



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

# Newsletter

May/June/July  
2023

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



## *From The President*



***EHS President  
Gail Langner***

Hello and Happy July from the Estero Historical Society!

We have had a busy few months as you will see in the newsletter and look forward to upcoming events. We should update you on the Alvarez/Smith house and where we stand with that. The Lee County Parks & Recreation have been very cooperative with our idea of moving this sweet home from its current location on Highlands Avenue (the original Estero) to behind our schoolhouse and cottage. We can take advantage of our

beautiful deck and handicap accessible ramp if it is nestled in behind the other two buildings and complement its sister buildings from the early 1900's. Once we get a firm cost on relocation and restoration we will begin a capital campaign and grant writing to support that.

Thank you to historian Jacob Winge and his two 1776 reenactor friends for making our annual reading of the Declaration of Independence a fabulous event on July 1st. We had a crowd of 50 listening to Gary Israel sing God Bless America in the shadow of the most amazingly huge American flag brought by our heroes at Estero Fire Rescue.

We look forward to the upcoming months and thank you for your support in all ways.

Thank you for your support,

***Gail Langner***

***EHS Board President***

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Upcoming Historical Society Speaker Series**

September 16, 2023 - 9:30am to 11:00pm  
November 18, 2023 - 9:30am to 11:00pm

**Topics & Speakers Coming Soon!**

### *Did You Know?*



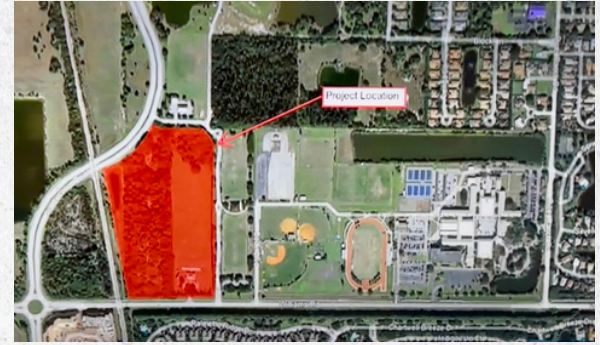
Two generations of "canning plant ladies" from left to right: Rosa Soto, Edith Trebell, Marjorie Soto, Julia Hall, and Grace Fernandez.

**1940 — Clyde Marshall opens a large fruit stand,** selling citrus fruits, local novelties and jam, putting him in competition with Edith Trebell, an Estero pioneer known for her beloved Mango Chutney.



# **Estero's New Sports Entertainment Facility Set to Transform Williams Rd Area**

Excitement is building in the Estero community as plans for a new sports entertainment facility take shape. The location for this ambitious project has been identified as the stretch of Williams Rd between Via Coconut Road and the Golf Coast Driving Range, an area known for its potential to enhance the recreational options for local residents.



The overall vision for the project is to create a state-of-the-art facility that caters primarily to Estero residents, offering a wide range of sports and entertainment activities. With the community's interests in mind, village leaders have prioritized the development of this land to benefit the people who call Estero home.

However, not everyone shares the same perspective. Some residents express concerns that the growing community should focus on preserving green spaces rather than accommodating more development. They advocate for a balance between progress and preserving the natural beauty that has made Estero such an attractive place to live.

Despite the differing opinions, village leaders have given their approval for the preliminary site plans of the Williams Rd project. The first phase of this ambitious undertaking will be the construction of indoor pickleball courts, an increasingly popular sport in the area. The initial plan includes a minimum of 6 courts, with hopes to expand to up to 12 courts to accommodate the growing demand.



The project has generated mixed feelings among residents. While some are enthusiastic about the prospect of an entertainment district that brings diverse recreational options to Estero, they also stress the importance of preserving as much greenspace as possible. Comparatively, others view the sports entertainment facility as a preferable alternative to other proposed developments like apartments or condos.

With village leaders greenlighting the project, the focus now shifts to engaging builders and designers to create detailed site plans and bring the vision to life. The collaboration with experienced professionals in the field will ensure the development meets the community's expectations and aligns with Estero's unique character.



As the project progresses, the Estero community eagerly anticipates the unveiling of the sports entertainment facility. It promises to provide a hub for sports enthusiasts, families, and residents of all ages, offering a diverse range of activities and fostering a vibrant sense of community.

The upcoming months will undoubtedly be filled with further discussions, public input, and meticulous planning to strike a balance between progress and preserving Estero's natural charm. The new sports entertainment facility on Williams Rd aims to become a testament to Estero's commitment to meeting the needs of its residents while cherishing the beauty that surrounds them.

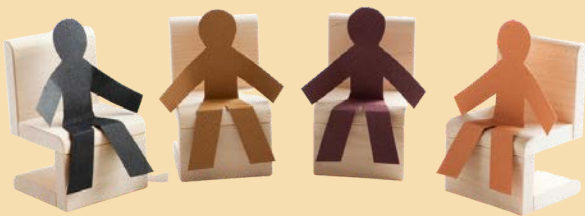


## Special Thanks!



- Thank you Rotary Club of Estero Foundation for your very generous donation to the Estero Historical Society.
- Thank you, Bill & Joann Ribble. Heat did not stop them. They donated & raised a new flag, just in time for July 4th celebration.
- Thank you to our local Estero Fire and Rescue team who arrived with their fire truck, raising a large American flag for our July 1st Independence Day event.
- Thank you to Jacob Winge, Gary Israel, the EHS Board of Directors and all the volunteers that made our independence day celebration a huge success.

