



ESTERO COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY LEADERS

ECCL Report: September 2018

Executive Summary: 175th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders



Village Report: The Final Budget Hearing for the 2018-2019 Budget, including Millage Rate Vote, takes place on September 20. The proposed millage rate is .775, which is the third reduction in 3 years. Estero's CIP will amount to \$128 million over the next 5 years. This includes the proposed purchase of the "Estero on the River" property on Corkscrew & 41.

Bike Ped Master Plan: Jacobs Engineering is conducting an 8-month long study to create a

Bike Ped Master Plan for Estero. The plan will identify existing gaps in sidewalks and paths, the best locations for new trails, both on-street and off-street, and improvements to current trails. Stay tuned for various public engagement opportunities, including a Project Advisory Committee and Public Workshops.

Lee Health Coconut Point: Lee Health is hosting presentations in Estero communities to provide residents with information on the services the Coconut Point facility will provide and answer questions. To host a public presentation, please contact Ben Hayden, (239) 343-8365, or Molly Grubbs, (239) 343-8399.

"Estero on the River" Property Acquisition: The Village is considering purchasing the "Estero on the River" property across from Koreshan State Park near Corkscrew Road & US 41. Purchasing the property will help protect and preserve Estero River as well as provide an outdoor public, shared space with a Village Center and recreation opportunities. On September 20, the Village Council voted unanimously to purchase the property.

Estero / Lee County CIP & Budget: The County's Public Hearing and Budget Adoption is September 18 at 5:05pm. County has moved the widening of Corkscrew Road to a Tier I, funded project and has allocated over \$40 million for its design and four-laning over the next 5 years.

Safe Community Designation: ECCL's Health Committee is working to have Estero designated as a "Safe Community" both nationally and internationally.

Corkscrew Crossing: Corkscrew Crossing's Planning & Zoning Board meeting has been tentatively rescheduled from September 18 to October 16.

Estero Educational Outreach: The Educational Outreach Council (EOC) has recruited 76 out of 80 volunteers needed for the Junior Achievement program. They've also created an online application for volunteers for the Lee County Schools and currently have 18 applications. The EOC has a continuing need for volunteers, so please consider signing up.

The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, October 12, 2018 at 10:00am at Estero Community Park.

ESTERO FIRE RESCUE

- Fire Chief *Scott Vanderbrook*

- While watching Hurricane Florence, don't forget about **Hurricane Isaac!** Some of the projections show it coming up into the Gulf and we could get some weather from that. We're a long way away from the end of our hurricane season.
 - Hurricanes can be tracked through NOAA or the Weather Channel.
- The **Estero Fire Rescue (EFR) budget** was set on Wednesday, September 12. They had their first public hearing and the budget was presented to the commissioners with a millage rate of 2.13. The second hearing will be next week.
- The **Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial** is coming up October 12 in Ocala, FL. Over the history of EFR, there have been two Estero firefighters who've died in the line of duty.
- EFR purchased and paid for the **new engine** that they were requesting. They received a 2% prepay discount. It will be about 8-10 months before they receive the engine.
- Chief Vanderbrook met with Councilman Nick Batos to discuss how the fire districts are going to help with the **Joint Educational Task Force**. EFR is already in Estero High School & Pinewoods, but they're looking at additional things they can do to volunteer.
- EFR will be doing a **Community Risk Assessment** this year. This is due to the massive amount of growth that's been going on. The assessment looks at the Village and the Estero fire district to ensure we have the proper resources through prevention, public education, emergency operations, and EMS to keep up with the high-density growth. That will hopefully be done in about 8 months.



VILLAGE REPORT

- Mayor *Jim Boesch*

- **2018-2019 Budget Workshop**
 - The budget has been through two phases so far.
 - Second budget meeting is Thursday, September 20 at 5:30pm.
 - The Council will vote on the budget.
 - By state requirements, the Council must have 3 meetings. Two have already been conducted.

