



ECCL REPORT

OCT. 14, 2016 MEETING

From Estero Fire Chief Scott Vanderbrook:

- **Estero Fire Rescue will be installing a WeatherSTEM system:** “It will help us with emergency management and also brush fires and hazmat when we need to know the true wind speed,” Chief Vanderbrook explained. Estero-specific weather information will be available for the public to access online. More information will be given to Estero citizens once the new weather station has been installed.
- **Attention Pelican Landing residents:** About 20 properties in Pelican Landing sit right on the Estero/Bonita Springs boundary line for fire service. This year, the Lee County Property Appraiser sent out two tax bills -- one from Bonita Springs and one from Estero -- both prorated for the percentage of the property lying within each district. Estero Fire had nothing to do with this decision. If this affects you, and you have questions, please contact the Lee County Property Appraiser: (239)533-6100.
- **A new ladder truck is now operating out of Station 41,** located at the corner of U.S. 41 and County Road and serving the northwest portion of the Estero Fire District.
- **Hurricane Matthew:** Estero Fire Rescue provided assistance to fire districts on the East Coast.
- **You may need to replace your smoke alarm:** A new National Fire Protection Association code requires batteries in smoke alarms to last 10 years. This aligns with a 2015 Florida Building Code which requires the use of 10-year batteries in residential smoke alarms. Ten-year smoke

alarms are available at many local hardware stores. If you need assistance installing a new smoke alarm, contact Estero Fire at (239)390-8000. This is a free service.

ECCL Financial Report: Bob Lienesch

- The organization “overspent” by about \$14,000 this year, mainly due to legal expenses and communication spending. However, the ECCL still has \$20,000 in the bank. Dues may need to be adjusted for next year.

Village of Estero Report: Councilman Bill Ribble

- The Village of Estero lowered its tax rate to 0.7998. This is the lowest tax rate in Southwest Florida. *“Government lite is working,” Ribble said.*
- **‘Renewing the Wedding Vows’:** Councilman Ribble said he wished to “renew the wedding vows” with the ECCL, commending the organization for its continued research, feedback and input on issues facing the Village. *“Your whole organization adds value, and it’s a big help to council,” he said.*
- **Coming Soon: 2017 Village of Estero Calendar** - Stay on top of important meeting dates. Stop by the Village office at 9401 Corkscrew Palms Circle.
- **Planning and Zoning:** To date, the Village of Estero has received 28 applications for new development; 11 projects have been approved. Early input from the ECCL is vital for projects currently under consideration, Ribble said.
- **Amendment 2 (Medical Marijuana):** Village Council is proposing a moratorium on marijuana distribution within the Village boundaries. Only one distributor would be legally allowed per 67,000 residents, so Estero is an unlikely location anyway, Ribble said.
- **‘New Sheriff in Town’ for Code Compliance:** Code violations may be reported on the [Village of Estero website](#) or by contacting Code Enforcement Officer Stanley Knight: (239) 319-2815 or knight@estero-fl.gov. The Village is currently addressing 11 complaints.
- **Roads Agreement:** Estero finally has a “handshake” agreement with Lee County on the roads the Village will take over and maintain. As Village Council’s appointed liaison, Mr. Ribble worked closely with Lee County Commissioner Larry Kiker on this agreement. It will be discussed at the [Oct. 19 Village Council meeting](#).

- **Early Voting in Estero:** Village Council will discuss whether to discontinue early voting at one Estero location for the March 7, 2017, election. The majority of Estero voters cast their ballots by mail. The cost to operate an early voting site is approximately \$5 per voter. The ECCL recommends discontinuing early voting. This issue is on the [Oct. 19 agenda](#).

