



To educate and inspire the community by preserving
and sharing the rich history of Estero

Newsletter

March 2023

A 501 (C) (3) Non-Profit Organization



From The President



EHS President Gail Langner

We were thrilled at the turnout of the "back by popular demand" Speaker Series topic of The Calusa – People of the Estuary. We had 80 attendees and gained many new members. Huge thanks to our guest speaker, local historian Jacob Winge for the phenomenal presentation. On March 11th, the topic will be the rich history of the Alvarez/Smith House on Highlands Avenue in Estero and our passion to save it. (You'll get the inside scoop.) Jeff McCullers will be in attendance to answer any questions, as he is a descendant of the family that owned this beautiful property. April 22nd Jacob Winge returns with Florida Outlaws, Highwaymen and Villains. What a fun topic! As always, each is held at Country Creek off Corkscrew at 9:30 am. \$10 for Members and \$15 for Non-Members also includes free coffee, juice, rolls and fruit. Hope to see you all there - please RSVP www.EsteroHistoricalSociety.com

Also, an update on the handicapped ramp - it is finally complete and strong as ever.

Thank you for your continued support,

Gail Langner
EHS Board President

In This Issue

- History Of The Calusa
- Alvarez Smith Family & Home
- Outlaws-Highwaymen-Villains
- February Yard Sale Update
- Jewelry Making Class
- Gulfshore Opera Gala
- New Estero Rules
- Did You Know?
- Corkscrew Woodlands Presentation
- Out & About
- Our Business Supporters



History Of The Calusa February Speaker Series Update

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event and showed their interest in the history of the Calusa Indians. We are grateful to have so many members of our community come together to learn more about this topic and take part in a meaningful discussion. The enthusiasm and engagement in the lecture was inspiring. We look forward to continuing to provide engaging talks on topics related to the history of our local area and beyond. We hope to see everyone again for our next speaker series!

Estero Historical Society Speaker Series

March 11, 2023 9:30 - 11:00 am

Presented at:

**Villages of Country Creek Clubhouse
21180 Country Creek Drive, Estero, FL 33928**

ALVEREZ SMITH FAMILY & HOME

Gail Langner will discuss the historical evidence that fill out the story of the Alvarez-Smith family and their home. She will provide a deeper understanding of the family's history and how it has shaped the development of the community. After Gail's presentation, Jeff McCullers will be available to answer questions and discuss further details of the family's story.

Register at esterohistoricalsociety.com

\$ 10.00 member \$ 15.00 non-member



Gail Langner -
EHS Board
President



Jeff McCullers,
local historian

April Speaker Series

Jacob Winge returns with a new presentation on Florida Outlaws, Highwaymen and Villains. What a fun topic!

Mark Your Calendars!

April 22nd



Yard Sale Update

Our February yard sale was a HUGE success!! Thank you to everyone that came out to support us and to all our amazing board members and volunteers that came out to set up, work and teardown after, without your hard work and dedication these fundraisers would not be possible. We made over \$500 dollars and best of all gained new memberships during the event. Winning!!

Jewelry Making Class

Saturday, April 29th 10:00 am—Noon Estero Historical Society Cottage Museum 9285 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero

Create your own bracelet!

All Gems, Supplies and Continental Breakfast are included

\$25 Members

\$30 Non-Members

Your instructor, Cheri Dunlap will teach bead-stringing using two strands of gemstone rounds and one two-strand magnetic clasp. Examples of her beautiful work are on display and for sale in our Gift Shop.

Register before March 29th EsteroHistoricalSociety.com or at the Gift Shop Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Questions?

rdunlap2@comcast.net



GULFSHORE OPERA

The Gulfshore Opera's signature fundraising event begins with a concert titled 'Bel Canto to Bernstein' in the sanctuary of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, a venue known for its superb acoustics. The one-hour concert on March 12th will showcase a trio of nationally recognized artists that will perform famous Bel Canto opera arias and ensembles, followed by a tribute to Leonard Bernstein. Gala package patrons then move on to The Club at the Strand for an elegant gala dinner.

Returning artists, Robyn Lamp (*Tosca*), Derrek Stark (Italian lover in *Bats Revenge*) and Cory Crider (Baron Scarpia in *Tosca*) will display their artistry and versatility in this highlights concert. Since last seen with Gulfshore Opera, these nationally recognized singers have been very busy with professional engagements. Robyn Lamp returned to Carnegie Hall for Verdi's *Requiem* in October and both Derrek Stark and Corey Crider have joined the roster of The Metropolitan Opera. The Bel Canto selections of the concert will be narrated and accompanied by Maestro Jorge Parodi, our newly appointed music director. The Bernstein tribute is accompanied and narrated by Gordon Roberts, who worked with Bernstein.



