

Executive Summary  
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting  
November 14, 2014

**Kevin Newingham, VP, Strategic Services  
Lee Memorial Health System**

Lee Memorial Health System (LMHS) is in the process of developing an innovative health care “destination of distinction” to be built on property adjacent to the Bonita Community Health Center south of Coconut Road. One of the key considerations is a significant focus on seniors’ well-being, diagnostics and disease management.



Kevin Newingham speaks to ECCL

The proposal calls for an ambulatory surgery center, an emergency department (ED), imaging lab, therapy center, doctors’ offices and a whole host of other services. This type of facility should help fill local needs as statistics show that only 28% of ED admissions are actually admitted to a hospital; the remainder receive treatment and never go on to a hospital.

The Phase I initial cost is estimated to be \$140 million. The facility will be Mediterranean in style and is anticipated to be in operation by the second quarter of 2017.

**Estero Fire Rescue – Commissioner Dick Schweers**

EFR recently swore in 8 new firefighters; this is the most hires in the EFR history. Jack Lienesch was also sworn in as a new Fire Commissioner.

**Update on Incorporation – Chairman Nick Batos**

86% of the Estero residents voted in favor of the incorporation of Estero. Over 63% of the 26,000 Estero-eligible voters voted in this election. Of those 14,000 people who voted, more than 7,000 voted by mail, 3500 voted early and 2800 voted on Election Day.

The Supervisor of Elections has set the date of March 3, 2015, for the election of the Village Council. There will be two forums for the candidates running for office, possibly the end of January and the beginning of February. Those forums will be live-streamed, videotaped and

available on the Estero Today website. The website will also include information for potential candidates, as well as the electorate, no later than the end of November.

### **Chairman Emeritus – Don Eslick**

Early in 2002, Lee County Board of County Commissioners approved the Estero Community Plan. This was the first such comprehensive plan in Lee County. The initial focus was on commercial development, since the residential development was being done well by the developers. The County was granting special zoning privileges at that time in order to encourage commercial development, allowing 150 different uses on a piece of land so developers could build virtually anything they wanted. The Community Plan was used to deal with that issue.

In 2010, work started on updating the Community Plan. This process brought attention to the 1,000 acres of vacant commercial land on US41, Corkscrew Road, and a few other intersections. The ECCL hired planning consultants to come up with a plan for those remaining areas. Meetings have been conducted with the land owners and the community to determine how to best to develop the two key areas that are left: the Village Center area and the Healthcare Village area. All the information and recommendations gathered from these meetings and workshops will be turned over to the new village council.

### **Governmental Affairs Director – Howard Levitan**

The new Estero Community Plan became law on October 6, 2014. It is now part of the Lee County Comprehensive Plan and will become Estero's Comprehensive Plan on March 17, 2015. Now the Vision Statement needs to be translated into regulations, which will govern what gets built in Estero. The ECCL, Estero Community Planning Panel, the Estero Design Review Committee and others are working on the 70 pages of land development code regulations that need to be implemented to manage future growth and development in Estero. New public participation requirements need to be put in place. Currently, developers are not required to come before the Estero Community Planning Panel or Estero Design Review Committee; they can hold their own private meetings. That can't happen once new regulations are in place, making the ECPP and EDRC true advisory boards with decision-making powers.

### **Community Planning – Roger Strelow**

The March 17 village council meeting will be the first time the council members will have a chance to talk with each other about Estero business, due to Florida's Sunshine Law. The ECCL is working with former city managers and mayors and others researching all matters which need to be accomplished by a new municipality, including the adoption of transition ordinances, where to conduct council meetings, staff offices, etc. The information gathered will be placed in a "transition book" and presented to the new council. All of the county laws will remain fully in effect along with "contracts" for county services, otherwise known as interlocal agreements.

### **Environment Director – Phil Douglas**

About 75% of the residents of Florida supported putting one-third of the doc stamp revenue into a dedicated trust fund which cannot be diverted from protecting the environment. This goes into effect on July 1, 2015. There will probably be attempts by some legislators to divert revenue for their own projects so everyone needs to pay close attention.

Lee County's Conservation 2020 program is still necessary and needs to be pushed forward to preserve our own lands.

### **Transportation – Jim Boesch**

The proposed right/left turn lights at the US41/Williams Road intersection have been stalled by the Florida Department of Transportation. The sand trucks on Corkscrew Road continue to be a problem. There will be a Bike/Walk meeting the week of November 10, where the importance of sidewalks on Estero Parkway will be discussed.

### **Chairman – Nick Batos**

The Estero Community Improvement Foundation (ECIF) is a charitable arm of the organization and has been around for a number of years. It's being restructured now with emphasis on the environment and the arts. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, contact Nick Batos [mrnbjr@aol.com](mailto:mrnbjr@aol.com).

The election for the 2015 ECCL Board of Directors will be January 2015. Seven people have come forward expressing interest; others are encouraged to contact Nick Batos if interested in running for the board.

Next meeting: **Friday, December 12, 2014 at the Estero Fire Rescue**. Guest Speaker will be **Rep. Ray Rodrigues** who will address what we can expect in the next legislative session.

**Marilyn Edwards**  
**Communications Director**