- **Budget Calendar**
 - September 5 at 5:30pm: Tentative Budget Hearing including Millage Rate Vote
 - Tentative Millage Rate: 0 .7798
 - September 20 at 5:30pm: Final Budget Hearing including Millage Rate Vote
 - Final millage rate can go down, not up.
 - Proposed Millage Rate: 0.775 (3rd reduction)
- **Reserves**
 - The Land Development Plan (LDP) will amount to a lot of objections, especially from attorneys, as the LDP will be stricter than others. This means we have to be prepared – that’s why we have the reserves.
 - Reserves equal to 10 months operating expenditures have been allocated
 - Litigation Defense Reserves of \$670,000 have been appropriated
- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**
 - Capital Improvement Program will amount to \$128 million that Estero will be spending in the next 5 years
 - \$77-78 million will come from Estero and the rest will come from County & State contributions
- **2018-2019 Capital Projects**
 - Estero Parkway Improvements
 - Williams Road at Walgreens Improvements
 - Williams Road Estero High School Turn Lanes
 - Corkscrew Road Landscape Enhancements
 - Estero Monument Signs & Branding
 - Trailside & Poinciana Resurfacing
 - US-41 Monument Signs
 - Three Oaks Parkway Monument Signs
 - US-41 Median Landscaping
 - Purchase of “Estero on the River” property at Corkscrew Road & US 41
- **“Estero on the River” Property: Corkscrew Road and & US 41**
 - Formerly known as the “College of Life” property
 - Estero is lacking in parks & green space, so it has made a commitment to purchasing properties and this property has come up
 - The Estero River flows through this property
 - If a developer buys the property, it will likely be fully developed, not protecting the river
 - The only alternative is for the Village to buy the land
 - Estero does not intend to own the entire 62 acres and wants to find businesses to purchase some of the property
 - Estero wants to retain 25% of the property (the part that’s along the river)



- Separately, the Happehatchee property ownership is currently in negotiations with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida regarding future ownership of the property
- At the September 5 Village Workshop, there was an unanimous consensus from the Village Council that the Village should purchase the property
- Learn more about the budget and upcoming projects on the Village’s website: <https://estero-fl.gov>

ANNOUNCEMENTS & FEEDBACK

- **Bella Terra Resident:** The Bella Terra community has been negotiating without success with the Community’s developer over the development of the 12-acre commercial property near the entrance to the community. The controversy has now been resolved as 70% of the residents have voted to enter into an agreement with the developer to purchase the land. They’re in the process of closing that right now. They’re hoping that they can use this area to create an emergency exit out of Bella Terra as they currently only have one exit.

BIKE PED MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW & PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

- *Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering*

- **Bike Ped Master Plan Intro**
 - This is a \$100,000 program being funded by the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
 - Jacobs Engineering (JE) was selected to develop Estero’s Bike Ped Master Plan
 - Estero has not had a plan before that only addressed safety for biking & walking
 - JE was given the go-ahead by the MPO to proceed last week and have a kick-off meeting next week with the MPO and Village staff
 - JE will establish a Project Advisory Committee that will meet frequently throughout the 8-month long study
 - Will be finished around April/Spring 2019
- **Jacobs Engineering Experience**
 - JE has had experience with these plans in different SWFL communities and recently completed similar plans for Cape Coral and Fort Myers Beach
 - They did a feasibility study to extend the JYLP Trail in Fort Myers
- **What Will the Plan Include?**
 - Plan will show what’s possible as far as creating new trails, both on-street and off-street, and different improvements



- Part of JE's scope is to work with the County while developing Corkscrew Rd for any additional possibilities
- JE wants its plan to be realistic & implementable
- JE has been directed to develop a list of priorities that would be considered for funding (local, state, or federal) with cost estimates
 - This will make it easier to attain State & Federal grant opportunities
- **Public Engagement Opportunities**
 - *Project Advisory Committee*
 - To be comprised of different community leaders
 - About a dozen people
 - Will include people from education, law enforcement, community advocates, etc.
 - Committee will monitor progress and give recommendations
 - *WikiMap*
 - Online social media tool; very interactive
 - JE has used it before in Charlotte County with about 500 people responding
 - In Cape Coral, several thousand people commented about problem spots and other items to consider
 - There will be a link to WikiMap on the Village website and possibly the MPO website
 - Will go online around the first part of November & stay up through study
 - *2 Public Workshops Identified*
 - First in November; second in February or March
 - *Other Opportunities*
 - Return visits to the ECCL
 - MPO/Village websites
 - Any relevant media opportunities

LEE HEALTH COCONUT POINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

- Lee Health Community & Business Relations *Ben Hayden*

- Lee Health Coconut Point is opening in December 2018
- Ahead of that, Lee Health has been going to different communities and giving presentations to residents on what the facility will do and answering questions
- **Host a Public Presentation About Lee Health Coconut Point in Your Community**
 - Have Alex Greenwood (Lee Health CP's VP) come to your community and give a presentation on the progress of facility



- Find out about the new free-standing emergency department which will be open 24/7, the outpatient surgery center with examination rooms, observation beds, the rehabilitation center, and medical officers for primary care physicians and specialists and much more!
- **To arrange, contact:**
 - Ben Hayden, (239) 343-8365
 - Molly Grubbs, (239) 343-8399
- Learn more about the Lee Health Coconut Point facility at Lee Health’s website: <https://www.leehealth.org/coconut-point>

