



GREATER ESTERO COMMUNITY REPORT

Second Quarter – 2021

A short time ago, the ECCL released an important document that outlined the organization's strategic plans for the next five years. If you have not yet seen this document, you can access it by [clicking here](#).

A key focus within the plan will be Safety, one of the six "pillars" or Councils that the ECCL focuses on for the benefit of residents in the greater Estero area.



The ECCL aims to increase community safety by identifying hidden hazards and fostering a sense of security and community pride, assuring safe neighborhoods and public spaces.

Promoting the concept of community-based action (neighborhood watch programs, diligent neighbors, "eyes-on-the-street") will enhance public safety and prevent and remedy the causes and consequences of physical danger and criminal and intimidating behavior.

For more specific details for each of the six Councils and their aims over the next five years, visit

<https://esterotoday.com/programs/>.

The second ECCL's Greater Estero Community Report (GECR) of 2021 focuses on three essential safety issues.

1. **Pedestrian safety** in the greater Estero area,
2. **Improved response time** from the Estero Fire Rescue team on East Corkscrew Road, and
3. **Hurricane safety** measures will provide new information and a checklist of issues to consider before entering the 2021 hurricane season.

Thank you for your continued support and comments.

SPOTLIGHT:



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

One of the strategic aims of the ECCL over the next 5 years will be to focus on improving the safety in the greater Estero area in conjunction with the Village Council and, where necessary, FDOT. In a series of articles that will cover safety concerning pedestrians, non-motorized and motorized vehicles, and school buses, the ECCL will point out various steps that residents can take and various initiatives that are being undertaken to minimize dangers in our overall community. The first article in this series addresses pedestrian safety.

Pedestrian Safety

Whether you are a concerned resident, a parent, or a caregiver, you want to do everything you can to make sure you, your loved ones, and your neighbors can enjoy walking safely in your community. The resources below will help you do just that. We offer pedestrians of all ages guidance on maintaining safety while enjoying the benefits of walking.



The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety> identifies the best practices for Pedestrian safety:

1. **Be predictable.** Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
2. Walk on **sidewalks** whenever they are available.
3. If there is no sidewalk, walk **facing traffic** and as far from traffic as possible.
4. Always **keep alert**, and don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
5. Whenever possible, **cross streets at crosswalks or intersections**, where drivers expect pedestrians. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
6. If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a **well-lit area** where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely; continue watching for traffic as you cross.
7. **Never assume** a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach to make sure you are seen.
8. **Be visible** at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.
9. Watch for cars **entering or exiting driveways** or backing up in parking lots.
10. **Avoid alcohol and drugs** when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.

Local Efforts

What the Village of Estero is working on to protect pedestrians:

1. Sidewalks and multiuse paths away from the roadway. Their efforts on Estero Parkway provide a safe and pleasant environment for pedestrians.
2. Turn lanes on Williams were installed, and the sidewalks moved to be away from the roadway
3. Corkscrew Road phase I widening will have multiuse paths far away from the busy Corkscrew Rd.
4. Pocket Parks are in the approved plans for new commercial areas that will allow pedestrians to stop, sit, rest, and relax away from the traffic in Estero.



5. Studying how to safely cross US41 near Corkscrew Rd and secondly near Coconut Point.
6. 2021 CIP contains Village of Estero Intersection Study for all primary intersections on US 41, concentrating on Pedestrian and Bicycle improvements.



While some Estero Communities have sidewalks on both sides of the street, and some have sidewalks on one side of the street, some communities do not have sidewalks on either side of the street. The Village of Estero Land Development Code was updated to require sidewalks on at least one side of the road in a residential community. There is no requirement to install sidewalks in developed communities.

*Prepared by Lou Frattarelli and Mark Ruset
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FEATURE:

Enhanced Fire Safety for the Greater Estero Area

(The article below has been provided by Estero Fire Rescue)

Estero sees explosive growth in the eastern section of the District. Estero Fire Rescue started working with the Cameratta Group several years ago to find a suitable location for a new fire station to service The Place development and future growth. The Cameratta Group was kind enough to donate five acres of land to Estero Fire Rescue for the new fire station.



The station will be located just east of The Place on the north side of Corkscrew Road. Currently, the closest station is approximately seven miles from the eastern communities, with long response times. Estero Fire Rescue is looking forward to having a presence and reducing response times for all citizens who choose to live in eastern Estero.

