

# ECCL Report: December 14, 2018

*Executive Summary: 178th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*



**Finance Committee:** In November, the ECCL received its first digital marketing income from their first client, Lee Health. Expenses were a bit higher than normal in the month, resulting in a small loss for November. Complete financial statements are linked to the agenda. Members should expect to receive invoices for dues in the near future.

**Strategic Planning Task Force:** The ECCL is now taking volunteers to join the new Strategic Planning Task Force that will assist in updating the mission, vision, and goals of the ECCL and each of its committees as well as establish standards of achievement for them. If interested, please contact Mark Novitski at [marker21101@gmail.com](mailto:marker21101@gmail.com) or (239) 250-9536.

**Education Outreach Council (EOC):** On December 4, the ECCL's EOC sponsored a celebration for over 100 Estero school teachers, administrators, and the volunteer Junior Achievement teacher ambassadors with complimentary snacks, soft drinks, wine, and beer provided by The Club at Grandezza. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Breaking Par at Grandezza is also coming up on March 21 with a Gala Dinner at 5:30pm and a live and silent auction followed by a Golf Tournament on the following day. All net proceeds will benefit Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida (K - 12) educational programs as well as being the predominant funding for JA's flagship program, CEO Academy at FGCU. To play, attend, sponsor, or volunteer, contact Stephanie Hoffman at [shoffman@jaswfl.org](mailto:shoffman@jaswfl.org) or call (239) 225-2590.

**Health Committee:** Lee Health Coconut Point is now open and the open house was a huge success with over 4,500 people coming out to support the new center. The American Heart Association's Heart Walk (scheduled for March 2) is now being planned as a Heart Health Fair. Beginning January 15, Estero residents are encouraged to participate in the Healthy Lee's Million-Mile Movement where people all over Lee County will try to create more movement through walking, swimming, running, and more. Lastly, the Estero Health and Wellness Fair, jointly sponsored by Lee County and Lee Health, is coming up on Saturday, January 26.

**Environmental Committee:** On December 17, the Lee County Local Planning Agency (LPA) will hold a meeting to review a County Comprehensive Plan proposal. The proposal would delete the existing Future Limerock Mine Overlay that limits mining in the DRGR area to properties along Alico Road and many other standards that protect the residents of the area as well as

impacts on our water quality and supply and threatened wildlife. This proposal will allow the mines to locate anywhere in the DRGR with no regard to the public.

**ECCL Board Committee Nominations and Voting:** ECCL Board nominations will be accepted through and during the meeting on Friday, January 11, 2019. If interested, please contact Linda Tecco-Roach at [LMTecco@gmail.com](mailto:LMTecco@gmail.com) or (239) 287-6343. Members will vote and elect the 2019 Board at the January 11, 2019 meeting.

**Village Report:** The Village's initial comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – that covers the funding of 21 projects over the next 5 years and 15 projects after that – has been approved. Estero's first truly Estero Comprehensive Plan was approved by the State of Florida but has been contested by one developer/property owner. A Storm Water Master Plan is being developed to better understand the water flows and flood prone areas within the Village. A consultant has been retained to help with the preparation of a Village-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Also, a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan has just commissioned by the Village. Finances for the Village this year have been excellent. The Village was able to reduce its property tax levy for the third year in a row. There are also many major developments in the works in the Village.

**Estero Fire Rescue:** Please check your smoke detectors and be sure they are working correctly. Also, please consider getting a carbon monoxide detector for your home.

The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, January 11 at 10:00am at Estero Community Park.

