
GREATER ESTERO COMMUNITY REPORT

FIRST QUARTER - 2020

A Note from

Jim Gilmartin
ECCL President



JIM GILMARTIN

On behalf of all ECCL volunteers, we welcome you to the new Greater Estero Community Report. This newsletter replaces the past Estero Development Report and will be circulated, on a quarterly basis, to our special ECCL members, who have registered with us for news bulletins.

It is our goal to provide you with a **timely and comprehensive summary of key issues** affecting our community and details on advocacy initiatives undertaken, to sustain and enhance the quality of life for all residents in the greater Estero area.

Please feel free to forward your personal copy to friends and neighbors who share your interest in ECCL advocacy initiatives. Those wishing to receive subsequent copies directly can register with us at our ECCL website: <https://esterotoday.com>.



As we begin the new year, your ECCL has a full agenda of issues, on which we will advocate on your behalf with vigor and enthusiasm. Your help in confirming that we are addressing key issues is valuable to us and will assist our continued drive to prioritize our efforts.

Following your review, please contact us at the ECCL website and provide us with your comments, questions, and suggestions. As always, we invite your input and you can expect an individual response accordingly.

JANUARY SPOTLIGHT:



ON A MISSION TO PROTECT & PRESERVE OUR PARADISE

Comprised of dedicated, focused community volunteers, the ECCL team devotes their energy across six major issues impacting the greater Estero area. Naturally, one of these issues is the environment. The [Environment Council](#), chaired by Derrick Botana, aims to improve the environmental quality of our community by partnering with area businesses, community leaders and neighbors to work together to create a clean and safe place to live and work for future generations.

Derrick, third-generation son of the family-owned Bay Water Boat Club, has environmental concerns embedded in his DNA. As a result, the goals for this committee have depth, breadth, and a long-term vision for a cleaner, greener Estero.

“The environment affects all of us – it is non-partisan, and a crucial issue that we all share,” said Derrick. “I look forward to working with the existing committee members protecting our vanishing wild environment for future generations. This is also a great opportunity to bring the ECCL and Lee County’s leadership together to accomplish our mutual goals.”

Bringing people together over environmental concerns is a top priority for Derrick and his committee, recently demonstrated by their efforts to address the county’s proposed South County Public Facilities: A Solid Waste Transfer Station, Waste Water Treatment and Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off project on a parcel of land at the east Alico Road bend.

In a December 2 letter addressed to the senior engineer at Lee County Utilities, Derrick expressed the ECCL’s concerns regarding the proposed facility and its potential to negatively impact the residents of Estero, surrounding communities, and our local environment. The top areas for concern are:

- ☯ The proposed site is in the DR/GR, the county’s primary source for drinking water
- ☯ The proposed site is in the Panther Protection habitat

- ☯ The facility would potentially generate more than 500 additional truck trips on already busy roadways
- ☯ The proposed site is adjacent to historic flow-ways, which form the headwaters of the Estero River

So where does this issue stand today? Two County Commissioners have verbally responded to Derrick that currently there are no plans to proceed with this facility in the Estero area and that there has not yet been a site selection for such a facility in the county. With advocacy and environmental sensitivity at the forefront, the ECCL is interested to learn more about alternative sites, proposed plan amendments, and a timeline. On behalf of the ECCL and Estero residents, Derrick is grateful that the doors of communication are open as the ECCL closely monitors this project to see what the future holds.



ON THE HORIZON

According to Derrick, there is much more to come to transform Estero into a “green zone” – a sustainable, eco-friendly community. In the works are plans to offer initiatives to area businesses who are taking steps to protect our environment, initiatives for shoppers to bring their own bags, to become more educated on native plantings and other volunteer measures to keep our paradise beautiful.



DERRICK BOTANA

“I am excited about helping Estero to become a leader when it comes to the environment,” concludes Derrick. “We all need to reflect on what we can do as an individual or as a family – it’s the little things that can make a big difference in the long run. Most important is to have a positive outlook – we can do this together.”

Stay tuned for more news from the [Environment Council](#). Everything starts with grassroots!

A message from

Mark Novitski
Chief Operating Officer

Our plan for the Greater Estero Community Reports is to include details of key initiatives from selected ECCL *Advocacy Councils*. Details provided will include information about our activities, accomplishments, and other happenings in the greater Estero area. As always, your responses, questions, and suggestions are encouraged.



MARK NOVITSKI

Advocacy Councils provide support for ECCL activities affecting our quality of life and lifestyle in the greater Estero area. *The Councils* are comprised of volunteers from our community and include:

- Arts & Entertainment
- Community Development
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Transportation

If you have an interest in serving on one or more Councils please visit the ECCL website (<https://esterotoday.com/volunteer/>) and select your area(s) of interest. An *Advocacy Council* Chairperson will contact you.

TOPICAL TOPICS

As all six ECCL advisory councils gear up for 2020, here are two additional top of mind issues for your attention:

ACCESS TO LARRY KIKER PRESERVE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS EDISON FARMS)



While we are very excited about the potential this newly acquired preserve offers, we are concerned that current plans do not allow for access to this preserve. The planned access off Terry Road is too far for most Estero area residents. The best scenario would be for the Village to have access via Corkscrew Road to experience the beauty and nature offered by this preserve. The ECCL is encouraging efforts to potentially use the FPL power line right of way for access, assess parking needs near the trailheads, and requesting the Board of Commissioners to designate the

preserve as a sanctuary.

We will share more as soon as we know more!

TRUCK & CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC ON CORKSCREW ROAD



In a letter to the Lee County Board of Commissioners, Jim Gilmartin, ECCL's president, expressed the members' excitement about the final designs for the widening of Corkscrew Road phase I. ECCL, however, is concerned about increased truck and construction traffic occurring now on Corkscrew Road and reached out to enlist the county's help in encouraging the developers of Wild Blue to open their Alico Road entrance to alleviate some of the traffic.

The ECCL is grateful for open communication with our county's leadership, and for having a voice in the design process.

PLEASE JOIN US

Your ECCL volunteers are energetic and enthusiastic in their efforts to advocate for our community. But we can use your insights and would appreciate your feedback. Please complete a short, [3 question survey](#) to provide feedback on the GEGR. Better yet, also attend one or more of our meetings to keep apprised and to share your thoughts. Looking forward to working with you to appreciate and improve the beautiful Estero community we call home!

Click here to answer 3
questions about this
New Report