GULFSHORE OPERA GALA

Concert | **March 12** | 4pm

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church
in Naples

Gala Dinner | 5:30pm

The Club at the Strand

GALA PACKAGE: \$300

(Gala Package includes Premium
Concert Tickets, a "Meet the Artists"
Reception and Dinner)

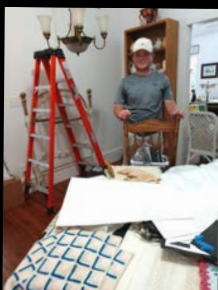
CONCERT ONLY TICKETS

STANDARD TICKETS: \$45

PREFERRED TICKETS: \$60

PREMIUM TICKETS: \$75

[*Click Here To Purchase Tickets*](#)



Estero Considers New Rules for Raised Homes

Naples Daily News - Andrea Stetson Correspondent

Published 5:05 a.m. ET Feb. 18, 2023



Some homeowners in Estero want to prevent flooding when the next storm roars into Southwest Florida. Others are being forced to build higher due to new codes, and that has the Village of Estero looking at new requirements for homeowners that plan to raise their houses.

Last November, the Village adopted updated floodplain regulations which included new FEMA maps. These maps revised floodplain areas and increased required elevations in certain areas meaning new homes or those rebuilding after having more than 50 percent damaged, must bring in additional fill or raise the homes on stilts to meet the new flood elevation requirements.

On Wednesday, Village Council listened to a proposal to mandate that homes that are raised have walls and doors to cover the pilings. Currently there are no standards in the Land Development Code for single-family homes that may need to be elevated. Single-family homes can also include modular homes that are permitted in single-family neighborhoods.

“We are trying to be proactive because we don’t have regulations,” said Mary Gibbs, Estero’s Community Development Director. “In a lot of places, you can’t put in enough fill, so you need to put in a stilt home. Some of these modular homes look like mobile homes. Without it, it could just look like a mobile home on stilts and we didn’t think that is what the council would like to see. So, we want to include enclosure at least where it is facing the road. We want it to have some architecture so it complies with the neighborhood. We are not dictating any particular style.”

Gibbs said the requirement would be for walls with vents and a door to cover the raised portion.

Council members voiced some concerns.

“If it is solid, it creates a dam and that could cause flooding for your neighbor,” stated mayor Katy Errington.

“I think we need to see what you are talking about,” Errington agreed. “It could be very detrimental to some people.”

Estero’s village attorney Robert Eschenfleder, reminded council that the state has rules against local governments requiring specific design elements.

After a lengthy debate council members voted unanimously to pass the first reading and have Gibbs gather more information to present at the second reading scheduled for March 1.



Did You Know?

1927 — On Jan. 7, the Seaboard Airline Railroad passed by Estero on its way to Naples with 600 guests. Called the Orange Blossom Special – popularized by a Johnny Cash song – it went the opposite direction once it reached the end of its line in Naples.



*Inaugural Orange
Blossom Special in
Miami on January 8,
1927*

Peg Bennington (EHS Docent) Presented Estero History (Corkscrew Woodlands One of estero's oldest communities)



Peg spoke about the history of Estero, from its early settlers to the present day. She discussed the various development projects that have shaped the area over the years, and how the community has evolved through the years. Peg ended her presentation with a question and answer session, allowing attendees to ask questions about Estero's history. The meeting was well-received, and attendees left with a greater understanding of their own community's history.

Out & About Spotlight

Hertz Arena



**HERTZ ARENA
MAR 16 - 19**

please visit: www.hertzarena.com

Hertz Arena



March 20

TNP | THE NAPLES PLAYERS



March 1 - April 2
Sugden Community Theatre

**FLORIDA'S PREMIER DINNER THEATRE
BROADWAYPALM**

JERSEY BOYS

February 17 - April 9
Box Office: 239-278-4422

please visit:
www.broadwaypalm.com

**BARBARA B. MANN
PERFORMING ARTS HALL**



MARCH 17 & 18



Upcoming Happenings in the Estero Park and Center:

9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero FL 33928

Estero Park and Recreation Center:

Please Visit

<https://www.leegov.com/parks/Pages/FacilitySP.aspx?UrlSuffix=estero>



Saturday, April 1 - Noon

Second-Annual Southland Bluegrass Music Festival. The free festival will feature seven outdoor concerts, an RV display, and a variety of food trucks.

Free

www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com

Thursday 2/23 through Sunday 3/5



Please visit: www.swflcfair.com

Art Gallery Exhibitions
For up-to-date event information please visit:
FGCU.EDU/ARTGALLERIES

Art & Design Special Events
For up-to-date event information please visit:
FGCU.EDU/ARTEVENTS

Music / Nisita Concert Series and Music Special Events
For up-to-date event information please visit:
FGCU.EDU/CONCERTS

Student Ensemble Concert Series
For up-to-date event information please visit:
FGCU.EDU/CONCERTS

Theatre Performances
For up-to-date event information please visit: FGCU.EDU/THEATRELAB

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 <p>239-992-2184 9911 Corkscrew Rd., Lucas Center Facility Development Estero, FL 33928</p>	 <p>239.221.5035 9041 Corkscrew Palms Estero, FL 33928 www.estero-fl.gov</p>	 <p>Top Choice Solutions Real Estate Contract To Close Specialist 239-268-1006 www.TopChoiceSolutions4u.co</p>	<p>Become a Proud Business Sponsor! If your company would like to become a business sponsor of the Estero Historical Society, come by the cottage located at 9285 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. Estero, FL 33928 on Saturdays between 1pm to 3:30pm, email esterohistoricalsociety@gmail.com or join online at: https://esterohistoricalsociety.com/product/membership/</p>