## ESTERO FIRE RESCUE

- Fire Chief *Scott Vanderbrook*

- Chief Vanderbrook just completed his 20<sup>th</sup> year with Estero. Thank you!
- **Property Update**
  - The Estero Fire Rescue (EFR) just purchased the 4.6 acres behind their administrative building and they are hoping to close on that January 9.
  - That property will be used for additional parking and covered parking for the expansion at the administration building.
- **EFR will be participating in the Heart Walk.**
  - It will take place at Lee Health Coconut Point on March 2.
- This month has been a deadly month for this country due to home fires.
  - **Please check your smoke detectors and be sure they are working correctly.**
- Is there anything the public would like to hear from the EFR?
  - Please reach out with any requests at any of the coming meetings.
- **What is the protocol for the Lee Health Facility?**



- Ambulances are taking people to D-31 (Lee Health Coconut Point). The only type of patient that cannot be accepted there is a trauma case, which must be taken to D1 (Downtown Location where the trauma facility is located). If a person must be admitted after 24 hours, they can be transferred to another facility.
- **Should people get carbon monoxide detectors?**
  - Yes! This is especially important for pre-cranking cars. The best places to put them are near the garage and in the kitchen.
- **Is there anyone still in the Panhandle?**
  - No, everyone has returned. They have also started the process through FEMA to get the reimbursement. It takes a year to process. They still haven't gotten their reimbursement from Hurricane Irma.
- **Is there any transit you can report on members and calls?**
  - No. The EFR started the year with 26 calls in one day. Normally, out of season they average 12-15. The call volume doubles at the beginning of the year, especially with the growth coming.
  - This is why the EFR is planning their 20-year expansion plan.

## VILLAGE REPORT: ANNUAL REPORT

- Council Member *Jim Wilson*

- **Capital Improvement Plan**
  - The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was approved and covers 5 years of future funding for 21 projects in the 5-year window and 15 more projects after that.
- **Comprehensive Plan**
  - Estero's Comprehensive Plan was approved by the State of Florida and its sections are as follows:
    - Community Profile, Vision, Future Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Infrastructure, Conservation, Coastal Management, Recreation, Open Space, Inner Governmental Cooperation, Capital Improvements, Public School Facilities, & Monitoring
  - The plan has been in the process for over a year and included over 20 meetings.
  - The next step for Estero is to implement a Land Development Code, which will be the details of how we continue to develop the Village. That should be finished in Fall 2019.
- **Storm Water Master Plan**
  - This plan is being created to understand the water flows not only within the Village boundaries, but also around us.
  - This will help us understand and reduce flooding. It will finish in the first quarter of 2019.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**
  - Being funded by the MPO. The completion date is unknown.



- **CSX Railway**
  - The Village has had preliminary conversations with the CSX Railway.
  - The long-term goal is for the Village to have some sort of trail that runs through Estero into Bonita.

- **Parks & Open Space Master Plan**
  - Focus groups will be invited in the first quarter of 2019 to begin development.
  - The Village Manager and the Mayor met with the State Parks Committee in Tallahassee about a possible partnership for Koreshan State Park and they are eager to begin that process.



- **Finance Report**
  - The Estero Village reduced the tax levy for the third year in a row.
  - Estero has the lowest tax rate of any of the cities in the SWFL area.
  - As a part of the new Village Budget, the Village made a commitment of \$1.6 million allocation to increase operating reserves, which now totals \$5.1 million (equivalent to 10 months of operating expenses if we are faced with another economic downturn or disaster).
  - Estero's finances remain strong.
  - Estero's Finance Director is receiving the highest award from the National Finance Association for the second year in a row.
  - There are two other reserves established: one for litigation and defense for major law suits and one for road maintenance.
    - The road maintenance reserve was just established with a 17-year plan for all roads received by the county.
  - New Estero reserve policy: All reserves are more protected. It now takes 5 votes rather than 4 votes on the Village Council to make any changes to these reserves
  - Estero took over the 29 streets from Lee County and is now saving about 1 million dollars to perform work ourselves.
    - Using this money, the Village hired David Willems to oversee all the Village's road and water projects.
- **Major Developments in the Village**
  - Genova: 205 high-end condos
  - Tidewater near Estero Parkway & Ben Hill Griffin Parkway: 55+ community with about 800 homes
  - The Shoppes at Estero Grande: An affordable apartment project behind Estero Grande
  - The Village has approved many hotels:
    - The Hilton Garden with 120 rooms
    - Coconut Square
    - No name hotel near I-75

- Springhill Suites with 100 units
- Adera Apartments: 180 units
- Argo Office Complex: 5 stories and 66 thousand square feet of space
- Shoppes at University Highland: Chase Bank, Tide Cleaners, Starbucks
- 2 senior living centers:
  - Phoenix Project
  - The Volunteers of America Senior Living Center
- **The 62 Acre Land Purchase**
  - This will hopefully be closed on January 12.
  - It looks like it will get reasonable rates.
  - Once it's closed, there will be a financial planner hired for planning.