VILLAGE ACQUISITION OF THE “ESTERO ON THE RIVER” PROPERTY

- *Jim Tatoes & Don Eslick*

- **Estero on the River Location**
 - Located in the heart of the Village of Estero, near Corkscrew Rd & US 41
 - Koreshan State Park is across US 41 from this property
 - The Estero River flows directly through the property
- **Estero on the River: How does this fit with our new Comprehensive Plan?**
 - Master long range vision of Estero land use
 - Village Center planning concept
 - Parks & Rec, long range vision
 - River accessibility
 - Expansion of trails in area
 - Ties into Koreshan Park
 - Ties into Boomer and related properties
 - Environmental concerns
 - Financing scheme – Estero Life
 - Destination City vision
 - Build on Lee Medical Facility
 - Lee Future land use
 - National Master Land Use City Plan to tie everything in Estero together
- **Financing Options**
 - *Option A:* Default option, 30-year payoff
 - Down Payment: \$4 million
 - Annual Payment: \$1.6 million
 - *Option B:* Early payoff option, 7-year payoff
 - Down Payment: \$4 million + \$5 million prepayment = \$9 million total
 - Annual Payment: \$1.6 million + \$1.1 million prepayment = \$2.7 million
 - *Both Options:* Protect current Village reserve, capital improvement, operating expenditure, and disaster response funds
- **Potential Property Uses**
 - Mixed Use Development Opportunity, 30.85 acres



- Civic Use Opportunity, 23.00 acres
- Conservation Opportunity, 8.90 acres
- *Vision*
 - Private development to the north
 - Public access to the Estero River
 - Village Center
 - Connected to Koreshan State Park
 - Walking & bike paths
 - Reduced cost to the Village of Estero
 - Village Center and recreation opportunities on much of the property
 - Opportunity to create public, shared space

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- *Bob King*

- **Village of Estero Capital Improvement Plan & Budget**

- Final Public Input, followed by CIP & Budget Adoption
September 20 at 5:30pm



- **Village Budget & CIP**

- Transportation Projects: \$11,009,020
- Land Acquisitions: \$26,000,000
- Estero Parkway is highest priority transportation project
 - Design phase progressing
 - Next public project review not yet scheduled
- Council voted not to increase millage rate

- **County Capital Improvement Plan**

- Public Hearing, followed by Budget Adoption: September 18 at 5:05pm
- Proposed Total Budget (FY 18-19): \$125,472,385
- DOT Portion (FY 18-19): \$31,993,457
- Corkscrew Road Portion (FY 18-19): \$4.7 million
- 6 Year Project Total: \$40,450,000

- **Corkscrew Road Widening Schedule**

TASK	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24
DESIGN	\$4.7M					
R O W PURCHASE		\$1.05M				
PHASE 1 CONST			\$17.4M			
PHASE 2 CONST					\$17.3M	
TOTAL PROJECT	\$40,450,000					

- **County Traffic Study**

- <https://www.leegov.com/corkscrew>

- *Task 6: Transportation Improvement Cost Estimates (Coming Soon)*
 - Cost estimates are still not available
 - The vendor, AIM Engineering, has provided some information to the County that is being reviewed by staff and the developers
 - Some amendments will likely be sent back to AIM to adjust their report
- *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.*



- **Status of the Four Developments on Corkscrew**

- *The Place at Corkscrew*
 - Comp plan amendment complete
 - Zoning approved for 1,325 units
 - Residential construction started
 - Over 200 building permits issued
- *WildBlue*
 - Comp plan amendment complete
 - Zoning approved for 1,000 units
 - Infrastructure being constructed
 - 400 building permits requested, not issued
- *Verdana*
 - 1,425 units
 - Comp plan amendment in progress
 - Zoning is in process
- *Pepperland Ranch*
 - 700 units
 - Comp plan amendment approved
 - Zoning has not been submitted

- *The next Transportation Committee Meeting is Thursday, September 20 at 9:30am at Fine Mark Bank.*

HEALTH COMMITTEE

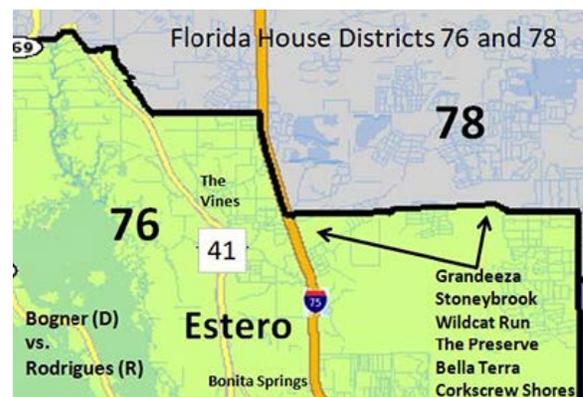
- Lowell Gerson

- **Geriatric Emergency Department: 4 Basic Elements**
 - *Design:* Facility must be designed to be friendly for older people (lighting, signage, floors, railings, etc.)
 - Lee Health's emergency department will have examination rooms and recliner chairs
 - *Process:* Processes will involve more screening (like fall prevention screening) and more communication within departments and other services
 - *Education:* Doctors and staff need to be educated on geriatric-specific health issues and developments
 - *Community Connection:* Older people need planning to ensure they don't have to go back
- **Safe Community Designation**
 - Going forward with getting Estero designated as a "Safe Community"
 - There's an international organization (International Safe Communities) and national organization (part of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network)
 - Recognizes communities that made a commitment
 - Accident/injury prevention program
 - Traffic safety
 - Safe recreational facilities
 - *Benefits*
 - Reduce injuries
 - Reduce health care costs
 - Improve quality of life
 - Marketing
- *The next Steering Committee Meeting is Friday, September 21 at 2:30pm 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>

