

ECCL Report: July 2018

Executive Summary: *173rd meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*



In response to strong objections from Homeowners Associations throughout the Village, the Village Council rejected the proposed tree ordinance. The issue will be revisited as part of the Land Development Code development process that is scheduled for the next 18 months.

Longtime School Board Member Dr. Jane Kuckel is retiring and is endorsing Dr. Nicholas Alexander to replace her. Dr. Alexander is running in order to achieve the following three goals: adding value

to society through improved career-readiness, reducing teacher turnover rates, and improving school safety.

Chris Patricca, one of the two Lee County School Board members from Estero, spoke about overcrowding and underfunding in Lee County's schools. The District needs \$478 million over the next 5 years for capital improvement purposes due to growth of 1,800 new students per year and to pay for the technology that is needed in today's classrooms. The Board is seeking voter approval of a Half Penny Sales Tax on November 6th to fund these needs. This tax will cost the average family 18 cents per day.

The State's approval of Lee Health's Certificate of Need (CON) has been challenged by NCH and HCA healthcare systems. A State Hearing Examiner has been assigned to review the challenges to all three approved CONs, two in Estero and one in Immokalee. The Hearing Examiner's Report will be considered by the State Agency for Health Care administration in December 2018 or January 2019.

The Zoning Examiner approved the Verdana Rezoning Application. Zoning Examiner Hearings for the Old Corkscrew Plantation Mine have been completed and we are awaiting the Hearing Examiner's recommendations to the BOCC. The Troyer Brothers Mine Rezoning Hearing was continued to July 31.

The Education Outreach Council (EOC) is still recruiting volunteer teachers for the Junior Achievement program to begin this Fall and has scheduled an 8th & 11th grade training session on July 26. Please consider attending.

The Village is addressing post-Irma flooding issues by clearing and maintaining Estero's rivers, streams, and other flow ways. Village staff are also studying removing the 2 feet of silt in the Estero River. Estero Parkway is currently under design with construction expected to begin next Spring or Summer and will take 4 to 6 months to complete.

San Carlos Park Fire has been undertaking some major repairs and has begun its budget process. Estero Fire Rescue is presenting its budget to the Fire District Commissioners on July 24. Estero Fire Rescue also received the second highest ISO rating that determines the fire insurance rates that homeowners must pay in the community.

The Village Budget Workshop was held July 11. There will be Public Hearings and Budget Approval on September 5 & 20.

The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, August 10, 2018 at 10:00 am at Estero Community Park.

SAN CARLOS PARK FIRE & RESCUE

- Public Info Office Rep *Alexis Rothring*

- San Carlos Park Fire Department has had some major repairs completed to some of its fire stations due to damage from Hurricane Irma.
 - Station 53 (Ben Hill Griffin) roof has been replaced; is now a Category 5 roof
 - Station 52 (Highland Park) roof is currently being repaired
- SCPFD is beginning their 2018/2019 budget process, which will include hiring 3 firefighters, hiring 2 administrative staff, & a construction project for new Station 54 (Oriole & Alico).
- Lee County's flood mitigation work is in Phase II and many areas have been improved.
 - You can see what's happening at <https://www.leegov.com/irma/flood>
- SCPFD had a great showing at the San Carlos Park parade. Over 2,000 people attended.
- We are one month into hurricane season with two hurricanes so far. Peak hurricane season will happen in September.
- If any communities are interested in having a Hurricane Preparedness Seminar, SCPFD is happy to come out and conduct that for you.
- There will be a **CPR AED class on July 18 at 9:00am** at the fire station. Class costs \$40 and you can call the fire station to register at (239) 267-7525.