- **Roads and Landscaping**

- The Estero Parkway design is finally done. Lighting will be included in the plan.
- The US 41 lighting program is completed.
  - The State has also approved landscaping for US 41 with a \$700,000 budget and the Village will assume maintenance after it's done.
  - Because the speed limit is 50 instead of 45 on this road, we cannot plant trees in the median.
- Williams Road will get turning lanes at Estero High School.
- The new stop light at the intersection at the Hertz Arena access road at Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy was approved.
- The Village has awarded the job of developing a brand for Estero and will be working with a consultant on that task.
- The Village is working with the state to install a traffic light at US 41 & Pelican Colony Dr.
- I-75's Exit 123 at Corkscrew Road will be improved with double turning lanes and the project will be state funded.



- **Inner Governmental Relations**

- Lee County Board of Commissioners
  - Approved the Corkscrew Road design and approved moving the project to a Tier I priority.
  - Plan to acquire land in the eastern Alico corridor to create new roads to alleviate mine hauling traffic on Corkscrew.
  - Approved interim improvements on the entry to Corkscrew Road at Pinewood School and The Preserve at Corkscrew.
- Lee County School Board Task Force
  - The mentoring internship program has yielded good results.

- There are plans to share the school grounds with the community when they aren't in use.
- They're establishing a student assignment program that sets attendance priorities for those students that reside in the Village so that they can attend the schools nearest them instead of being bused miles away to Fort Myers schools.
- Working with Lee County Utilities to develop approaches for dealing with failing septic tank issues.
- The Estero Chamber and the Village have entered in to a public private partnership, assisting the Chamber to get a new Executive Director with economic development experience.
- There is also a new task force team lead by the Chamber with 12 members to work on economic issues.
- The Village hosted two community events this year, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary party in March and the more recent Veterans Day Celebration.
- In recent news, the Village passed the gas pump anti-skimming law that requires new locks at gas pumps.
- At the December 12 meeting, the Village Council adopted a resolution urging the Board of County Commissioners to not take Don Eslick's name off of the Don Eslick Bridge over I-75.
- Lee Health Coconut Point is a valuable health addition to Estero, added this year.
- *Learn more about what's happening with the Village Council on the Village's website:*  
<https://estero-fl.gov>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FEEDBACK

- **“An Evening Under the Shadow Wood” Fundraiser in Support of Estero High Culinary**  
All 250 tickets have been sold!
  - Monday, December 17, 2018 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm  
The Shadow Wood Golf and Country Club
  - To contribute, contact Nick Batos at [batos@estero-fl.gov](mailto:batos@estero-fl.gov)
  - Sponsorships are still available!
  - For more information, please contact Jeremy Jasper at (239) 848-2872 or email him at [jeremymjasper@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremymjasper@yahoo.com).
- **The Changing of the Name of the Don Eslick Bridge over Estero Parkway**
  - The committee discussed leaving Don Eslick's name on the bridge.
  - All members voted to keep the name the same.
  - There was a proposal to rename the bridge to Estero Community Bridge.



- The issue was called for reconsideration because the committee didn't realize the bridge was already named.
- The Board of Directors sent out a call to action to do these three things:
  1. Attend the Board of County Commissioners meeting on December 18 in Fort Myers at 9:30am.
  2. Asking for emails to be sent to BOCC in support of Don and leaving the name.
  3. Asking for signatures on a petition to leave the name of the bridge unchanged.
    - It has been live for less than 48 hours and already has 600 signatures.
- Linda Tecco-Roach made an official motion for a resolution by the ECCL supporting that the Estero Parkway bridge over I-75 continue to be named after Don Eslick. A vote was taken and it was unanimously approved by those present and signed by all directors for presentation to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners.

## BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- *Linda Tecco-Roach*

<u>2019 ECCL BOARD NOMINATIONS</u>		
Office	Incumbent	Nominee
Chairman	Don Eslick	Don Eslick
Communications Director	Tom MacDonald	Tom MacDonald
Community Development Director	Jim Tatooles	Jim Tatooles
Educational Outreach Director	Jim Gilmartin	Jim Gilmartin
Environmental Director	Pete Cangialosi (not continuing)	<b>OPEN</b>
Finance Director	Bob Lienesch	Bob Lienesch
Health Director	Lowell Gerson	Lowell Gerson
Membership Director	Jan Pauli (interim)	Barry Freedman
Transportation Director	Bob King	Bob King

- Board nominations will be accepted through and during the meeting on Friday, January 11, 2019. If interested, please contact Linda Tecco-Roach at [LMTecco@gmail.com](mailto:LMTecco@gmail.com) or (239) 287-6343.
- Members will vote and elect the 2019 Board at the January 11, 2019 meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP

- *Linda Tecco-Roach*
  - The ECCL is continuing to seek member updates from our communities.
  - Please send any updated information to Linda Tecco-Roach at [LMTecco@gmail.com](mailto:LMTecco@gmail.com) or (239) 287-6343.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

- *Mark Novitski*, Volunteer to Lead the Task Force
  - Like a puzzle, the ECCL helps facilitate the community interests – Village of Estero, Lee County Government, Lee County Schools, State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection (State Parks), Lee Health, Fire Rescue, Not for Profit Community Organizations, and others.
  - While the ECCL committees work at the tactical (detail) level, the ECCL also needs to work and think strategically.
  - The task force will meet to review once a month and update, if necessary, the ECCL’s Mission, Vision, and Goals.
  - The task force will continue working with the Village of Estero.
  - They will review committees and what they do and assigning everything we undertake to a committee.
  - It will link ECCL Mission, Vision, Goals, and Metrics to Committee Mission, Vision, Goals, and Metrics.
  - It will create an annual report to the community on our accomplishments.
  - It will also create a process to measure/quantify what we’ve accomplished – metrics
    - *Accomplishments/ Metrics Example:* Education Outreach has reached 6 team members, 80 instructors, 100 classes, 1000 students through the following schools: Estero High School, Three Oaks Middle School, Three Oaks Elementary, and Pinewood Elementary.
  - **Strategic Planning Task Force Schedule**
    - The task force will begin to solicit members in December.





- It will continue to solicit members, begin kickoff, and begin updating mission/vision/goals in January and continue the last step through February and March.
- In February, the task force will review ECCL Tasks and continue this until April.
- **The task force is open for members now, emails will be sent out.**
  - If interested, contact Mark at [marker21101@gmail.com](mailto:marker21101@gmail.com) or (239) 250-9536.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

- *Bob Lienesch*

- **Financial Report Summary**
  - Income of \$1,540 from digital marketing was received in November from the ECCL's first client, Lee Health.
  - Expenses for the month of November came totaled \$1,846. This was a bit higher than most months because of a catch-up in some expenses.
  - Excess of expenses over income for November was \$306.
  - Excess of expenses over income for 2018 was \$9,834, the loss in large part due 2018 dues collected in 2017.
  - The cash balance as of November 30, 2018 was \$8,007.
  - For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/reports/meetings-minutes>
- **Dues for 2019**
  - Members should expect to receive their 2019 invoices in the near future.
- **Formation of Finance/Fund Raising Committee**
  - The ECCL is considering the combination of the finance and fund-raising functions by the formation of a Finance/Fund Raising Committee.



## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF WEEKS FISH CAMP / LONDON BAY PROPERTY

- *Bob King*

- **Proposed Development of Weeks Fish Camp / London Bay Property**
  1. The Developer: London Bay Homes Estero Bay Investments, LLC
  2. Link to Proposed Development: <https://lbhbayview.com>
  3. What is being proposed?
    - A Continuing Care Retirement Community with 300 units
    - Reactivation of a marina
  4. Jurisdiction: City of Bonita Springs
  5. Public Information Meeting was held on October 18
    - Approximately 100 attended, including 3 members of Estero Council

- The majority of the public comments concerned small number of boat trailer parking spots (10) and increase in Coconut Road traffic, especially during construction.
- **Why Is This Project Important to Estero?**
  1. The soon-to-be-adopted Village Comprehensive Plan addresses this use:
    - Policy 1.2.1 Discourage new public access to the Estero River for motorized watercraft.
    - Policy 1.2.2 The Village will cooperate to the extent practicable with the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County to provide public access to the Estero Bay
  2. Get involved in upcoming votes. This is our last opportunity to get access to the Estero Bay for power boats!
- **What's Next?**
  1. Zoning application was submitted to Bonita Springs on 11/8
  2. There is still no word on results.
  3. Interlocal Cooperation:
    - Project in Bonita, impacts traffic in Estero
    - Councilman Bill Ribble Liaison for Estero Village Council
  4. Gather more specific information on boat launching needs with a focus group
    - There are two planned, one on January 9 and one on January 10 at 6:30pm, by invitation through mailing only.
    - People will be selected depending on a variety of locations and demographics.
  5. Gather more general marina usage data using a survey that will ask everyone what they would like to see in this project.
  6. The ECCL will use this information at Bonita Planning and Zoning meetings to represent the community to get better results.
  - Parking for the BOCC meeting will be in the Administration East parking lot.
  - *The next Transportation Committee Meeting is Thursday, January 17 at 9:30am at Fine Mark Bank.*



## **EDUCATION OUTREACH COUNCIL (EOC), CONNECTING WITH THE ESTERO EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY**

*- Jim Shields*

- **Education Outreach Council Celebration!**
  - On December 4, the ECCL's EOC sponsored a celebration for over 100 Estero school teachers, administrators, and the volunteer Junior Achievement teacher

ambassadors with complimentary snacks, soft drinks, wine, and beer provided by The Club at Grandezza.

- EOC would like to thank all Estero-area school teachers and administrators and Estero Education Ambassadors for their dedication and commitment to Excellence in Education.
- EOC would also like to extend its appreciation to The Club at Grandezza for sponsoring this Village of Estero Initiative.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Breaking Par at Grandezza**
  - This event is coming up on March 21 and 22.
  - Thursday, March 21 will be the Gala dinner at 5:30 pm. Dress to impress for the coveted gala featuring delicious cuisine and the incredible live as well as silent actions.
  - Friday, March 22 will be the Shotgun Scramble at 8:30am, where you can hit the green at the signature Golf Tournament featuring students from the PGA Golf Management Program at FGCU.
  - All proceeds will fund educational initiatives for Junior Achievement and FGCU, including JA's Flagship Program, CEO Academy.
  - To play, attend, sponsor, or volunteer, contact Stephanie Hoffman at [shoffman@jaswfl.org](mailto:shoffman@jaswfl.org) or (239) 225-2590.
- **Fall Program for the FGCU Institute for Entrepreneurship (IFE)**
  - The institute has mailed letters to interested mentors for the program.
  - The mentoring program will begin again next semester and there is still a need for mentors.
- Volunteer online: <https://esterotoday.com/education-outreach-council/eoc-school-volunteer-application>
- Or contact Kevin Tolliver, EOC Liaison to Lee County Schools, at [kptolliver1@gmail.com](mailto:kptolliver1@gmail.com) or (317) 752-3486.
- Learn more about the EOC on the ECCL website: <https://esterotoday.com/education-outreach-council>



## COMMUNITY PLANNING

*-Jim Tatooles*

- **Hertz Arena**
  - Hertz Arena proposal went before the Design Review Board and found a resolution for the new color scheme proposed for the arena.
  - The result: The building will be mostly grey, the north wall will be all grey, the east side will be mostly grey, and the most yellow will be on the south side and the side that faces I-75. The door entrances will be outlined in yellow.

