

ECCL Report: June 2018

Executive Summary: *172nd meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*



Following the Village-School Board Memorandum of Understanding, Lee School Board Member Chris Patricca and Councilman Nick Batos are continuing to work together to meet with Estero school principals to address and accommodate the needs of Estero's schools.

The Village Comprehensive Plan has been completed and the Village Council is now moving forward with development of its first Land Development Code. Community members are

encouraged to attend the Planning & Zoning Board meetings to voice their input.

The State has given preliminary approval for both Lee Health and HCA to build hospitals in Estero. All parties now have until June 25 to file a petition challenging the decision. A hearing would then be scheduled and a judge will decide whether to approve both applications, neither application, or either Lee Health or HCA's application.

The annual planning season has begun for the Village's Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) and budgets. Community members can participate in the Public Hearings for the CIP on June 11 & July 25. County Manager Doug Meurer has identified a two-pronged approach of interim upgrades and long-term improvements to address the traffic deficiencies on Corkscrew Road.

At the Village Council Meeting on May 30, Councilors voted 6-to-1 to retain the four lanes and add 7ft buffered bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of Estero Parkway.

Significant changes have been made to the Conservation 20/20 program for funding, site criteria, site nomination, and CLASAC involvement. The Troyer Brothers Mine Rezoning Hearing will be held June 26. People must speak at this hearing in order to speak later before BOCC.

The Economic Outreach Council (EOC) still needs volunteers for the Junior Achievement Program. Please speak with your neighbors and consider volunteering yourself.

The Health Committee met with Lee Health to discuss staffing at Lee Health Coconut Point and are satisfied that the facility will have a skilled staff when they open on December 4.

The next ECCL meeting will be Friday, July 13, 2018 at 10:00 am at Estero Community Park.

ESTERO FIRE RESCUE (EFR)

- Fire Chief *Scott Vanderbrook*

- Received its **preliminary tax value** for the upcoming year and had an **increase of about 3.55% over last year**. San Carlos Fire & Rescue had an increase of 8.75%.
- These increases are typical for Estero & San Carlos based on their reduction in property values. Property values have also probably not gone up as much due to the lack of new construction within the Village limits over the last few years.
- Over the next few years, we can expect to see a lot of property value changes with new growth and development.
- **Budget workshop** will probably be scheduled sometime around the end of July. Fire Chief Vanderbrook is going to suggest to the Commissioners that we **leave the millage rate at the current rate of 2.15** strictly for the 420 tax form. Once the form has gone out in September, the Commissioners cannot raise taxes but they can reduce them (which they've done the last two years). This will allow them an appropriate amount of time to consider all of the hard costs (such as worker's comp and vendor costs) that they don't receive until the end of August. They intend to **reduce the millage rate** after those costs have been considered.
- ESR is also aiming to break ground on Station 45 next year on east Corkscrew Road. (Not an actual working station, but a maintenance and storage facility.)
- ESR is **anticipating hiring additional people** to accommodate call volume, but do not know how many people it will be until further analysis of need and budget.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & FEEDBACK

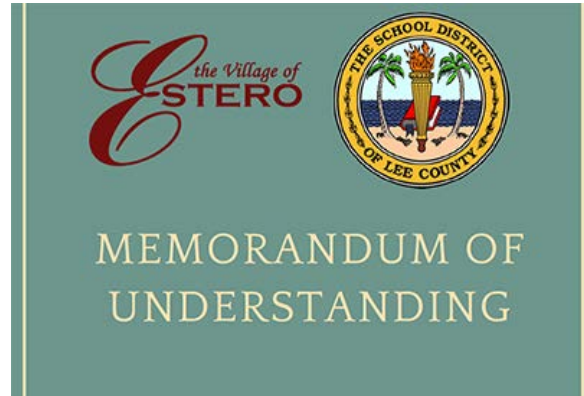
- **Joe Miceli (Rookery Pointe Rep):** A number of people have raised the issue about the pay increase that the School Board gave to the Superintendent. They believe the 13% raise to be very high, especially when you consider the low wages that teachers are facing. The new President at FGCU also received a \$100k bonus. Community members are concerned that the School Board is asking for sales tax increase to accommodate raises like these.
 - **School Board Member Chris Patricca:** The Superintendent was making \$185k a year, which is significantly lower than the average pay for a Superintendent in Florida despite the fact that he runs the 9th largest district in the state. When he was first approached to discuss his pay, he said he would not discuss it until teachers and support staff were above the 50% level in Florida. Teachers are now at 55%. The School Board believed that, in order to pay the Superintendent what he deserved and encourage him to stay in Lee County, they needed to raise his pay to \$209k a year.
- **Dick Schweers from Fountain Lakes:** There's a flashing light that has been at the US 41 intersection between Coconut Point and the entrance to Fountain Lakes and can easily