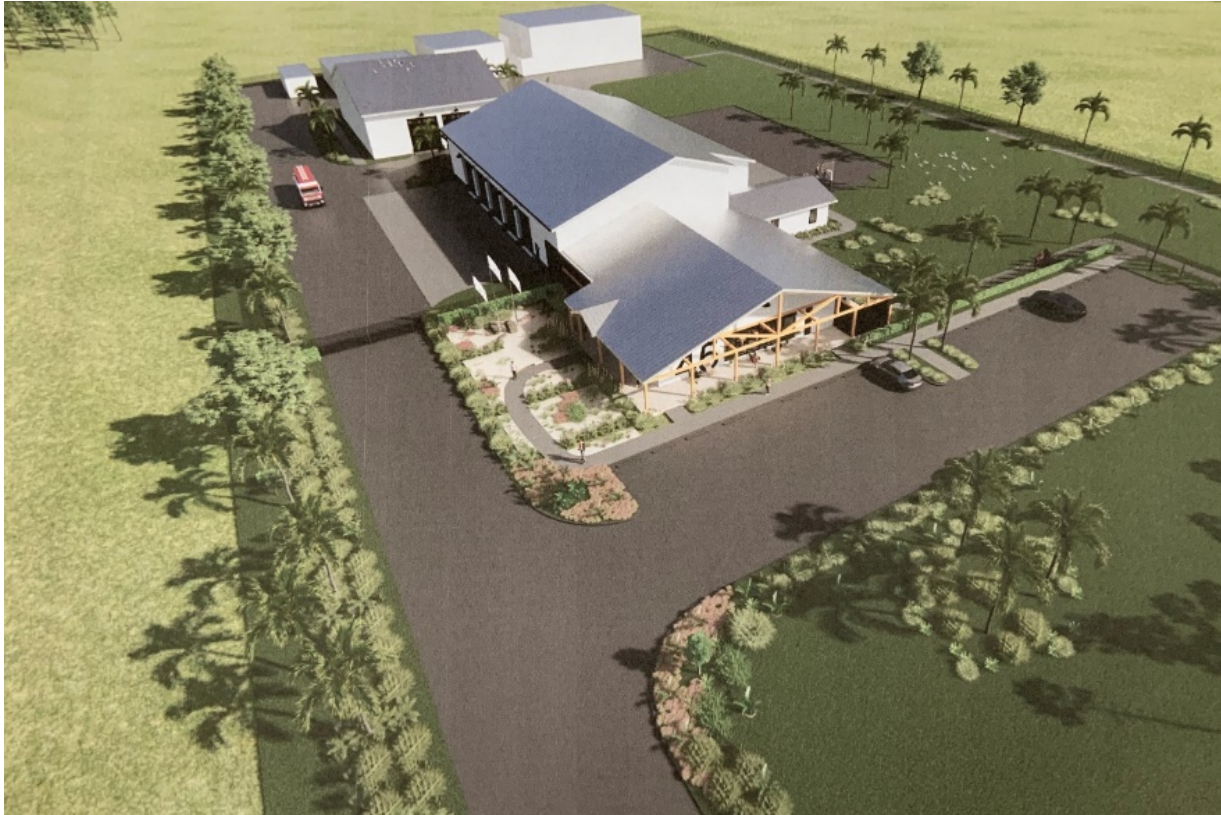
A great team has been assembled to make the station a reality. Schenkel/Shultz was hired as the architect, DeLisi Fitzgerald as the civil engineer, and EnviroStruct for construction management.



The station is being built for today's needs while keeping in mind future growth. The station will house an Advanced Life Support fire engine, Advanced Life Support ambulance, and a brush truck for wildland fires.

The facility will also be used for the storage of apparatus and personnel during hurricanes. During Hurricane Irma, we needed to evacuate our two fire stations located on US 41 and had no place to put the apparatus and personnel.

The living quarters include sleeping for seven firefighters, two EMS personnel, and shared showers/toilets.



Onsite training opportunities are a priority to the department and include a training room, mobile home, single-family home, two-story home, and a three-story training tower. Also included are standpipe connections, interior and exterior training openings of various sizes, and search and rescue smoke training.

Estero Fire Rescue thank all involved in the project to date and look forward to breaking ground in the fall of 2021 with an estimated completion date of fall of 2022 or spring of 2023.

The ECCL wishes to thank the Estero Fire Rescue for their excellent work and dedication to keeping all of us living in the greater Estero area as safe as humanly possible.



FEATURE:

Important Information to Assist you Ahead of 2021's Hurricane Season

1. Local Safety Improvements.

Some hurricane shelters in Southwest Florida will be getting significant upgrades to increase their ability to handle Category 5 storms, the most dangerous and potentially catastrophic hurricanes.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has awarded more than \$16 million in grants to improve Lee and Collier counties' buildings to increase their ability to withstand major hurricanes. The grants include funds to increase the "hardening" of two of the region's largest shelters so they can tolerate winds of 170 mph and more safely shelter some 7,000 people.

With winds over 157 mph, hurricanes are considered Category 5 storms, the most dangerous, by the widely cited Saffir-Simpson scale that rates storms by intensity. Improvements also include funds to make a trash-to-energy plant more capable of operating during a hurricane, improve disaster centers and disaster recovery efforts, and provide generators for sites with critical importance during a disaster.



The largest Southwest Florida grant, \$4.5 million, will be used to make improvements to Hertz Arena, which already had reinforcements made to its roof in 2019, prompted by Hurricane Irma in 2017.