- **Planning & Zoning Board**
  - Shopping centers are losing retail space with many shops going online.
  - Two applications were approved:
    - Tommy Bahama received approval for 105 seats.
    - A vacant store on Fashion Drive in Coconut Point Mall has been acquired by Tesla to be a car showroom.

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

- *Lowell Gerson*

- **Lee Health Coconut Point (LHCP)**
  - Lee Health Coconut Point (LHCP) is now open.
  - LHCP's Open House was a success with over 4,500 people that came through.
  - The Heart Walk is going to be a Heart Health Fair at LHCP on March 2.
- **Million-Mile Movement**
  - In the three months beginning January 15, we hope that people in Lee County will have a million movements such as running, walking, swimming, etc.
  - Learn more: <http://healthylee.com/news-events/million-mile-movement>
- **Estero Health and Wellness Fair**
  - Saturday, January 26 at 9:00am  
The Rec Center in Estero Community Park
  - More information to come.
- If you have any ideas about messages that will be most appealing to the community focused on Lee Health and services they provide, please reach out to the Health Committee.
- *The next Steering Committee Meeting is Friday, January 18 at 2:30pm at the Healthy Life Center Classroom at Lee Health Coconut Point.*
- *Learn more about the ECCL's Health Committee at the ECCL's website:* <https://esterotoday.com/estero-news/healthcare>

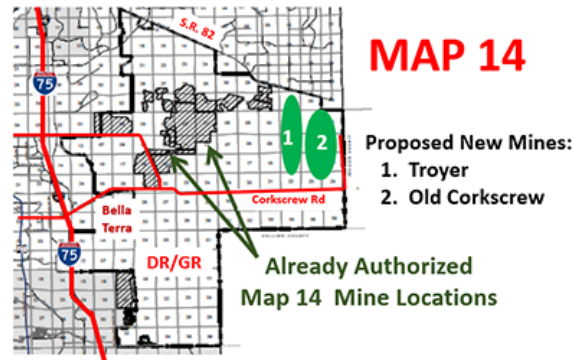


## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Pete Cangialosi*

- **Argo, Corkscrew Crossing (not yet scheduled before the board)**
  - 625 Units
  - 396 Acres Total
    - 178 Acres Developed
    - 178 Acres of Wetlands Filled
  - 218 Acres Preserved
  - Planning & Zoning Board Meeting for this project: Still to be determined

- The SFWMD has issued a permit for this development on December 17
- **Proposed Lee Plan Amendment**
  - Proposed to be deleted by County Administration Staff:
    - Requirement for limerock supply inventory and demand analyses
    - Requirement for future limerock mines to be designated on Map 14
    - Map 14, the Future Limerock Mining Overlay
    - At the Lee County Local Planning Agency (LPA) meeting on December 17, the board members decided to delete the requirement of a periodic limerock needs assessment study but retain Map 14 of the Lee Plan, which shows where mines can be located. They said County Staff didn't give sufficient reason why it should be deleted. They asked staff to rewrite the amendment, knowing the board members' sentiments, but with a clear way to ADD future mine locations to Map 14. They also requested some ambiguous language to be cleaned up. This will be considered again at the next LPA meeting on January 28, 2019.
  - Mr. Cangialosi summarized the following about this issue:
    - There are two proposed new mines (Troyer and Old Corkscrew) that are going through the re-zoning process.
    - Mining interests want to place mines outside of the currently-authorized Map 14 locations.
    - County is trying to delete important restraints on mining.
    - The whole point of the restraints in the Lee Plan is to keep mines from being placed near housing and neighborhoods. If these restraints were to be deleted, it could lower property values and give much less protection to the community from problems associated with mines.
    - A current study shows sufficient rock in the area the mines are already located that can carry all 7 counties until 2050, so there is no necessity for these restraints to be deleted.
- *The next Environmental Committee meeting is Friday, January 18 at 12:00pm at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.*
- *Learn more about Estero-area environmental issues at the ECCL website:*  
<http://esterotoday.com/estero-news/environment>



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