ESTERO FIRE RESCUE

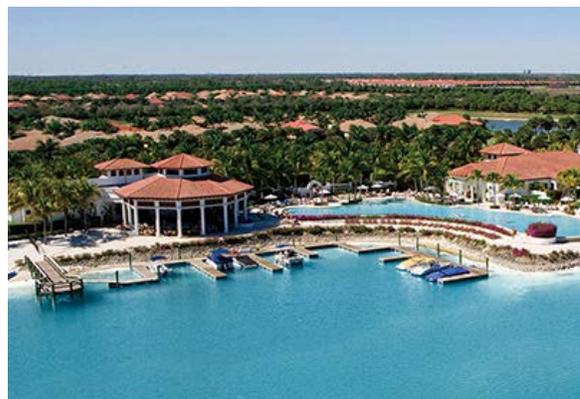
- Fire Chief *Scott Vanderbrook*

- Estero Fire Rescue's budget was finished July 12 and will be presented to the Estero Fire Rescue Commissioners during a **Budget Workshop on July 24 at 9:30am**.
- A couple months ago, EFR received a surprise inspection by ISO (Insurance Service Office that rates fire departments throughout the country).
 - 10 is the worst rating and 1 is the best: **Estero Fire Rescue received a 2.**
 - Estero, San Carlos, and Bonita all have a 2 rating.
- There is currently a controlled burn where the Wild Blue development is going in.
 - There are also several controlled burns going on this month at East Corkscrew (burning the dead citrus trees).
 - Firefighters are monitoring these situations. However, if you have any serious concerns, please contact the San Carlos or Estero fire departments.

VILLAGE REPORT

- Mayor *Jim Boesch*

- In the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that's been drafted, the Village will spend \$120 million in 5 years.
 - Mayor Boesch will return in September to discuss the CIP and budget in detail.
- The Village's Finance Director was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States & Canada.
 - Only 1,600 people receive this award.
- **Unfunded Mandates & The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program**
 - An unfunded mandate is a statute or regulation that requires a state or local government to perform certain actions, with no money provided for fulfilling the requirements.
 - *The problem with the SRO program:* Does the legislature have the right to tell the school boards that they have to spend this money without providing the funds? Mayor Boesch recommends that the schools tell the State that, if the State doesn't provide funds, the Village will not consider these mandates a legislative necessity.
- **Tree Ordinance**
 - After hearing response from individuals and communities that the ordinance is unnecessary and that the communities have already taken responsibility for this issue, the tree ordinance was turned down by the Council 7-to-nothing.
 - Communities will need to discuss how the tree ordinance should appear in the Land Development Code.



- **Cleaning Up the Flow Ways**
 - The Village has spent \$300,000 to \$400,000 on clearing debris from flow ways.
 - All of the communities have agreed that this is important.
 - If the Village cleans up all of these flow ways and maintains them each year, many of the flood areas should not be an issue.
 - The Estero River has about 2 feet of silt from the floods. The Village is working with the State, federal agencies, and more to remove this silt.
- **Public Works**
 - The Village has hired an excellent Public Works Director, David Willems, who is on hand to address any problems in communities (especially with water).
- **Estero Parkway**
 - The Village is going to narrow the road by half a foot, pave the roadway, add a bike way, and add sidewalks.
 - These developments are currently under design and will take until October or November to finish.
 - The Village has agreed not to begin construction until after the next winter season, so the work should be completed sometime around late Spring or early Summer next year.
 - Construction will hopefully take about 4 to 6 months.
 - People at Cascades and the Reserve will have two options for crossing the road to make left turns:
 1. Go through the median divider across the street.
 2. Make a right turn and then will make a left U-turn at a left turn lane.

