

The ECCL Report: December 2017

Executive Summary: *166th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*



The Village of Estero is conducting a water management study and a roadway study to determine the best redesign of Estero Parkway. The Village also is undertaking a study of recreational needs and opportunities and looking at potential land purchases.

Public input meetings for the Comprehensive Plan have been completed after a 12-month effort, and the Plan will be sent to Tallahassee for review in January.

Lee Health is making preparations for the opening of its Coconut Point facility and is seeking dedicated volunteers to evaluate and enhance the guest experience. About 60 people attended the formative ECCL Healthcare Committee meeting.

The ECCL also continues to seek volunteers to serve as mentors for the Entrepreneurship program at Florida Gulf Coast University, as well as volunteers for the Junior Achievement program in local elementary, middle and high schools.

Additionally, the ECCL is supporting an effort by the Responsible Growth Management Coalition to retain a hydrologist as an expert witness in the zoning hearing examiner case for Old Corkscrew Plantation Mine.

The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, Jan. 12, at 10 a.m. at Estero Community Park.

VILLAGE REPORT - Councilman Jon McLain

Councilman McLain's areas of responsibility on the Village Council include the Estero Parkway renovation, Village special events, stormwater and sewage issues, and parks and recreation.

JR Evans Engineering is conducting a **stormwater study** to assess Estero's flow ways and drainage systems, including internal flow systems within gated communities. The Village will work with HOAs to ensure there are no blockages going into the rainy season next June, Councilman McLain said.

The Village has awarded the **Estero Parkway** contract to Agnoli Barber & Brundage Engineering. Potential designs will be presented for consideration in January with opportunities for public input. The redesign will improve safety and implement the "complete streets" concept with bike and pedestrian paths. Construction is expected to begin in November 2018.

Councilman Nick Batos is working on securing state support for a **SunTrail** extension along the Seminole Gulf Railway through Estero and Bonita Springs.

The Village has \$18 million reserved for **expenditures** in the 2017-18 budget. The Estero Parkway renovation may use up to \$10 million. Other potential expenditures include acquiring right of way for the SunTrail and possible land acquisitions. The Village is looking at the 87-acre **D'Jamoos property**, called Estero on the River, at the northeast corner of U.S. 41 and Corkscrew Road and the 10-acre Estero **River Oaks** property which is bordered by the Cascades, Rookery Bay and Country Creek. The latter property may have value as a natural preserve to help Estero's drainage system.



The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has granted \$100,000 to create a bike/ped master plan for the Village of Estero.

Lee County is purchasing 10 acres of land just south of the Estero Community Park to be used for athletic/recreational fields.

The Village is conducting a comprehensive study of recreational needs and opportunities in Estero. There is a projected 35 percent increase for Estero's population over the next seven years.

LEE HEALTH COCONUT POINT - Alex Greenwood

Alex Greenwood is the vice president for Lee Health's new Coconut Point facility. Residents may contact him with suggestions for improving their experiences at this facility: alex.greenwood@leehealth.org or (239)343-1151.

Lee Health will use state-of-the-art technology to allow patients a single point of registration and scheduling to access all services provided by the facility, one electronic medical record and an integrated schedule of care through the patient portal.



Coordinated services will include emergency department, diagnostic services, Healthy Life Center, multi-specialty physicians, surgery center, imaging, and rehabilitative services.

Lee Health Coconut Point will offer differentiating “World Class” services and programs including a collaboration with Arthrex for orthopedic care and geriatric emergency services with intensive cardiac rehabilitation.

Lee Health plans to hire 150 employees prior to opening less than one year from now and 300 employees within three years.

Volunteers are being sought for a Guest Experience Council which will start in March.

Five volunteers also are needed for a two-day “guest experience” workshop Jan. 8-9 with Lee Health system leaders where patient flow will be tested for the new facility.

Another 1-2 volunteers are needed to begin to implement the Lee Health Coconut Point volunteer program and help with recruitment in its first year of operation.

Contact Mr. Greenwood if interested in these volunteer positions,

To view Alex Greenwood's presentation, [click here](#).

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE - Don Eslick

About 60 people attended the first organizational meeting of the ECCL Healthcare Committee. This committee will meet monthly January through April.

“Our goal is for people in every community to engage and educate their communities about these new healthcare services that we have been working towards for about 15 years,” said ECCL Chairman Don Eslick.

ESTERO ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE OUTREACH COUNCIL - Jim Shields & Sydney Riethman, Junior Achievement

The EEEOC held an organizational meeting with keynote speaker Dr. Mike Martin, president of FGCU, at the university’s Emergent Technologies Institute on Dec. 13. The EEEOC’s goals include recruiting mentors for the university’s entrepreneurship program.