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

- Pete Cangialosi

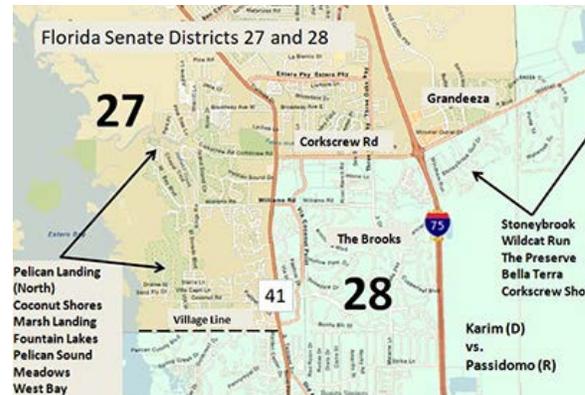
- **Florida House District 76**
(see image on right)
 - Includes the gated communities south of Corkscrew Road east of I-75, Grandeeza, and gated communities west of I-75 north to The Vines. Candidates in District 76 shown in green are David Bogner (D) and Ray Rodrigues (R).



- **Florida Senate Districts 27 & 28**

(see image on right)

- Includes the gated communities south of Corkscrew Road east of US 41 and then south of the Estero/Bonita Springs line west of US 41. Candidates in Senate District 28 shown in light blue are Annisa Karim (D) and Kathleen Passidomo (R).



- There is no State Senate election this year in Senate District 27.

- **Argo, Corkscrew Crossing (East Corkscrew Road between Wildcat Run and The Preserve at Corkscrew)**

- Proposed 625 Residential Units
- 396 Acres Total
- 178 Acres Developed
- 178 Acres of Wetlands Filled
- 218 Acres Preserved
- Goes before the Estero Planning and Zoning Board: October 16, tentatively

- Learn more about Estero-area 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 Initiatives for 2018/2019:**

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

- **Junior Achievement: JA Ambassador Update**

- EOC has recruited and trained 76 JA ambassadors who will teach the "2-5-8-Graduate Program" both Fall & Spring terms at Estero-area schools
 - 52% of volunteers are year-round residents
 - Volunteers are from a variety of businesses and communities
- Schools include: Pinewoods Elementary, Three Oaks Elementary, Three Oaks Middle, & Estero High School
- All four Principals and School Board staff are pleased with the program plans
- Learn how you can help at the ECCL's website: <https://esterotoday.com/junior-achievement-program-seeking-volunteers>

- **Lee County Schools: Volunteer Recruitment Update**

- In collaboration with Councilman Nick Batos, the EOC has developed online applications for volunteers for the Lee County Schools

- The ECCL website effort assures volunteer program prominence and ease of the online application process
- The past two emails have been quite productive:
 - We currently have 18 applications to be ambassadors in Lee County
 - All of the applications are being processed and we are contacting all of the applicants
 - We will send another email blast next week and again in early October
- **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.
- **Continuing Need for Volunteers**
 - The EOC is committed to assure that our students are well-prepared to enter the workforce.
 - You are invited to join the many volunteers that give their time and talents to our Estero community.
 - To provide additional educational resources to students, teachers, and other staff members
 - Invest in the lives and future careers of our Estero youth
 - A variety of opportunities are now available including tutors, mentors, and many others
 - Volunteer online at <https://esterotoday.com/education-outreach-council/eoc-school-volunteer-application>
 - Or contact Kevin Tolliver, EOC Liaison to Lee County Schools
kptolliver1@gmail.com | (317) 752-3486
- Learn more about the EOC at the ECCL's website: <https://esterotoday.com/education-outreach-council>



FINANCIAL REPORT

- Don Eslick

- Almost all of the revenue that comes into the ECCL is from the annual member dues. So, at this time of year, there is no income except for the \$1 of interest.
- Expenses for the month of August came in at \$1,360. This included internet communications, media, PR, and visual communications.
- Excess of expenses over income for August are \$1,359 and excess of expenses over income for 2018 are \$6,738.
- The ECCL's cash balance as of August 31, 2018 is \$9,842.
- For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/reports/meetings-minutes>



[[Watch the whole September 14th meeting here.](#)]