

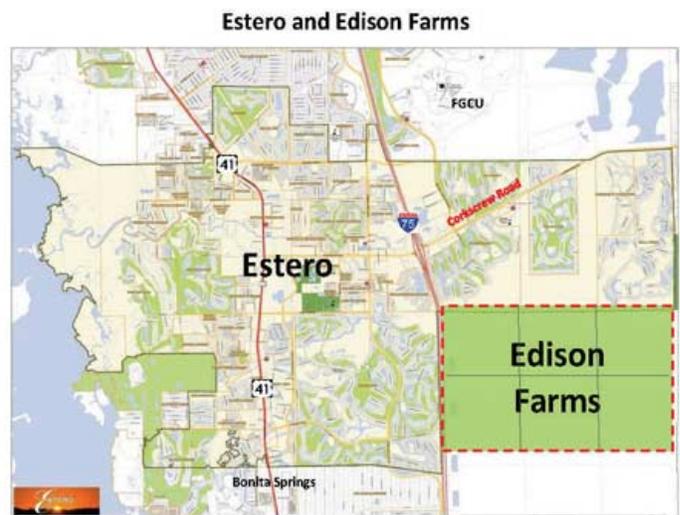


ESTERO COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY LEADERS

The ECCL Report: February 2017

Executive Summary: *157th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*

The Village of Estero and City of Bonita Springs are teaming up to lobby for the public acquisition of the 4,000-acre Edison Farms property, which sits between Estero and Bonita east of I-75. Both municipalities have adopted resolutions urging county and state legislators to purchase and preserve this environmentally critical land in perpetuity. The ECCL also passed a resolution Friday in support of the Edison Farms purchase using Conservation 2020 funds. The ECCL is encouraging Estero residential communities to do the same. Individuals also are encouraged to write a letter of support. More information on Edison Farms can be found [here](#). To view a presentation on the history and current status of the Edison Farms property, presented to the ECCL by Estero Village Council member Jim Boesch and Bonita Springs City Council member Fred Forbes, [click here](#).



Click Image to Enlarge

Mark Your Calendar

Several important meetings are scheduled this month regarding transportation, planned development and environmental issues affecting Estero. The Village of Estero and City of Bonita Springs will hold a **joint council workshop** to discuss the Sun Trails bike/pedestrian path and

other issues affecting the South Lee County region on Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at Estero Fire Rescue headquarters, 21500 Three Oaks Parkway.

On Feb. 21, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will discuss the **Corkscrew Overlay Traffic Study**. The following day, the BOCC is scheduled to consider **Pepperland Ranch**, which is proposing 700 homes east of Estero off Corkscrew Road, during a Feb. 22 zoning hearing. The proposed Troyer Brothers mine is on the Feb. 27 agenda for Lee County's Local Planning Agency (LPA).

The Village of Estero Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) will continue its ongoing development of the **Estero Comprehensive Plan** during a special meeting Feb. 23.

In community news, the inaugural **Estero Heart Walk** is this Saturday, Feb. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Estero Community Park. The walk benefits the American Heart Association and includes a wellness festival. More information may be found on the [Estero Heart Walk website](#).

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary

The ECCL has long partnered with environmental groups like the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and Audubon to protect Estero's natural resources. Jennifer Hecker, who was formerly with the Conservancy for 13 years, is now executive director for Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). She shared how CHNEP can help Estero by providing scientific data on the health of the Estero Bay watershed. The Village of Estero recently became an official CHNEP partner and will utilize CHNEP data as it forms its Stormwater Master Plan.

Ms. Hecker invited the ECCL to send a liaison to its quarterly Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. CHNEP is one of just 28 national estuaries designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and can provide grant money for estuary projects. CHNEP covers 4,700 square miles from Venice to Bonita Springs, including Lemon Bay, Dona and Roberts Bays, Charlotte Harbor, Tidal Caloosahatchee, Pine Island Sound, San Carlos Bay and Estero Bay. More information on CHNEP, including current data on the health the Estero Bay



watershed, may be found on the [CHNEP website](#). To view Jennifer Hecker’s presentation to the ECCL, [click here](#).

Blue Zones Project

The Blue Zones Project officially launched in Southwest Florida in November. Blue Zones is a global wellness movement inspiring people to live more active lives with lower rates of chronic diseases. Locally, Blue Zones is partnering with community organizations, businesses, restaurants, schools and residential communities to create an environment where healthy lifestyle choices are made easier, representative Deb Logan explained. Tidewater, Bonita Bay and Tiburon are among Southwest Florida communities which have become designated “Blue Zones.”



