



A CIVIC ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

ECCL Report: August 9th, 2019

186th meeting of the ECCL



- **Education Council:** Our own Jim Shields, an active member of the Education Council, and a big supporter of helping our kids achieve greatness, was recognized Thursday, 8 Aug 2019, as the Lee County Junior Achievement Volunteer of the year for the period July 2018 to June 2019. We are proud of Jim and his efforts to make Estero a great place to live, work, and enjoy. Please congratulate him when you see him.
- **Estero Fire Rescue Community Access:** The Chief reminded all that as the communities get older, the trees encroach on the roads. There is a requirement for 13 feet, 6 inches clearance for emergency vehicles. As the Assistant Chief Fire Inspector tours communities, they are sending letters to ask communities to trim their trees.

The next ECCL meeting will be **Friday, Sep 13, 2019** at 10:00am at the South County Regional Library.

WELCOME

- First time attendees included residents from Sea Isles, Bonita Springs who are interested in what we do.

SAN CARLOS PARK FIRE RESCUE(SCPFR)

- *Alexis Rothing*, San Carlos Park Fire Rescue

- **School in Session on Monday** – Firefighters and staff will be stationed around local schools to raise awareness for drivers to slow down and be alert around schools as Lee County schools begin the school year next week. Tag line – Slow down, Eyes up!!
- **FGCU Student Move In** – Be aware as the students move in there are many drivers unaware of the area.
- **Classes Offered** – Contact SCPFR for CPR and other classes
- **New Fire Station** – Going thru zoning process and expected open late 2020
- **Call Volumes** – 299 calls in July 2019, an increase of 5.6%

ESTERO FIRE RESCUE(EFR)

- *Chief Vanderbrook*, Estero Fire Rescue

- **Emergency Vehicle Access** –Reminder to trim trees on community roadways for emergency vehicle access.
- **Budget Meetings and Hearing** – The first budget hearing is scheduled for 5 Sep 2019, and the final budget hearing is scheduled for 24 Sep 2019. The regular EFR Board meeting is cancelled for September.
- **Classes Offered** – Contact EFR for CPR and other classes.
- **Station 45 (East Corkscrew)** – Working thru the zoning process. The stations planned opening in 3 years.

VILLAGE REPORT

- *Councilman Jim Boesch*

- Estero Parkway refurbish to start Sep 2019 and last 1 year.
- Lane paving is scheduled for nighttime hours should not affect traffic flow. The landscape plan has been completed with irrigation water supplied from on-site wells.
- US 41 median landscape to start Sep 2019 and last 6 months.
- Williams Rd improvements at Walgreens are contained in the 2019-2020 CIP.
- Estero Forever (Chamber of Commerce, ECCL, Village) Fund (501c3) is now established. The purpose is to help the Village with projects.
- Lee County Conservation 2020 property Edison Farms. The Village is working with Lee County and the city of Bonita Springs to create a “Friends of Edison Farms” 501c3 for improvements and access. A question was asked where the access will be off Corkscrew Rd.

- The Village is working to conserve 200 feet on both sides of the Estero on the recently purchased 62-acre Estero on the River parcel. Long term they envision a tunnel under US 41 along the Estero river to access Koreshan State Park and to the Village owned property.
- The Estero river has silt buildup and the Village is looking to work with Koreshan State Park to help remove the silt. In many stretches of the river the depth is less than 6 feet. The long-term plan is to offer boat shuttle services from Koreshan State Park to Lovers Key State Park.
- *Learn more about what's happening with the Village Council on their website:*
<https://estero-fl.gov>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Village of Estero Veterans Day Celebration** – Save the Date – 9 Nov 2019, Estero Rec Center.
- **Don Eslick Retirement Party** - Retirement party is scheduled for November 16, 2019, 6-9pm, at Shadow Wood Country Club. The Planning Committee, chaired by Linda Tecco-Roach, is looking for Corporate and Individual Sponsorships. Forms available. A request was sent to communities asking for a donation to help defray costs. Stay tuned, more info to come.
- **2020 Census is starting now**

COMMUNITY INPUT

- A resident, from the Residences at Coconut Point, identified a concern with traffic and pedestrian safety near the Tommy Bahama restaurant in Coconut Point mall. He will work with the transportation council chair and Village Councilman Nick Batos to address.
- A resident of West Bay is concerned about the US 41 and Williams Rd intersection, including the strip mall entrance near Walgreens. He was told there is a project in the Village 2020 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address this issue.
- A Pelican Sound resident was concerned about the residents of Covered Wagon mobile home park crossing US 41 to get to the Publix shopping center. He asked if there was any plan to install a pedestrian bridge. The general consensus was no, as the Village wants the pedestrians to walk to the traffic light at Corkscrew and cross there.

GUEST SPEAKER

- *Mike Amabile, Vice Principle, Estero High School*

- **Estero High School** – Great students. School was built in 1987. Had success last year with Junior Achievement (JA) and has a plan for Financial Literacy and Career Success for 11th graders this school year. School starts Monday, 12 Aug 2019. Be careful as some buses start as early as 5:30am. For the 2nd year they are offering American Sign Language (ASL) as a language art. 23 August is the first home football game.
- **Successes and Upgrades** – Teacher retention is at all time high as there are only 3 new teachers. A new state of the art track was installed, and new track equipment purchased.

Over the summer safety equipment was installed - new camera system, and egress gates. Additional security provided by 2 full time Lee County Sherriff deputies (SRO). Their auditorium is state of the art and can be rented out after school hours.