be converted into a full working traffic signal. Now that there's a hotel going in, they're making a movement and are likely going to get the traffic light converted.

IMPLEMENTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VILLAGE & THE LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

- Lee School Board *Chris Patricca* & Councilman *Nick Batos*

- District principals have identified the needs in their individual schools and now Patricca & Batos will work together to prioritize them and see what the Village can do to address those needs. Next week, they will have follow-up meetings to clarify those needs.
- Batos has met with Jim Gilmartin of ECCL's Economic Outreach Committee to set up an organizational structure so that Gilmartin can work with his committee to recruit volunteers as they identify the specifics of the volunteerism needed.
- **Needs That Have Already Been Identified:**
 - Help with tutoring (group tutoring, individual tutoring, & mentoring)
 - Volunteers for Big Brother / Big Sister programs
 - Assistance with special projects and programs
 - Financial needs for things like security or medical equipment
- It's important that more people get involved in this initiative in order to keep the program long-term and sustainable and to set a precedent for other school districts.



SCHOOL SAFETY AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)

- Councilman *Nick Batos*

- The Sherriff's Office has worked together with the School District and **supplied officers to all of the high schools, middle schools, and one officer for every five of the elementary schools** in Lee County for many years. The sheriff and the district have split the cost 50/50.
- The money for the sheriff portion has come out of the county's general fund, which all residents pay into (incorporated and unincorporated).
- After Parkland, Sherriff Mike Scott immediately put officers in all of the elementary schools.
- The County has now changed its policy and says it will only pay their 50% for SRO in schools in unincorporated. They expect the cities to pay the 50% for SRO for schools in their cities.
- We believe that law enforcement is the primary function of the county and we pay for that through the general fund.

- The county is trying to have Estero pay for the same service twice. Batos feels this is the county's responsibility to supply and pay for the SRO in Estero as it has done for years.

WHOLE HOUSE GENERATOR PROGRAM OFFERED TO ECCL MEMBERS

- *Nick Batos & Briggs & Stratton's Mark Neal*

- **Briggs & Stratton Installation Program**
- **What Sets Briggs & Stratton Apart?**
 - It Listens – Custom sets priorities based on what is important to them.
 - It Learns – As the module cycles on and off, the system is constantly recording the demand of the module.
 - Live – Based on the information you provide the system, it seamlessly turns appliances on and off based on your needs, allowing you to use a smaller generator and have access to the appliances that are most important to your customer.
- **FORTRESS Package Includes:**
 - 20 kW Fortress Generator Walkaround
 - Front ventilation pushes airflow away from the house
 - Sloped roof for water run-off
 - User-friendly control panel
 - 10-year parts, labor, and travel factory warranty
 - Aluminum enclosure for durability
 - Stainless steel base
 - Concrete pad
 - 200 Amp Service entrance rated switch
 - InfoHub for 24/7 monitoring
 - Installed for \$10,499 (gas not included)
 - Adds value to home and is transferrable to new owners



Briggs and Stratton Installation Program

FINAL COMP PLAN REVIEW AND ADOPTION & LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (LDC) START-UP

- *Jim Tatoes*

- **Comprehensive Plan Completed**
 - Last year, the Village Council hired La Rue Planning & Management with Johnson Engineering to put together the main focus of the Comprehensive Plan, which was intended to be a wish list of what people would like to see in Estero in the years ahead.
 - They spent 12 months reviewing each section of the plan (such as recreation, safety, and communications) with the Planning & Zoning Board.