"We have already done significant improvement out there after Irma, \$3.2 million worth of roof work to the main arena roof, and there are roofing that still needs to be upgraded," said Assistant Lee County Manager Glen Salyer. "It is our biggest shelter, with the potential for housing 5,000 people. We want to make it as secure as we possibly can. The upgrades at the privately-owned Hertz Arena are designed to withstand winds of 170 mph."

2. Plan Ahead.

The Insurance Information Institute¹ has provided the following information.

a. Know the Evacuation Routes

While you will undoubtedly get instructions from the local government, it is wise to create your evacuation plan well before a disaster strikes. This way, you can know about the nearest shelters ahead of time, take your pets into account in your plan, and make sure to take important papers.

b. Keep Non-Perishable Supplies on Hand

Get ahead of the rush having the following on hand:

- ✓ Extra batteries
- ✓ Candles or lamps with fuel
- ✓ Matches (keep these dry)

- ✓ Materials and tools for emergency home repairs—such as heavy plastic sheeting, plywood, a hammer, a wrench and other basic tools etc.
- ✓ Prescription drugs
- ✓ A three-day supply of drinking water
- ✓ Food that you do not have to refrigerate or cook
- ✓ First-aid supplies
- ✓ A portable NOAA weather radio
- ✓ A flashlight



If you need to evacuate, you should take these supplies with you!

c. Take an Inventory of Personal items

This will help ensure that you have purchased enough insurance to replace your possessions. It can also speed the claims process, substantiate losses for income tax purposes, and is helpful should you need to apply for disaster aid. Take it with you if you evacuate.

d. Review your Insurance cover: Consider flood insurance.

Keep in mind that your homeowner's insurance covers the cost of temporary repairs for hurricane damage, as well as reasonable additional living expenses (ALE) over and above your ordinary living expenses if you must relocate (such as the extra expense of getting to work or to school if your temporary home is in a different community). However, your homeowner's policy does not cover flood damage, so you may want to consider looking into flood insurance.

e. Protect your Home

Hurricane-force winds can turn landscaping materials into missiles that can break windows and doors. Much of the property damage associated with hurricanes occurs after the windstorm when rain enters structures through broken windows, doors, and openings in the roof.

- ✓ Replace gravel or rock landscaping materials with shredded bark, which is lighter and will not cause as much harm.
- ✓ Cut weak branches and trees that could fall on your house and keep shrubbery trimmed.



- ✓ Install storm shutters to protect your windows from breakage. Alternately, fit plywood panels to your windows, which can be nailed to window frames when a storm approaches.
- ✓ Make sure exterior doors are hurricane-proof and have at least three hinges and a deadbolt lock that is at least one-inch long.
- ✓ Sliding glass doors should be made of tempered glass and, during a storm, covered with shutters or plywood. These types of doors are more vulnerable to wind damage than most other doors.
- ✓ Replace old garage doors and tracks with a door approved for both wind pressure and impact protection.
- ✓ Seal outside wall openings such as vents, outdoor electrical outlets, garden hose bibs, and locations where cables or pipes go through the wall. Use a high-quality urethane-based caulk to prevent water penetration.
- ✓ If you live in a mobile home, make sure you know how to secure it against high winds and review your mobile home insurance policy.
- ✓ If you have a boat on a trailer, know how to anchor the trailer to the ground or house—and review your boat insurance policy.

3. Protect your Business.

Hurricanes take a toll on businesses, too, so be prepared.

- ✓ Create an emergency business response and continuity plan. In the event of a hurricane, this will help your business quickly recover.
- ✓ Keep contact information for employees, suppliers, and vendors current, so you can check on their wellbeing and communicate the next steps for resuming normal business operations.
- ✓ Review your business insurance policies to understand what is covered.

There is an excellent article on what to do if a hurricane threatens. If you keep this article for reference purposes, you can look at the following link if a hurricane is imminent. <https://www.iii.org/article/what-to-do-when-a-hurricane-threatens>

The ECCL wishes to ensure that everyone in the greater Estero area is kept as safe as possible. Safety is a crucial aspect of the ECCL's strategic plan for the next five years and beyond. We hope you find the information helpful.

4. Stay Informed.

In Estero, there are several options to keep abreast of the latest storm information, evacuation plans and available resources. Here are a few:

- ✓ Sign up for alerts through the Lee County *alertLee* program, which will give you access to County-wide and Estero-specific updates. <http://alertlee.com/>



- ✓ Follow the Village's dedicated Hurricane Preparation page (storm-specific pages will also be created). <https://estero-fl.gov/hurricane-season-june-1-november-30/>
- ✓ Subscribe to the Village's email updates program. <https://estero-fl.gov/subscribe-via-e-mail/>
- ✓ Follow the Village on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). "Village of Estero" & @EsteroVillage

References:

How to Prepare for Hurricane Season. The Insurance Information Institute.

<https://www.iii.org/article/preparing-hurricane>

Hertz Arena photo by Google Earth