For more information on how your community can get involved, email BlueZonesProjectsSWFL@Healthways.com or call (239)624-2312. To view Deb Logan’s presentation to the ECCL, [click here](#).

Transportation Report

ECCL Transportation Director Bob King recently joined East Corkscrew Road residents in a meeting with Lee County transportation officials and County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass. King emphasized the need for the county to finish its Corkscrew Road traffic study before making any decisions to approve new development in this area. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will discuss the Corkscrew Overlay Study during its meeting on Feb. 21. This study is expected to launch in March and conclude near the end of 2017. The Village of Estero will share findings from its own Traffic Study, which is currently underway, with Lee County.

The next **ECCL Transportation Committee** meeting will be Feb. 16 at 9:30 a.m. at Fine Mark Bank Estero. Guest speaker is Don Scott, director of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Environmental Report

A new group called “eYes on Conservation 2020” has been formed to promote and advocate for the purchase of environmentally sensitive land with the \$89 million it has in the Conservation 20/20 fund. In November, Lee County voters overwhelmingly voted to keep funding the Conservation 20/20 program through property taxes. The ECCL is joining a vast coalition in support of purchasing the Edison Farms property. The steering committee for eYes on

Conservation 2020 is about 50 percent comprised of Estero residents, said ECCL Environmental Director Pete Cangialosi.

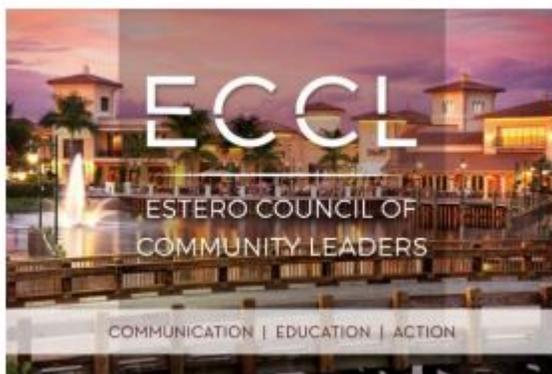
The ECCL also continues to monitor the status of several developments proposed for the Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource area (DR/GR) east of Estero's boundaries. The Lee County BOCC will discuss the proposed Pepperland Ranch development during a Feb. 22 zoning hearing. This is a continuation from Jan. 25. Pepperland Ranch is seeking an amendment to the county's Comprehensive Plan which would allow the developer to build about 700 homes in the DR/GR. For more information on Pepperland Ranch, click [here](#). For a summary of all projects proposed in the DR/GR, [click here](#).



The proposed Troyer Brothers mine is on the Feb. 27 agenda for Lee County's Local Planning Agency (LPA). Troyer Brothers is seeking a Comprehensive Plan amendment to mine 907 acres of its 1,804-acre site in the DR/GR. This area is outside of the currently designated mining area established in the Lee Plan.

Community Development Report

The Village of Estero Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) will hold special meetings each month to discuss the Estero Comprehensive Plan currently under development. This long-range plan for development within the Village must be submitted to the state by the end of 2017. The next PZB workshop is scheduled for Feb. 23 at 1 p.m.



The Estero Council of Community Leaders (ECCL) is a network of communities working together to serve as the "Voice of the People" to advocate for positive change. Our mission is to help the Estero community be informed and involved in village, county, regional and state issues that impact the community.

Issues affecting Estero often exist beyond Estero's boundaries and are not subject to actions by the Village Council. Our communities often have unique concerns that can be brought to the ECCL to enlist broader support.

ECCL meetings are held the second Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Recreation Center at the Estero Community Park. Meetings are open to all Estero residents.

Estero Council of Community Leaders (ECCL)
eccl@estero.org



The ECCL's New Look

ECCL Communications Director Tom MacDonald has designed a [new logo](#) for the Estero Council of Community Leaders. This logo will visually differentiate ECCL communications from the

Village of Estero, which adopted the old ECCL logo upon incorporation, along with the “Village with a Vision” slogan. The new, modern ECCL logo design also includes a tagline highlighting the ECCL’s mission: Communication, Education, Action.

Financial Report

Cash for the ECCL as of Jan. 31, 2017 was \$14,260. Of this amount, \$10,944 is designated to Defense & Planning Funds. Expenses for the month of January were \$1,020.



San Carlos Fire District Report

The fire district will be conducting its annual Boot Drive March 17-19. The district also recently upgraded its radio equipment and is implementing a residential Knox Box program. This enables firefighters to access a home without breaking the door. For more information on how to participate, contact the district at (239)267-7525.