INTRODUCING DR. NICHOLAS ALEXANDER FOR SCHOOL BOARD

- Lee School Board Member *Jane Kuckel & Nicholas Alexander*

- 14-Year School Board Member Dr. Jane Kuckel is retiring at the end of this two-year term and is endorsing Dr. Nicholas Alexander to replace her.
- Dr. Kuckel has known Dr. Alexander for 15 years when she was first on the Board. She was the liaison to the Finance Advisory Committee, of which Dr. Alexander was the Chairman. She worked with him to develop the agenda and work through the financial issues of the district for approximately two years.
- The School Board is about education on the surface, but it's also a business. Dr. Alexander has successful business experience as well as good business acumen. He values efficiency in operations.
- **Dr. Alexander's History & Qualifications:**
 - Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering
 - Master's in Business Administration

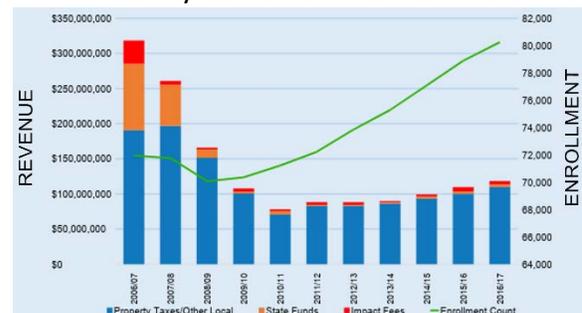


- Doctorate in Management & Organizational Effectiveness
- Six Sigma Black Belt in Data-Driven Strategic Planning
- Certification in Change Management
- Management Leadership Positions include:
 - Vice President for Customer Strategy & Operations, Comcast
 - Executive Director for Operation Improvement in PMO, Hertz
 - Executive Director for Operational Risk Management, General Electric
- **3 Reasons Why Dr. Alexander is Running for School Board:**
 1. Wants to make sure we are adding value back to society by readying children to be college- and career-ready – including vocational education.
 2. We have anywhere between 20% and 50% turnover within the teacher ranks in our district. There are three things that teachers say prevent them from moving on: Pay, Management Skills, & Administrative Support.
 3. It is incumbent upon the District and the School Board to make sure that all personnel and all students are safe.
 - Personal opinion is that SROs are important because they're trained in law enforcement and they have the ability to recognize issues before they become issues.
- Dr. Alexander is running for this position because he believes he has the acumen and know-how to help the Board.
- **Election Day is Tuesday, August 28, 2018.**
- Make sure, when filling out your ballot, that you turn it over to the back page because that's where the school board candidates normally are found.
- For more information on Dr. Nicholas Alexander and his campaign, go to: <http://www.electalexander.net>

HALF PENNY SALES TAX

- Lee School Board Member *Chris Patricca*

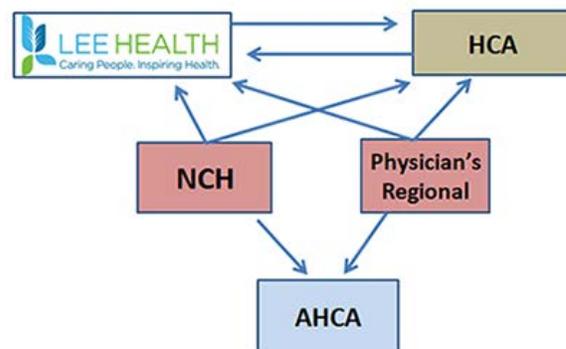
- **District Statistics**
 - 94,000 students
 - 9th largest school district in the state, 32nd in the country
 - Students come from 156 different countries and speak 149 different languages
 - 40% of the students that we educate in Lee County come from homes where the English language is not spoken
- **Student Growth Rate**
 - 1,800 new students per year moving into Lee County
 - We are at or above capacity in the South & East zone and will be at or above capacity in the West zone by 2020
 - Over the past 10 years, capital revenue has decreased by \$200 million per year while student growth has grown by 22,000 over that same period