Transportation Update: Bob King

- **Village Transportation Study:** Village Council has selected Kimley-Horn to conduct a \$76,452 Transportation Study, scheduled for completion by June 2017. Key elements of the study are: Site observations, safety review (including accident data), future traffic volume, data collection (including traffic counts during high season), and an area-wide traffic operations analysis (forecasting traffic volume, calculating level of service and future traffic development).
- **Estero Parkway Improvements:** The Village is taking ownership of Estero Parkway, and Lee County has committed to paying \$1.6 million for improvements. To expedite the project, the Village will pay for design expenses and pathway improvements beyond the county's contribution, with reimbursement expected in FY 2018. The road will be repaved and include lighted paths for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Beach Renourishment...Here We Go Again:** Trucks will begin hauling 136,000 tons of sand from the Stewart Mine in Immokalee to renourish Collier County beaches beginning Nov. 1. This means a total of 6,000 loads, running six days a week along Corkscrew Road during peak traffic season.
- **The ECCL is seeking volunteers** to establish a baseline of truck traffic on Corkscrew Road, manually collecting data from dawn to dusk for a five-day period. This data will be supplied to elected officials and law enforcement. ECCL members should put continued pressure on Collier County to use another route and petition law enforcement for increased traffic stops. *"What we can do is try to put enough heat on it so they enforce the speed limits, weight them periodically and check for safety," King said.*

Environmental Update: Pete Cangialosi

- **Vote 'Yes' on Conservation 20/20:** On Nov. 8, Lee County citizens have an opportunity to vote YES for continuing the C2020 program started 20 years ago to preserve lands which

protect waterways and drinking water supplies, preserve natural wildlife habitats and offer outdoor recreational opportunities, promoting tourism. The ECCL is a founding member of [Yes20/20](#). A promotional video may be seen [here](#).

- **Corkscrew Road Study:** Lee County has contracted with Aim Engineering & Surveying to produce a Scope of Services for a study to be conducted on Corkscrew Road. The study will include traffic counts, surface water flow improvements and recommendations for additional wildlife crossings, along with a preliminary hydrological analysis identifying drainage basins, historic flow-way corridors and flow-way reconnection crossing Corkscrew Road. Methodology and cost will be determined for the Final Study, to be conducted at a future date.
- **DR/GR Mining Study:** Lee County Community Development contracted with Waldrop Engineering to perform a [study of future mining needs in the DR/GR](#). **Findings:** Lee County has sufficient limerock supply to meet the regional demand through 2030. However, there will be a deficit of 84 million cubic yards by 2040. ECCL Environmental Director Pete Cangialosi and others questioned the study's methodology. Pete is making a **callout for volunteers** to form an ECCL Environmental Committee. The ECCL began organizing the DRGR Advocacy Coalition (including the ECCL, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Audubon Society, CREW, Florida Wildlife Federation and East Corkscrew Road residents) 10 years ago and has seen success in fighting several proposed mines. In December 2015, the ECCL joined the [Responsible Growth Management Coalition](#) in a [lawsuit](#) against Lee County Board of County Commissioners to protect the DR/GR. *"Estero is downstream; whatever happens out there that diminishes the ability of those wetlands to clean the water flowing from east to west, diminishes the quality of life in the Village of Estero," said ECCL Chairman Don Eslick. "We're going to spend a lot of time and effort on this long-term."*

Community Planning Update: Jim Tatoes

- **Via Coconut Urban Place:** The developer brought a "jigsaw puzzle" of pieces, but the pieces did not integrate to fit the comprehensive plan for Estero's Village Center concept, Mr. Tatoes reported. Village staff rejected the [application](#) from Focus Development Group, and the developer has filed for an extension.
- **Coconut Point Tract 1A:** Edera at Coconut Point is proposing to build 200, multifamily units on 6.62 acres at the southeast corner of the roundabout at Via Coconut and Williams Road. [The proposal](#) is for four, three-story apartment buildings. Stay tuned for an upcoming public hearing.

- **The Reef 2 Student Housing:** This is an expansion of the existing student living apartment complex at the intersection of Estero Parkway and Three Oaks Parkway. [The Reef Phase II](#) proposal is for 60 student housing units on five acres. The Village Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval of rezoning the property from commercial to residential. Tenants will use the existing Reef entrances, and this project exceeds the required number of parking spaces. The complex contains amenities specifically designed for students.
- **Get involved:** The ECCL Speakers Panel studies proposed developments within the Village of Estero and meets between every step of the [project approval process](#) to chart a course for ECCL response. Panel members are well prepared to speak at zoning and council meetings regarding issues of concern. Join the “Champions” [email](#) distribution list to receive updates on development issues.

Stormwater Management Study

- The Village of Estero is seeking a consultant to conduct a [Stormwater Master Plan](#) which will assess the existing conditions of the tributaries within the Village. The study will determine deficiencies (including flooding), evaluate feasible solutions and investigate opportunities to improve water quality as it flows from the east into the Village of Estero.

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