“In Southwest Florida, we have a legion of retired executives and professionals,” said board member Jim Shields. “We want to energize and recruit people to become mentors.”

Volunteer opportunities in K-12 schools are available through Junior Achievement.

Junior Achievement is the nation’s largest nonprofit dedicated to giving young people the skills they need to own their own economic success and plan for their future.



Junior Achievement served 10,658 students in Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties last year. Their goal is to reach 11,724 students this school year.

Programs are conducted by trained volunteers who teach 5-7 weekly lessons, or they may conduct all lessons in one, half-day program.

“We are in dire need and are scrambling to find more volunteers,” said Sydney Riethman, of JA Collier County.

For Lee County volunteer opportunities, contact Vanessa Santiago at vsantiago@jaswfl.org or (239)225-2590.

Vince Modarelli, who has managed most of the EEEOC’s development to date, sent this report about the EEEOC’s Dec. 13 meeting hosted by FGCU:

The Estero Economic Excellence Outreach Council (EEEOC) held its second organizational meeting on December 13 at FGCU's Emerging Technology Institute. With over 60 in attendance, new FGCU President Dr. Mike Martin discussed his vision for FGCU, its engagement with and impact on the Village of Estero. Members of Estero Village Council and representatives of various Estero organizations including the Estero Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, and Economic Development Council were treated to a tour of FGCU's Institute for Entrepreneurship guided by its Director Dr. Sandra Kauanui. Mentorship opportunities for successful, experienced businesspeople of Estero were discussed and FGCU Entrepreneurial students were on hand to explain their business ideas. At the meeting, EEEOC organizers promoted its overall program for making Estero a destination for aspiring entrepreneurs, active and involved retired business people and healthcare professionals. Future meetings are planned for 2018, starting in January and those interested may join the email list at <http://esterotoday.com/ecodevsurvey/> or visit the EEEOC web page at <http://esterotoday.com/estero-economic-excellence-outreach-council/>.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - Pete Cangialosi

The 4,000-acre Edison Farms property has been purchased for \$42.4 million with funds generated by the Lee County Conservation 20/20 program. This is the second largest single-parcel purchase by the County. Special thanks to the MANY citizens and environmental groups, governmental organizations, and Lee County taxpayers who helped make this purchase possible.

In mining news, the Troyer Brothers mine application has been deemed insufficient by Lee County Community Development. The County is waiting to schedule the Comprehensive Plan Amendment adoption hearing for this project to coincide with its zoning.



The Old Corkscrew Plantation mine application is continuing through the county's zoning process. This is a huge property of 4,205 acres, 44 percent of which would be mined (1,837 acres).

Blasting is proposed with a maximum excavation depth of 110 feet

Proposed hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Daily truck traffic generated by the mine would be 5,866 trips for the next 30 years, as estimated by the applicant's June 14, 2011 Traffic Impact Analysis report. That report also estimated that 75% of mine traffic would turn northwest from the mine driveway onto SR 82

and 25% would turn southeast onto SR 82 toward the Lee/Collier County Line and Corkscrew Road. This information has been updated from the December 8 presentation after confirmation by County staff.

Concerns include traffic on SR 82 and Corkscrew Road, impacts to wetlands on and downstream of the property, downstream flooding, impact on water quality flowing into Estero Bay, our future water supply, listed species, and noise and dirt from blasting impacting the neighbors.

A Zoning Examiner Hearing is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 31. Anyone wishing to speak later before the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) must first testify in front of the Hearing Examiner. Letter or email testimony/concerns can be sent to the Lee County Community Development lead reviewer, Mr. Alvin Block (ablock@leegov.com), in advance of the hearing date. He will present this testimony to the Hearing Examiner as "hearsay."

Sign up for ECCL and Conservancy of SWFL alerts at www.EsteroToday.com (go to "Get Involved", then "Subscribe")

To view the Environmental Report presentation, [click here.](#)

OLD CORKSCREW MINE ZONING TESTIMONY - Richard Quist

Retired environmental attorney and Copperleaf in the Brooks resident, Richard Quist, has proposed hiring a hydrologist, Gary Dannemiller, CPG, PG, as an expert witness to testify about the adverse impacts the mine would have on Estero groundwater resources. Mr. Dannemiller has provided expert witness services in a variety of hydrologic and geologic areas such as surface and groundwater flow and contamination, groundwater supplies, NPDES permits, sand-gravel permit applications and landfills in many states over the past 40 years. Mr. Dannemiller previously testified in Lee County in 2011 in the first effort by Troyer Brothers to mine this property, which had a successful outcome for the community.