- Over the next 5 years, we are looking at building 7 new schools, completely renovating 2 schools, and adding 1 high school addition
- **Maintenance Need**
 - 799 Buildings - 13 million sq. ft. - 3,217 acres
 - 885 Servers - 95 Networked Sites - 118,000 Computers
- **Capital Fund Gap**
 - We need \$478 million over the next 5 years
- **Consequences**
 - Portable classrooms, overcrowding, & large class size
 - Borrowing more money, increasing debt
 - Falling behind
- **Proposed Solution: Half Penny Sales Tax**
 - The average family in Lee County makes \$50,300 per year. That family will pay \$64 per year in this tax. That's less than 18 cents per day.
 - That tax is only assessed on the first \$5,000 of a major purchase. For example, if you buy a car, \$25 is the maximum tax you would pay for that car.
 - The tax is not assessed on necessities like gasoline, food, and medication.
 - The tax sunsets in 10 years. In 10 years, it will have to be re-approved by the voters or it goes away.
 - There will be an oversight committee overseeing this revenue.
- Chris Patricca would love to give presentations in different communities to explain what people are voting for and asks everyone to **please vote yes on the Half Penny Sales Tax on November 6.**
- This will be the very last item on a 14-16 page ballot, so please don't forget to vote.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED (CON) CHALLENGES

- Lee Health Rep *Suzanne Bradach*
- There are **8 Challenges** that have been filed between the various parties, as depicted in the photo on the right.
- **Arguments Presented Against Lee Health:**
 - Lee Health is too large and is monopolizing the area.
 - There aren't justified means for additional beds.
- Administrative Law Judge Garnett Chisenhall has been assigned to the case. He will consolidate all of the cases into one hearing that will hear all of the various challenges.
- The hearing will likely be scheduled in late 2018 (Nov/Dec) or January 2019.
 - We don't yet know how long it will be scheduled for – Judge will determine.



- Over the next several weeks, the discovery process will start, all parties will be producing documents, and depositions will begin.
- **What Can We Do to Help?** Unfortunately, there's nothing much that citizens can do but they are encouraged to **not** attempt to email or contact the judge. (It is prohibited to try to sway or persuade the judge.)
- **Information about Lee Health Coconut Point:** <http://www.leehealth.org/coconut-point/index.asp>

FINAL COMP PLAN REVIEW AND ADOPTION & LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (LDC) START-UP

- *Jim Tatoes*

- In the last year and a half, we've put together a Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Estero. The plan has been approved by the Village and presented in Tallahassee. The Village is now going through its final review.
- **Now** we need to focus on the Land Development Code (LDC), which will deal with the details of putting the Comprehensive Plan into action.
- LDC will address several important issues such as tree ordinances, specific flood prevention, water quality, standards for pedestrian connections, landscaping standards, recycling, water conservation, etc.
- Please follow the agenda and attend the LDC meetings.
- **Land Development Code (LDC) Work Program & Schedule**
 - *Task 1: Project Initiation*
 - Review documents, website, reconnaissance, & interviews
 - **Kick-Off Meeting: Tuesday, July 17**
 - *Task 2: LDC Assessment*
 - LDC Assessment & Annotated Outline
 - Meeting on LDC Assessment
 - *Task 3: Draft Updated LDC*
 - Staff/Public Review Draft of LDC (two installments)
 - Meetings on each installment and zoning map
 - *Task 4: Testing*
 - Test LDC & Four Case Studies
 - Meetings on test results
 - *Task 5: Public Hearing Draft of LDC*
 - Public Hearing Draft of LDC
 - Public hearing/work session on Public Hearing Draft



- **Thoughts on Project Goals**
 1. Make the LDC more user-friendly
 2. Modernize the Development Standards
 3. Implement the Estero Comprehensive Plan
- **Public Involvement**
 - *Project Website*
 - Project information and announcements
 - Upcoming meetings
 - Work products
 - <http://www.esterozoning.org>
 - *Opportunities to Provide Input*
 - Kick-Off Meeting
 - Meeting on Code Assessment
 - Meetings on Individual Installments of Public Review Draft of LDC
 - Meetings on Testing
 - Public Hearing or Meeting on Public Meetings on Testing
 - Public Hearing or Meeting on Public Hearing Draft

