

ECCL Report: February 2018

Executive Summary: *168th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*

The Village of Estero is working on developing its Land Development Code, a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and a Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. Village Council also has approved a plan for Estero Parkway road improvements and is soliciting bids for the project. The design will include separated bike lanes and one roundabout. The Village also is exploring potential land purchases and is working on a cooperative agreement with the Lee County School District.



The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, March 9, at 10 a.m. at Estero Community Park.

VILLAGE REPORT - Council member *Nick Batos*

- The National Weather Service has recognized the Village of Estero as a “**Storm Ready**” community. This may result in lower property insurance rates for Estero residents.
- Village Council has approved a plan for roadway improvements and bike lanes on **Estero Parkway**. Engineering, design and bidding will be forthcoming. The plan calls for a bike lane in each direction separated from car lanes by a concrete curb. There also will be a roundabout at the entrances of The Cascades and The Reserve.
- Final design for Estero Parkway is expected by July; construction should begin in September 2018 and run through January 2019.
- Village Council is supporting a bill in the State Legislature to change the boundaries of the taxing district of the southeastern portion of Lee County, including the Estero Bay watershed, from the Okeechobee Basin Fund to the Big Cyprus Basin Fund. This could bring over \$4 million a year to south Lee County for flood projects and water quality projects. (This does NOT affect local taxes).
- Village Council has authorized negotiations with consulting firm Kimley-Horn for **U.S. 41 landscaping**. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has agreed to grant the Village \$750,000 for median landscaping. The Village will take over landscape maintenance after installation.
- The Village of Estero submitted its draft **Comprehensive Plan** to state reviewing agencies on Jan. 10. Comments are expected to be returned by March 19. Adoption of this important long-range planning document is expected during a public hearing to be scheduled in April.

- The next important step is the development and adoption of the Land Development Code. The Village solicited bids and is currently negotiating with the No. 1 ranked firm, Canin Associates. The timeframe for developing the Land Development Code is about one year.
- The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has allocated \$100,000 for Estero to develop a **Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**. The tentative start date is July 1, 2018. This project should take about eight months to complete.
- The Village also will be developing a **Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan**. This plan will inventory existing parks, identify a long-range vision, establish needs and priorities and implement funding strategies and sources. After a consultant is selected, it will take 6-9 months for the plan to be completed. Public participation will be part of this process.
- Council member Batos, Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn and Lee County MPO Director Don Scott went to Tallahassee and were successful in having the Greenways and Trails Council change maps for the **SUN Trail** to include the Bonita/Estero trail which would run along the CSX/Seminole Gulf railroad right-of-way through Estero and Bonita Springs. The Greenways council and staff were impressed by the enormous amount of communications from Estero and Bonita residents, which was instrumental in getting this trail reinstated to priority status.
- There will be public hearings coming in the next few months about **air traffic patterns** over Estero under study by Southwest Florida International Airport and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- Council member Batos has been working with Congressman Rooney to make one zip code for all of Estero, but this effort was again unsuccessful. He will try again next legislative session.
- Council member Batos is the Village Council liaison to the School District of Lee County and has been working on a cooperative agreement. He urged Estero residents to volunteer at local schools, which enhances our quality of life and increases Estero's property values.

Village of Estero 3rd Anniversary Celebration – Chairman Rev. Nolen Rollins

The Village of Estero Third Anniversary Celebration will be at Estero Community Park on March 16 from 6-9 p.m. This includes a free outdoor concert featuring Southwest Florida entertainers Billy Dean & Dawn. There will be kids' activities, music, dancing and local food vendors.



Mine Blasting Report - Bob King

- A Bella Terra resident investigated how rock mine blasting is controlled and found the State Fire Marshal is the controlling agency.
- A meeting was held at Bella Terra regarding the noise and vibrations residents were experiencing related to blasting at the nearby Youngquist Bros. Mine. Representatives of the mine were present to answer questions.

- More information and procedures for anyone seeking compensation for losses can be found on the ECCL website at <http://esterotoday.com/is-rock-mine-blasting-damaging-your-home>

Health Committee- Don Eslick & Lowell Gerson

- Lee Health is making a longterm investment in Estero. The Coconut Point facility opens in November 2018. It will be a 163,000-square-foot wellness destination with 24/7 emergency care. It also will be home to the Healthy Life Center, currently located in Coconut Point Mall.
- This fall, Lee Health purchased an additional 40 acres west of U.S. 41 and north of Coconut Road across from Coconut Point Mall. Lee Health will begin considering options for this property's use after Lee Health Coconut Point is in operation and demand for services is assessed throughout the planning process. Lee Health will solicit comments from the community. The ECCL Health Committee will be heavily involved in this effort.
- A virtual tour of the Lee Health Coconut Point facility may be viewed at www.tinyurl.com/LHCoconutPoint.
- Lowell Gerson is the new chairman of the ECCL Health Committee.
- *The next Steering Committee meeting will be Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. at Copperleaf Golf Club.*