The Responsible Growth Management Coalition, a registered Lee County-based community organization and nonprofit, is accepting donations to retain Dr. Dannemiller's services, estimated at \$15,000. Donations may be made online via the [CrowdRise website](#), or checks may be mailed (and made payable) to: RGMC, P.O. Box 1826, Ft. Myers FL, 33902.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT - Bob King

A traffic signal at the entrance to Bella Terra on Corkscrew Road is now operational. Its impact on egress issues from other residential communities to the west is still unknown.

The findings of Lee County's Environmental Enhancement and Preservation Communities Overlay Study, informally known as the Corkscrew Road Study, will be revealed to a steering committee on Dec. 18 and made public at a future date.

Florida law requires Lee County to conduct a study of impact fees every three years. Findings from this study are expected to be released to the public in January. Impact fees are currently at 45 percent of the full cost of the transportation, schools and park infrastructure required to service the new development — the “growth paying for growth” level. The study determines the updated cost levels which need to be charged on these new developments, both residential and commercial.

Lee County must decide on impact fee funding levels by March 15, 2018.

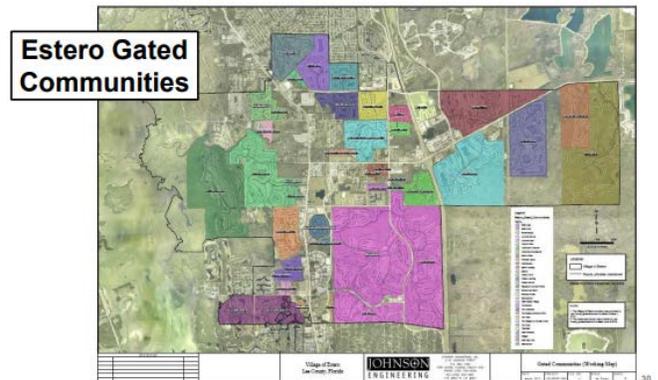
“The whole idea is growth pays for growth,” said ECCL Chairman Don Eslick. As Lee County continues to grow, the County and the School Board are not getting enough impact fees from the “new arrivals” to pay for the increased demand on roads, schools and parks by those arrivals.

To view the Transportation Committee presentation, [click here](#).

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m. at Fine Mark Bank Estero.

COMMUNITY PLANNING - Jim Tatooles

The Village will send its proposed Comprehensive Plan to Tallahassee for review in January. This is a 20-30 year visioning plan for the Village of Estero. Last month, citizens were invited to give their input on the Future Land Use element of the plan. The Transportation element includes complete streets, interconnectivity, major improvements, road-scapes and use of technology. Once the state has reviewed the Plan, the Village Council will adopt it with any necessary changes during the spring.



The Estero Planning and Zoning Board will review the Draft Comprehensive Plan at a public hearing on December 19 at 5:30 p.m., and will then vote to send it to the Village Council with their recommendations.

To view the Community Planning presentation, [click here](#).

ECCL BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Linda Tecco-Roach

Board elections will be held in January. The incumbents for all positions except the Membership Director have agreed to continue serving in 2018. At the January Membership Meeting, the ECCL will also vote on the creation of two new board positions: Economic Development Director and Healthcare Director. The Committee is taking nominations for all board positions.

To view the Board positions, incumbents and nominees, [click here](#).

FINANCIAL REPORT - Bob Lienesch

For the month of November, 15 of our 32 dues-paying communities paid their 2018 dues, which are due by January 31, 2018. November expenses included the usual costs for our website, emails and other written communications of about \$1,000, along with the costs for our visual communications (e.g., online maps) of about \$1,300. For the month, we achieved a net income of \$4,198, and \$2,543 for the year to date. Thanks to all the communities that have promptly paid their 2018 dues.

To view the ECCL monthly financial statement, [click here](#).

FIRE DISTRICT REPORTS - Chief Scott Vanderbrook & Chief Dave Cambareri

Due to Hurricane Irma, the wetlands areas still have debris, which could make for an “intense” fire season, Chief Vanderbrook said. Active fire season typically starts in January after the holidays.

San Carlos Park Fire Chief Dave Cambareri added that Koreshan State Park is conducting controlled burns as part of its land management. Also, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) still has a horticulture management station at Alico Road and Three Oaks Parkway for storm debris. Like Estero, San Carlos Park is working with Lee County on stormwater management and flood mitigation.

For the 31st year, the San Carlos Park Fire District has its Secret Santa program during the holidays and is helping 36 needy families supply Christmas gifts for their children. To help with this great program, [click here](#).

ESTERO HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY PROGRAM - Chef Jeremy Jasper

An Evening Under the Shadow Wood fundraiser benefiting the Estero High School Culinary Program will be Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. Last year, this event raised over \$15,000 for the program, allowing Estero students to compete in Orlando and win First Place in the edible centerpiece competition. During the fundraising gala, culinary students will prepare a three-course meal and present it fine-dining style. Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased online at: <https://squareup.com/store/estero-high-culinary>