ANNOUNCEMENTS & FEEDBACK

- **Mark Novitski from Bella Terra:** There are 7 sewer-pumping stations in Bella Terra, but only 3 of them have generators. When the power goes out (such as during Irma), 4 of the stations stop pumping and Lee County has to come and feed the generators for the other 3 stations. The County's codes do not indicate the backflow preventors on their individual sewers. Maybe that's something we need to add to the code? Lee County Water & Sewer has been unresponsive when questioned about this.
 - FEMA has agreed that much of the problems with Irma were due to lack of generators, so its new initiative is to provide generators to entities.
 - Bella Terra also ended up spending \$200,000 picking up fallen vegetation from people's yards and repairing landscaped areas of the community because FEMA did not come pick up from their area.
- **Estero Place Resident:** The walkway on the west side of Three Oaks between Corkscrew and the library is an embarrassment. There's garbage, overgrown trees in the walkway, and busted paint. It was brought up at one of the planning meetings, but is still in the exact same shape.
 - Contact Commissioner Kiker.

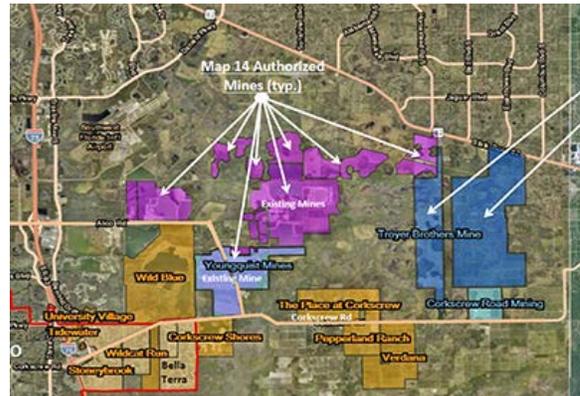


ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Pete Cangialosi*

- **Verdana Rezoning Application (1,425 Homes)**

- The Lee County Zoning examiner APPROVED rezoning with conditions on July 10
- *Next:* BOCC votes to accept or reject recommendation on a date yet to be determined, but probably in late summer.



- **Old Corkscrew Planation Mine**

- *Zoning Examiner Hearings* were held on March 27, March 28, April 4, April 24, May 8, May 21, and June 12.
 - *Point of Contention:* Blasting Buffer Width. The County wants 2,000 ft and the Applicant, King Ranch, wants 1,000 ft
- *Next:* Recommendation by the Lee County Zoning Examiner approving or rejecting the applicant's request to rezone from agricultural to industrial
- *Then:* BOCC votes to accept or reject recommendation

- **Troyer Brothers Mine**

- **Rezoning Hearing continued to Tuesday, July 31 at 9:00 am.**
- Common opposition points expressed so far:
 - Mine not needed
 - Applicant's hydrology information is suspect
 - County always approves requested changes to Lee Plan. Should say "No!"
- Lee County's own Land Development Code (Ch. 34) states, "Mining operations, by their very nature, are INCOMPATIBLE with most other uses."
- **One must speak at this hearing in order to speak later before the BOCC.**
- To educate and tell people how to oppose, go to: <https://NoMineOn82.com>
- Wink News Video: <http://www.winknews.com/2018/06/07/proposed-mining-project-causing-a-stir-in-lee-county>

- Learn more about Estero environmental issues at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/estero-news/environment>

ESTERO EDUCATION OUTREACH COUNCIL (EOC), CONNECTING WITH THE ESTERO EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY

- *Jim Shields*

- **Primary Objectives for 2018/2019:**

1. Junior Achievement
2. Lee County Schools: Elementary & Secondary Student Support
3. FGCU's Institute for Entrepreneurship Support

- **Junior Achievement: 2-5-8-Graduate**

- The EOC is currently in the process of **recruiting 80 teachers** to teach in the JA program in the 2nd, 5th, 8th, and 11th grade.
- If there is anyone interested (particularly in 8th or 11th grade with a focus on financial literacy), **please consider volunteering.**
- 8th & 11th Grade **Training Session on July 26** from 4:00pm to 5:30pm in the Village Council Chambers.