- The planning process was finally finished and the plan was sent to Tallahassee for review. Tallahassee sent back its critique to the Village staff.
- The Village staff has now come through with its recommendations and those recommendations were presented to the Village Council on June 13. The Council will either approve them or develop its own changes.
- The next step is to begin the Land Development Plan portion. This will give the specific details for general requests. (For example, if an apartment building was requested, how big will it be, how much parking will it need, etc.)
- Just like with the Comprehensive Plan, the Land Development Plan will be presented and discuss a specific section each month. The ECCL will keep people informed of what's being discussed month-to-month so that it can provide input.
- **June 19 is the Planning & Zoning Board's kick-off for the next phase.**
- If community members cannot make the meetings, there will be an email address that they can contact with questions, suggestions, or comments that will be relayed to the Planning & Zoning Board as well as the contractors.
- **Land Development Code (LDC) Work Program & Schedule**
 - *Task 1: Project Initiation*
 - Review documents, website, reconnaissance, & interviews
 - Kick-Off Meeting
 - *Task 2: LDC Assessment*
 - LDC Assessment & Annotated Outline
 - Meeting on LDC Assessment
 - *Task 3: Draft Updated LDC*
 - Staff/Public Review Draft of LDC (two installments)
 - Meetings on each installment and zoning map
 - *Task 4: Testing*
 - Test LDC & Four Case Studies
 - Meetings on test results
 - *Task 5: Public Hearing Draft of LDC*
 - Public Hearing Draft of LDC
 - Public hearing/work session on Public Hearing Draft
- **Thoughts on Project Goals**
 1. Make the LDC more user-friendly
 2. Modernize the Development Standards
 3. Implement the Estero Comprehensive Plan
- **Public Involvement**
 - *Project Website*
 - Project information and announcements
 - Upcoming meetings



- Work products
- <http://www.esterozoning.org>
- *Opportunities to Provide Input*
 - Kick-Off Meeting
 - Meeting on Code Assessment
 - Meetings on Individual Installments of Public Review Draft of LDC
 - Meetings on Testing
 - Public Hearing or Meeting on Public Meetings on Testing
 - Public Hearing or Meeting on Public Hearing Draft

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE HOSPITAL AT COCONUT POINT?

- Lee Health Rep *Suzanne Bradach*

• CON Decisions – Highlights

- AHCA's action on CON applications for hospital beds in Lee County
 - Preliminary approval for Lee Health's application to build 82 acute care beds at the Lee Health Coconut Point campus
 - Preliminary approval for Medical Center of Southwest Florida (HCA) to build a 70-bed acute care hospital in Estero
 - AHCA recognized and acknowledged the significant outpouring of community support for the Lee Health project
- To read Lee Health's press release about their preliminary approval, go to the ECCL website: <https://esterotoday.com/coconut-point-hospital-gets-preliminary-approval>



• What Happens Next?

- All parties (Lee Health, HCA, NCH, & Physicians Regional) have until June 25th to file a petition to challenge the Agency's decisions
- If there are challenges, the petitions will be sent to the Division of Administrative Hearings and a judge will be assigned
- A hearing will be scheduled and held in about 6 months, during which all parties will present their cases (around December 2018/January 2019)
- After the hearing, the judge will weigh the evidence and issue a recommended order. The judge could recommend an approval of both applications, a denial of both applications, or approval of either Lee Health or HCA's application.

• Lee Health Hospital CON Summary

- Beds
 - 70 Medical Surgical Beds

- 12 Intensive Care / Cardiac Care Beds
- 20 Observation Beds (not considered inpatient)
- 3 additional operating suites, 1 interoperative cath lab
- Expanded diagnostic and support spaces
- Lobby, waiting and admission areas
- Program focus on geriatric services
- **Information about Lee Health Coconut Point:** <http://www.leehealth.org/coconut-point/index.asp>

2018 VILLAGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN STATUS & PROGRAM

- *Bob King & Don Eslick*

- **Village of Estero Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) & Budget**

- The annual planning season has started for the Village's first comprehensive capital improvement plan and budget
- The first public workshop was held June 5 and the second workshop on June 7
- The inputs received from the public will be incorporated into the draft and Staff will prepare a draft for Council presentation on July 11



- **Important Dates:**

- June 11: First Public Hearing for the CIP
- June 20: Council Update Regarding Public Information Meetings
- July 25: Second Public Hearing for the CIP
- Sept 5: First Public Hearing for the Tentative Ad Valorem Tax Rate & Budget
- Sept 19: Final Hearing & the Adoption for the Ad Valorem Tax Rate & Budget

