



The ECCL Report: November 2016

Executive Summary: *154th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*

During the Nov. 4, 2016, meeting at Koreshan State Historic Site, the ECCL voted on one action item, unanimously agreeing to sign the “**Now or NeverGlades**” declaration as an organization. The petition, available [here](#), is intended to put pressure on the state to expedite the storage, treatment and conveyance of water south of Lake Okeechobee, restoring the flow of clean, fresh water to the Everglades and the Florida Keys.

Also relating to Estero’s water quality and flooding issues, the Village has authorized a **Stormwater Master Plan** to identify and prioritize all of the water improvement projects which need to be undertaken. The Village is currently in the process of selecting a firm to study Estero’s flow way system, including the impact of development in the DR/GR to the east. The Village has designated \$300,000 for the Stormwater Master Plan and may apply for a grant from the South Florida Water Management District to supplement. It is expected to take about nine months to complete the plan once a contract has been awarded. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities for public input.

Read below for more highlights from the ECCL meeting, including committee reports. The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m. at the Estero Park Recreation Center.

Save the Dates

- **Estero Heart Walk - Feb. 18, 2017:** Mark your calendars for the inaugural Estero Heart Walk at Estero Community Park. This is an extension of The Brooks Heart Walk, which has raised nearly \$165,000 for the American Heart Association in the last three years. The Estero Heart Walk will be a community-wide event and will include a 5K (3.1 miles) walk, a Wellness Festival and children’s activities. The 2017 fundraising goal is \$75,000. Teams and individual walkers may register at www.esteroheartwalk.kintera.org. Those interested in volunteering or sponsorship opportunities should contact Kelly Goodwien at kelly.goodwien@heart.org.

- **Light Up Estero - Dec. 3:** Rotary Club of Estero is sponsoring the third annual Light Up Estero celebration on the grounds of Estero United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 3. The community is invited to enjoy holiday music by local groups, a festive reading of “The Night Before Christmas” and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus by Estero fire truck. Remember to bring canned food donations for Interfaith Charities of South Lee.

Environmental Report: Pete Cangialosi



- While the ECCL will sign the “Now or NeverGlades” declaration as an organization, individuals also are encouraged to sign. The **#NoworNeverglades** Bus made a stop at Estero Village Hall Nov. 1, where Everglades Foundation CEO Eric Eikenberg gave a brief presentation of this critical issue. More information is available at www.evergladesfoundation.org. The petition may be signed online at www.gladesdeclaration.org.
- The ECCL also supports a Florida Fish & Wildlife (FWC) proposal to designate six sites in Estero Bay and the Pine Islands as **Critical Wildlife Areas**, making them off-limits to boaters within a 100 foot buffer in order to protect wading birds. The location of these sites may be viewed [here](#). To read a position letter from Audubon of the Western Everglades, click [here](#). Audubon is asking Lee County residents to contact

FWC to express support of the Critical Wildlife Areas before Nov. 15. Comments may be emailed to the FWC at: CWAComments@MyFWC.com. *“These birds are all in decline in Florida, and this is one step to try to bring this population back,” said ECCL Environmental Chair Pete Cangialosi. “We need to have these wading birds around here; they are an iconic item people come here to see.”*

- **Election night result:** Lee County's Conservation 20/20 referendum measure won approval with a 83.7% "Yes" vote.

Transportation Report: Bob King

- **Estero Parkway** is transportation project No. 1 for the Village of Estero. Lee County has agreed to fund an initial \$1.6 million for sidewalks, bike paths, lighting and other roadway improvements.
- The Village also has come to terms on a **road maintenance agreement** with Lee County. In the spirit of “government lite,” Village Council is seeking contractors to perform street maintenance instead of contracting with the county. This would potentially save the Village \$600,000-\$800,000 annually and may result in better maintenance on a timelier schedule, reported ECCL Transportation Director Bob King.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is working on an Interchange Modification Report for the **I-75/Corkscrew Road interchange**. This would address interim improvements and a long-range plan for reconstruction. FDOT’s plan will require approval from the Federal Highway Administration. No funds have been identified for this project, but FDOT is moving forward. Public information meetings are expected in January.
- Collier County is being a good neighbor and routing **sand truck traffic** from Immokalee away from the populated area of Corkscrew Road. These heavy trucks will divert north onto Alico Road to access the interstate, before heading south to renourish beaches in Collier County.
- *The next ECCL Transportation Committee meeting will be Nov. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at FineMark Bank. Anyone is welcome to attend.*