- Learn more about the program and how you can help at the ECCL's website: <https://esterotoday.com/junior-achievement-program-seeking-volunteers>

- **Institute for Entrepreneurship**

- The IFE program has been very successful
 - IFE students receiving awards and funding in highly competitive events
 - IFE's desire is to assure quality outcomes for its students and veterans
- Program implementation will be a recipient-driven process
 - Student (or veteran) may select a mentor from the IFE newly-implemented database
- IFE initiatives will connect with our outreach efforts for volunteer mentors for students and veterans
- We will keep you informed of IFE progress.

- Learn more about the EOC at the ECCL's website: <http://esterotoday.com/estero-economic-excellence-outreach-council>

HEALTH COMMITTEE

- *Lowell Gerson*

- Agenda items for next meeting will be Recruitment & Volunteer Opportunities.
- *The next Steering Committee Meeting is Friday, August 24 at 2:30 pm at the Commons Enrichment Center at The Brooks.*
- Learn more about the ECCL's Health Committee at the ECCL's website: <http://esterotoday.com/about-eccl/eccl-hospital-committee>

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- *Bob King*

- **County's Corkscrew Road Traffic Study**
 - <https://www.leegov.com/corkscrew>
 - *Task 6:* Transportation Improvement Cost Estimates (Coming Soon)
 - *Task 7:* Environmental Support Tasks (Coming Soon)
 - *Task 8:* Proportionate Share Analysis/Identification of Potential

- *Financing Options:* Lee County is working to establish the proportionate share of infrastructure-improvement costs that new development within the overlay will pay. This will be an important funding source – one of many – for the infrastructure improvements for this area.
- **Corkscrew Road Improvements**
 - Acceleration of Improvements to Corkscrew Road:
 - Pinewoods Elementary – Extend right turn from eastbound Corkscrew Road to Pinewoods Elementary
 - The Preserve at Corkscrew – Add a southbound turn lane from westbound Corkscrew Road
 - Install electronic speed signs
 - Place electronic signs warning of upcoming traffic signal
 - Long-Term Improvements:
 - Move four laning to Tier I CIP (funded)
- **Village of Estero Capital Improvement Plan**
 - First Public Workshops were held June 5 & June 7
 - Staff prepare first reading to Council on July 11 with a second reading July 20
- **Other News Items**
 - Planning & Zoning Board voted to recommend adoption of impact fees at 100%
 - Village Council adopted fees at 100% on July 11
 - Land Development Code is the next big effort
- **Village Budget**
 - Workshop held July 11
 - The proposed FY 2018-2019 budget was presented
 - Council voted to move to Second Public Hearing
 - Council will vote on millage rate on July 25
 - **Two Public Hearings: September 5 & September 20 at 5:30pm**
 - Council will adopt millage rate and budget on September 20
- *The next Transportation Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, August 16 at 9:30am at Fine Mark Bank.*
- Learn more about Estero transportation issues at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/estero-news/transportation>



COMMUNICATIONS

- *Matt DiPaolo*

- Matt DiPaolo works for Fluid Brands, which is a brand strategy company that's helping the ECCL increase local awareness of its organization and issues.

- Fluid Brands is currently filming ECCL’s monthly meetings, creating the monthly ECCL meeting report, creating monthly reports for website and social media analytics, posting weekly to social media, updating social media cover photos monthly, overseeing the ECCL newsletters, maintaining the ECCL website, and managing advertising. Fluid Brands has also created a media kit for ECCL to solicit companies for ad space.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- *Linda Tecco-Roach*

- Expenses for the month of June came in at \$721. This included monthly management of the website and the annual charge for ECCL’s post office box.
- Income for the month was \$1 of interest.
- Excess of expenses over income for June are \$720 and excess of expenses over income for 2018 are \$2,562.
- The ECCL’s cash balance as of June 30, 2018 is \$14,019.
- For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website:
<http://esterotoday.com/reports/meetings-minutes>



[[Watch the whole July 13th meeting here.](#)]