PROPOSED COUNTY PLANS FOR SHORT-TERM CORKSCREW ROAD IMPROVEMENTS & THE COUNTY'S 2018 CIP

- *Bob King*

- There are four major projects in the process of approval or that are approved that will contribute significantly to the traffic on Corkscrew Road.
- The last time a CIP was put together, Corkscrew was identified as a second level, unfunded project. We are trying to get it moved up to a Tier I, funded project.
- At the workshop that was held in Fort Myers, they wanted the staff to put together a recommendation on how we could move Corkscrew to Tier I and how to get it funded. Out of that request, County Manager Doug Meurer identified the following two-pronged approach.

- **Corkscrew Road Improvements**
 - *Acceleration of Improvements: Interim Upgrades*
 - Improve 4 of the 11 side road connections:
 - Pinewoods Elementary
 - Wildcat Run
 - The Preserve at Corkscrew
 - Corkscrew Shores
 - *Acceleration of Improvements: Long-Term Improvements*
 - Move four-laning to Tier I CIP (funded)
 - The four-laning will happen in two phases: Ben Hill to Bella Terra and then on to Alico Road

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- *Bob King*

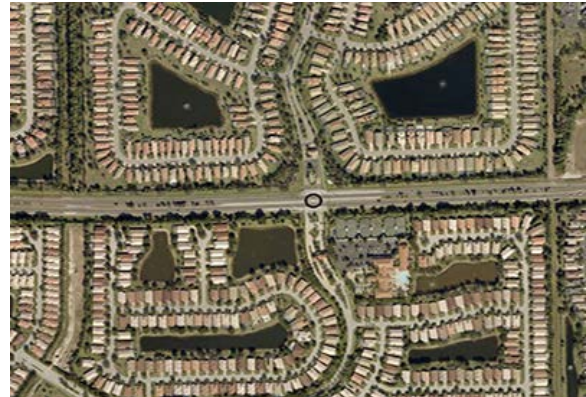
- **County's Corkscrew Road Traffic Study**
 - <https://www.leegov.com/corkscrew>
 - *Task 6: Transportation Improvement Cost Estimates (Coming Soon)*
 - *Task 7: Environmental Support Tasks (Coming Soon)*
 - *Task 8: Proportionate Share Analysis/Identification of Potential*
 - *Financing Options: Lee 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.*
- **Comprehensive Transportation Needs & Priorities: Village of Estero**
 - The annual planning season has started for capital projects and budgets.
 - To get what we want, we must be engaged.
 - ECCL representatives participated in a workshop June 5. A second workshop was held June 7.
- *The next Transportation Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, June 21 at 9:30am at Fine Mark Bank.*
- Learn more about Estero transportation issues at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/estero-news/transportation>



ESTERO PARKWAY ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT SURVEY & THE VILLAGE COUNCIL DECISION

- *Bob King & Don Eslick*

- **Village Council was weighing two options for the Estero Parkway improvements:**
 - *Option A:* Retain the four lanes. Add 7ft buffered bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road.
 - *Option B:* Reduce road to two lanes. Add three roundabouts plus 7ft buffered bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road.
- **At the Village Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 30, the Council selected Option A.**
- **Public Response to Proposed Improvements**
 - 1,116 Total Responses
 - 57% voted Option A, 43% voted Option B
 - 378 Responses from Estero Parkway Communities
 - 63% voted Option A, 37% voted Option B
 - 738 Responses from Non-Estero Parkway Communities
 - 51% voted Option A, 49% voted Option B
 - 53 Responses Without Community Affiliation (may not be in Estero)
 - 39% voted Option A, 61% voted Option B
- The ECCL had originally recommended Option B. However, they had expected this type of public response based on extensive national transportation research that found 68% of a large sample of community members had negative attitudes toward roundabouts prior to installation but, after installation, these community members changed to 73% with *positive* attitudes.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

- *Pete Cangialosi*

- **BOCC Budget & Program Review of Conservation 20/20**
 - \$3.5 million added to the Conservation 20/20 acquisition fund for next year.
 - BOCC concerned that this would not be enough, but it was the best that they could do.
 - Recommended changes to the existing criteria for scoring sites for purchase so that water quality and parcel size have greater weight.
 - Change to site nomination process. (Not necessarily buy when a parcel presents itself)
 - Scale back the function of CLASAC Committee.