Community Planning: Jim Tatooles

Several projects approved by Lee County and the Village of Estero are now under construction. Here’s what’s opening around Estero:

- Trees are being cleared for a new **storage facility** at the entrance to Fountain Lakes off of U.S. 41. There is a debate over whether the facility should have a separate entrance.
- [Groundbreaking](#) for **Genova** took place on Oct. 25. This development at the southwest corner of Corkscrew Road and Via Coconut will include 205 “resort-lifestyle, luxury condos,” selling from \$260,000 to \$490,000. Genova is the first development to break ground in the newly designated “Village Center” of the Estero Planning District. It will feature Italianate architecture on all four sides of the buildings and will offer public access to small parks and lakeside sitting areas.
- **Autumn Leaves of Estero** is now open on U.S. 41, directly across from Coconut Point Mall. This assisted living facility exclusively focuses on memory care for people with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia.
- Adjacent to Autumn Leaves, the **Shoppes at Coconut Trace** are now under construction. Phase Two of the Shoppes, south of the bank, is awaiting Village zoning and planning approval.
- Another senior living community, **American House**, recently celebrated its opening with a [ribbon cutting](#) on Nov. 3. American House is located in the Village’s Health Care District south of Coconut Point, near the Bonita Community Health Center. The new facility already has 55 residents.
- **Marriott** is constructing a hotel on the east side of Via Coconut behind Coconut Point Mall. Completion is expected by summer 2017.
- **Tommy Bahama** is building a retail store with a cocktail lounge on Coconut Point’s Fashion Drive. It will also serve appetizers.
- **City Mattress** also has opened at Coconut Point after going through the Estero Design Review process.

ECCL Financial Report: Bob Lienesch

The ECCL recorded a deficit of \$942 for the month of October, with a year-to-date budget deficit of \$14,808. This is mainly due to a one-time expense of \$7,707 for DR/GR Defense and recurring communications costs, which have totaled \$6,638 year-to-date. The ECCL’s projected cash balance by year end (Dec. 31) is \$11,399. To increase 2017 revenues, ECCL is proposing a \$50-\$100 increase in dues. This equates to dues of \$300-\$600, depending on each community’s population as shown below. The ECCL has not increased dues in four years. The board is committed to increasing

membership and reducing expenditures by a minimum of \$1,500 for 2017. The board believes a dues increase is needed and justified to maintain the fiscal health of the organization, to cover inflationary pressures (insurance) and to hire an hourly communications professional.

<u>Community Size</u>	<u>2017</u>
Up to 350 doors:	\$300
351-700 doors:	350
701 to 1,100 doors:	475
1,101 – 1,500 doors:	525
Over 1,500 doors:	600

Fire District Reports

- **Estero Fire Rescue** has acquired five acres to build a fifth fire station off of east Corkscrew Road past Six L's Farm. The timeline for construction would be 3-5 years from now, reported Chief Scott Vanderbrook. The chief also urged Estero residential communities not to add speed bumps without approval from the fire district. These damage fire trucks and slow response times. He will be proposing another method for calming traffic.
- **San Carlos Park:** Six new firefighters were hired on Oct. 3, allowing one additional unit to operate daily. Call volume was up 4.5% in October and has increased by 6% for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- **CPR and First Aid** classes will be offered by San Carlos Park Fire on Nov. 19. The cost is \$35. Call to register: (239)267-7525.
- Children may mail **letters to Santa**, and they will receive a personal response! Drop off letters to the Santa Mailbox at any San Carlos fire station.