Office phone number is 239-533-8683 or www.leeelections.com. The ballots will be mailed out the week of February 2.

There is still an unresolved problem in the Village of Estero election process: according to state statute, if there are candidates who are running unopposed, those candidates will not appear on the ballot on March 3; they are automatically assumed elected. The Village of Estero charter is set up so that the four candidates with the most votes will serve four-year terms and those three candidates with the least amount of votes will serve two-year terms. The Supervisor of Elections' attorney sent a letter to the Florida Attorney General; the ECCL is waiting for an opinion.

Chairman Emeritus – Don Eslick

Updating of the Estero Community Plan was initiated in 2010. In 2012 it was determined that the highest priority should be the future development of the nearly 1,000 acres of vacant commercial lands in Estero’s commercial corridors, Corkscrew Road and US 41. At that time the ECCL, in cooperation with the ECPP and the EDRC, hired Seth Harry and Associates to help determine how best to develop the two key areas now referred to as the “Village Center” and the “Healthcare Village”. Their report should be completed shortly and will be shared with the candidates for the initial Village Council.



In March or April the ECCL would encourage the Village Council to hire consultants to finalize a comprehensive development plan for each of these areas. In the meantime all proposals for piecemeal development of these areas will be opposed so that they will be developed in a unified manner with the same high standards for which Estero has become known.

The American House Senior Facility is about to break ground in the “Healthcare Village”. This is a 200 unit, independent living, assisted living and memory care facility, located just south of Lee Memorial’s proposed 172,000 square foot “Destination of Distinction” healthcare facility.

Transportation Director – Jim Boesch

There will be an Estero Transportation Committee meeting on January 20, at 1 p.m. at the Library to review a number of projects. A representative of the Florida Department of Transportation will attend. Some of the issues to be discussed include sidewalks on Estero Parkway; a median at the Preserve at Corkscrew; the exit from Island Club and Corkscrew Woodlands; the traffic light at Williams Road and US41; a right turn lane out of Marsh Landing; and a connector to the Lee Memorial medical center.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Citizens Advisory Committee is working on the 2040 transportation plan, which will be completed by December 2015.

Governmental Affairs Director – Howard Levitan

The Village of Estero has its own Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code, but those are not effective until the Village Council is elected and conducts their first meeting on March 17. Estero will be subject to the same rules and regulations as Lee County; therefore, if Breckenridge had been successful in convincing the County to defer the decision on Estero Grande to the Village of Estero, the outcome would not have been different. Estero will have its own land use boards and changes will be needed to the land development code to enable the Council to follow the community's vision for Estero.

Community Planning Director – Roger Strelow

The ECCL met with some of the senior County officials to discuss transition costs and options for the services which will be needed on a continuing basis. The County is committed to a continuation of all services currently provided. One option the new Council will have is private-sector providers which could be contracted for municipal services in the future.

Next meeting: **10 a.m., Friday, February 13, 2015**, at the **Estero Community Park**, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.

Marilyn Edwards
Communications Director