- **Old Corkscrew Planation Mine Rezoning Application**
 - *Zoning Examiner Hearings:* Held on March 27, March 28, April 4, April 24, May 8, May 21, and June 12.
 - *Point of Contention:* Blasting Buffer Width (County: 2,000ft & Applicant: 1,000ft)
 - *Next:* Recommendation by Zoning Hearing Examiner to approve or reject applicant’s request to rezone
 - *Then:* BOCC votes to accept or reject Examiner’s recommendation
- **Troyer Brothers Mine**
 - *Rezoning Hearing:* June 26
 - County Staff Report due online about June 12
 - Rezone from Agricultural to Industrial
 - Lee County’s own Land Development Code (Ch. 34) states, “Mining operations, by their very nature, are INCOMPATIBLE with most other uses.”
 - Mine where the resource is located, but not all resource locations should be mined.
 - **One must speak at the hearing in order to speak later before BOCC.**
 - *Public Information Meetings*
 - <https://NoMineOn82.com>
 - June 12 at 6:00pm & June 14 at 7:00pm
 - Wink News Video: <http://www.winknews.com/2018/06/07/proposed-mining-project-causing-a-stir-in-lee-county>
 - Learn more about the Troyer Brothers Mine and what you can do at the ECCL website: <https://esterotoday.com/troyer-brothers-mine-another-mine-be-heard>
 - *The next Environmental Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, June 22 at 2:00pm at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.*
 - Learn more about Estero environmental issues at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/estero-news/environment>



ECONOMIC OUTREACH COUNCIL (EOC)

- Mark Novitski

- **EOC Mission:** The EOC’s purpose is to advocate for and support selected Estero & South Lee County-based organizations by developing and executing efforts to engage and secure talented and experienced residents, professionals, & businesspersons as volunteers/ambassadors.
- **Primary Objectives for 2018/2019:**
 1. Junior Achievement
 2. Lee County Schools: Elementary & Secondary Student Support

3. FGCU's Institute for Entrepreneurship Support

• **Junior Achievement**

- The EOC needs almost 100 JA ambassadors in order to fulfill their needs and they currently have 60, with 12 of the 35 Estero communities represented.
 - To do the 8th grade section, it's only 10 hours of your time over 6 weeks. For 11th grade, it's 12 hours. If you can't commit to the full 6 or 7 weeks, the program also needs "Floaters" to substitute when an Estero Ambassador has to miss a session.
 - Please speak with your neighbors about volunteering and consider volunteering yourself.
 - Learn more about the program and how you can help at the ECCL's website: <https://esterotoday.com/junior-achievement-program-seeking-volunteers>
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- Learn more about the EOC at the ECCL's website: <http://esterotoday.com/estero-economic-excellence-outreach-council>

HEALTH COMMITTEE

- *Lowell Gerson*

- The Health Committee focuses on prevention and treatment to keep Estero healthy.
- They recently met with Lee Health representatives to discuss staffing for Lee Health Coconut Point. Their current staff includes established community physicians as well as people from outside the community to address specialty areas. They are also looking at inventive ways to bring in more physicians, including having retired physicians in part-time positions. The committee is satisfied that the facility will have a good staff when they open on December 4.
- *The next Steering Committee Meeting is Friday, August 24 at 2:30 pm 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>

COMMUNICATIONS

- *Don Eslick*

- The ECCL has entered into a contract with Tom MacDonald and his firm Evolution Brands to create a promotional program that allows service entities (like Lee Health or FGCU) to purchase promotional packages and public service advertising opportunities on the ECCL's multiple platforms.
- This contractual down payment is the \$1,000 charge included among the expenses on the Financial Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- *Linda Tecco-Roach*

- The total income for the month of May was \$1,021 (\$1,000 of which was from Lee Health membership dues) and the total expenses for the month were \$3,357, giving a \$2,336 excess of expenses over income for May.
- Year to date expenses are \$1,842 in excess of income and our cash balance is \$14,739 as of May 31, 2018.
- All membership dues are current as of this time.
- For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website: <http://esterotoday.com/reports/meetings-minutes>

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT



[[Watch the whole June 8th meeting here.](#)]