Economic Outreach Council - Jim Gilmartin

- Jim Gilmartin is the new chairman of the Economic Outreach Council (EOC), formerly the Estero Economic Excellence Outreach Council.
- The council assists in recruiting mentors for FGCU's Institute for Entrepreneurship and Junior Achievement of SWFL.
- Members of the EOC's steering committee have each taken the responsibility to partner with one or more programs at FGCU and Lee County Schools.
- An ECCL marketing plan will encourage potential Estero community mentors to enhance their personal legacy by giving back through one of the programs supported by the ECCL.
- *The next EOC meeting will be Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.*

Transportation Report - Bob King

- Lee County has not yet released results of the **AIM Engineering study on Corkscrew Road** identifying road improvement costs and proportionate share costs for new residential communities east of Estero's boundary.
- ECCL Transportation Chair Bob King urged ECCL members to attend public meetings of the Lee County **MPO Citizens Advisory Committee**. This committee gives input on the Long-Range Transportation Plan and its amendments. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. at the City of Cape Coral Public Works Building, 815 Nicholas Parkway East.

Environmental Report - Pete Cangialosi

- **Old Corkscrew Plantation Mine** application goes before Lee County's Zoning Hearing Examiner tentatively on March 14. The Hearing Examiner will recommend to the Lee County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) whether to approve this zoning request. Those wanting to speak later before the BOCC regarding this issue must first speak before the Hearing Examiner.
- Representatives of **Troyer Brothers Mine** agreed with the County to a Comprehensive Plan amendment extension until Dec 3, 2018. Their zoning application has not yet been found sufficient.
- Those interested in participating with the group **eYes On Conservation 20/20** — advocating for more conservation land purchases by the county — are invited to the group's next meeting on Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. Several members of the ECCL's Environmental Committee are active participants.
- *The next Environmental Committee Meeting will be Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.*

Impact Fees - Don Eslick

- 15 people testified before the BOCC on Feb. 6 for impact fees to be raised to 100 percent.
- Lee County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is short term and ignores the long-term needs identified by the MPO.
- In 2015, the MPO identified \$2.1 billion in long-term needs. With full impact fees, GIF funds and gasoline taxes, there will still be a deficit of \$850 million.
- Upcoming hearings: Feb. 20 and March 6. The public is invited to attend and testify.

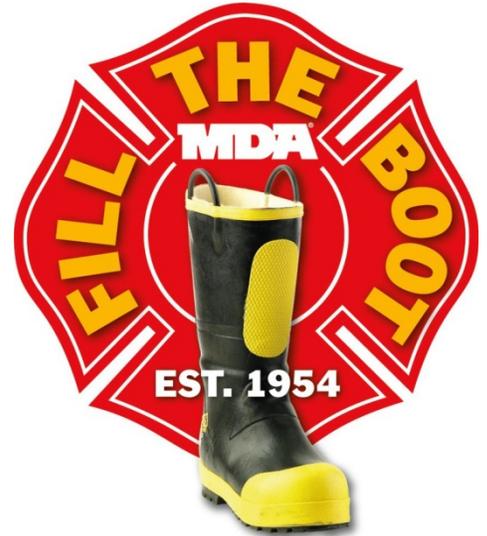


Community Development - Jim Tatoes

There is a new buyer in town. The Village of Estero is evaluating parks and vacant properties for purchase for recreational or conservation uses. The Village is also working with the Lee County School Board to coordinate school locations and recreational facilities for dual use by students and Estero residents.

Estero Fire Rescue District - Chief Scott Vanderbrook

- Estero and San Carlos Fire Districts will be participating in the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Boot Drive March 9-11.
- Fire District impact fee costs have increased by 78 percent since they were last studied by Duncan and Associates in 2012. Currently, San Carlos, Bonita Springs and Estero have three different rates.
- Three new hires are expected in the March/April timeframe. They will work 12-hour shifts from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in a 42 hour work week that will increase manpower during the day when most calls are received.
- Chief Vanderbrook reminded everyone to yield to emergency vehicles.
- Estero Fire's call volume was up about 11 percent over last year in January.



San Carlos Park Fire District – Alexis Rothring

- Firefighters will be conducting annual hydrant maintenance over the next couple of months. This ensures proper functioning and compliance with ISO rating (used for determining insurance rates).
- San Carlos Park Fire District raised \$12,259 in the 2017 MDA Boot Drive and hopes to raise much more this year (March 9-11).
- San Carlos Park Fire Marshal Steve Lennon has been selected to be the Southwest Florida Regional Director for the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association.
- San Carlos Park Fire District ran 418 fire and rescue calls in January 2018.

Finance Report - Bob Lienesch

To date, 27 of the ECCL's 32 dues-paying communities have paid their 2018 dues. The other five communities' representatives have been emailed to request their assistance in collecting the unpaid amounts, which were due January 31.

For January, we received dues payments totaling about \$3,950 and paid normal operating expenses of \$1,591. As a result, we realized a small surplus (\$2,360), as we normally do early in the year as annual dues are collected. We finished January with \$18,940 in the bank.