- **His one wish** – Find a way for the community to recognize and reward teachers. This helps retain the teachers.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM (EMT)

- *Don Eslick*

- **Filling the ECCL Board** –
 - The Board will be composed of nine (9) voting members, qualifications include:
 - Experience on community boards
 - Commitment to civic engagement
 - Willingness to support and sustain the work of ECCL
 - Providing governance leadership
 - Willingness and ability to engage in, and support advocacy fundraising
 - No requirement to be an Estero Resident
 - Recognize diversity
 - Current Board Members are:
 - Don Eslick, Jim Shields, Bob Lienesch, Joe Pavich, Sr, Chris Simoneau
 - Current Board members will approve other 4 board members
 - Member nominations for the BOD are strongly encouraged. Members should send nominations to the following:
 - Don Eslick - doneslick239@gmail.com
- **Speakers Panel** – The Speakers panel – nonpartisan – is reforming under the leadership of Judy Freedman. If anyone is interested, please contact Judy at judithannfreedman@gmail.com

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT COUNCIL - Chair, *Mark Novitski, Acting*

- **Council forming** – If interested contact mark: ecclsecretary@gmail.com
- Next meeting: Monday, Aug 19th, 4pm, Lee County South Library (Three Oaks)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL - Chair, *Jim Tatoes*

- **Lucky's Grocery** – No longer seeking Village approval for the store, originally planned for the small shopping center near Rapallo
- **Future Village Council meeting** - Burger King (Lowes shopping center, near Ruby Tuesday) and Corkscrew Crossing
- **P&Z Board meeting August 20th, 2019:** Please plan to attend
- **New Members Welcome** - Anyone interested in joining the Community Planning Committee should contact Jim at jetatoes@prodigy.net

EDUCATION COUNCIL - Chair, *Jeremy Jasper*

- **2018-2019 school year successes:** Estero Area schools Junior Achievement 2-5-8 Graduate Program involved over 300 classes, reached over 1,300 students, in Work Readiness, Career Success, Financial Literacy, and Entrepreneurship. Estero High School “11th grade JA Career Success” classes completed May 13-22, 2019. Pilot program will continue in school year 2019 – 2020. Adding Estero HS Personal Finance.
- **Additional Schools** – Discovery Day Academy and Athenian Academy
- **Need our help** – Schools and teachers need school supplies. We can also provide gift cards for teachers.
- **Recognizing our Own** – Jim Shields was recognized Thursday, 8 Aug 2019, as the Lee County Junior Achievement Volunteer of the year for the period July 2018 to June 2019. We are proud of Jim and his efforts to make Estero a great place to live, work, and enjoy. Please congratulate him when you see him.
- *Learn more about our education efforts on the ECCL website:*
<https://esterotoday.com/education>

ENVIORNMENTAL COUNCIL - Chair, *Derrick Botana*

- **Council Reforming** – If interested contact Derrick: derrick@bwboatclub.com
- **Non Partisan/Non Political** – Entire focus is make our slice of heaven the best place to live, work, and play.
- **Potential Effort** – Become the first city in Lee County to ban plastic bags. Could be some challenges.
- **Lee County BoCC Meeting** – At the Zoning / Comp Plan Hearings on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 from 9:30 AM.
 - **Lee County Comp Plan, Troyer Brothers Mine** rezoning will be discussed and decided. We ask that you attend this important meeting and let the BoCC know your thoughts.
- **Next Meeting:** TBD

HEATH COUNCIL - Chair, *Lowell Gerson*

- **Next Health Meeting:** Friday, 23 Aug 2019, 2:30pm, Lee Health Coconut Point
- *Learn more about the ECCL’s Health Council at the ECCL’s website:*
<https://esterotoday.com/health>

TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL - Chair, *Lou Frattarelli*

- **Weeks Fish Camp – Bayview by London Bay Homes** – It appears the developer will not recommend any changes to the proposed Marina to the City of Bonita Springs and it’s review committee after our survey results and all our comments
 - **Our Survey Results** were presented at June 5 Council Workshop. Public comment was favorable to our proposed comments.

- **Corkscrew Rd traffic** is increasing.
- **Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 15th 9:30 a.m., FineMark Bank Coconut Road

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Director *Barry Freedman*

- ECCL representatives are available to come to your community to discuss the ECCL's vision, structure and value of being a member.
- Please consider joining the **Membership Committee!** Contact Barry at ecclmshp@gmail.com.

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING REPORT - Finance Director *Larry Jones*

- **Summary Financial Report**
 - July ended with a total Income of \$2,235 and \$2,064 in expenses resulting in an excess of income over expenses of \$261 for the month
 - July 31 Cash Balance: \$10,341
- *For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website:*
<https://esterotoday.com/reports/>

ECCL ADVOCACY FOUNDATION (EAF) - Director *Jim Gilmartin*

- **August 2019** - Launched Donation Page, submitted Press Releases, sent an Email blast soliciting donations, and will continue with ongoing periodic email blasts.
- **October/November 2019** – We will introduce Charitable Gift Annuities through EAF. Promote small group gatherings to explain the financial benefits to donor and community. Southwest Florida Community Foundation will assist in these presentations.

COMMUNICATIONS - Director *Jim Gilmartin*

- **ECCL Website Improvements** - User friendly, more modern look, better organized, and easy to find content.
- **Email Database Growth Program – June 2019** - Approximate number of email addresses: 4000. **August 2019** - Estimated number of email addresses: 17,000 . A whopping 13,000 increase. Continuing efforts to increase email database. Influence increases as numbers increase.
- *Learn more about the ECCL website:* <https://esterotoday.com/>

**Please join us for the next ECCL meeting, Friday, Sept 13, 2019, 10:00am at
Lee County (South) Regional Library (Three Oaks)**