### Estero Historical Society Board Meeting - All Members Are Welcome



The next EHS Board meeting will be held on Friday July 21st at 12:00 noon. Any EHS member who would like to attend is always welcome.

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



# Volunteers Needed



**The Estero Historical Society is looking for enthusiastic and friendly people who desire to help preserve our local history.**

**We Need Volunteers For Our Gift Shop, Museum and Schoolhouse.**

- You can pick your Saturday in 2023 from 1pm to 3pm
- Greet patrons for a couple of hours
- You will not be alone
- Learn as you go along with our patrons



**If you are interested or know anybody that is, please email us at:**

**[EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)**

**Just put in the subject line the Saturday date which you would like to help!**



# **Estero Historical Society's Independence Day Celebration Delights Record Attendance**



Chamber CHairnan, Bill Ribble, Estero Life, Gary Israel, Councilperson, George Zalucki, with Fie Rescue

The Estero Historical Society (EHS) held its annual Independence Day Celebration on July 1st, and it was a resounding success. The event, held at the picturesque EHS Cottage/Museum, saw a remarkable increase in attendance, with over 50 attendees, almost doubling the number from last year's festivities.

The celebration commenced with a warm welcome from EHS President Gail Langner, who expressed delight at the impressive turnout. Excitement filled the air as our local Estero Fire and Rescue arrived with their fire truck, raising a large American flag for everyone's enjoyment. The sight of

the majestic flag waving against the clear blue sky added to the patriotic ambiance.

One of the highlights of the event was Mr. Gary Israel's breathtaking rendition of "God Bless America." His soulful voice filled the park, stirring emotions and uniting everyone in a shared sense of pride. Applause echoed throughout the crowd, appreciating his remarkable talent.

Keeping with tradition, our local historian, Jacob Winge, delivered an outstanding reading of the Declaration of Independence. Dressed in an authentic 18th-century period costume, Jacob's passionate recitation captivated the audience, transporting them back to the founding days of our nation. Accompanying him were two fellow historical reenactors, enhancing the authenticity of the experience.

Following the reading of the Declaration, everyone indulged in a delightful picnic-style feast, relishing the refreshing taste of freshly cut watermelon. The atmosphere was lively and convivial, as neighbors, family, and friends mingled and shared stories, strengthening community bonds.



In addition to the festivities, many attendees took the opportunity to explore the EHS cottage and museum, as well as the schoolhouse. These historical landmarks offered a glimpse into the rich heritage of our town, fostering a deeper appreciation for Estero's past.

The success of this year's celebration would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of numerous individuals. The Estero Historical Society extends its heartfelt gratitude to each and every person who contributed to making this event the biggest and best one to date.



Their hard work and commitment ensured a memorable Independence Day celebration that brought joy and camaraderie to our community.

As we reflect on this remarkable event, we can take pride in the strong spirit of patriotism and unity that thrives in Estero. The Independence Day Celebration serves as a reminder of the importance of cherishing our history, fostering connections with our fellow community members, and embracing the values that make our nation great.



## **Household chemical waste collection scheduled at Estero Park on July 19, 2023**



Residents will be able to dispose of household chemical waste safely and responsibly from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19. Items will not be accepted either before or after that time period.

Chemical waste categories include items that are ignitable, corrosive, explosive and/or reactive and toxic. Never dispose of these items in dumpsters, compactors or at curbside with household garbage or down a storm drain or in the soil.

**Estero Park is located at 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. / 239-221-5035**



**4th Annual Assessment Fair**  
**Sept 8 – 10, 2023**  
**Estero Historical Society**  
**9285 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.**  
**in Estero Park**



**Rick Gannon, Professional Appraiser  
at the 2022 Assessment Fair**



**Participants gain valuable  
information about their  
antiques and collectibles.**

**How valuable are your  
antiques & collectibles?**

Register in Advance  
at [EsteroHistoricalSociety.com](http://EsteroHistoricalSociety.com)

**Each participant can bring up to  
three items for assessment with a  
donation fee of \$15 per item for EHS  
members and \$20 for non-members.**

The funds raised will go directly to support the historical society's building maintenance and repair program. The historical society museum is housed in two buildings: the 1902 Hall- Hanson-Collier House and the 1904 Estero Creek School House.

**Assessments will be conducted by  
Richard Gannon, president of  
Gannon's Antiques & Art.**

Friday 9/8 assessments will be  
conducted from 4– 6 pm, Sat. 9/9  
from 9 am – 1 pm: and Sunday, 9/10  
from 4 – 6 pm.





## **Estero Historical Society Celebrates Successful ADA Ramp Project**

On April 15, the Estero Historical Society (EHS) marked a significant milestone with a joyous ribbon-cutting and appreciation ceremony. The event served as a heartfelt thank you to all the individuals and organizations whose unwavering support contributed to the successful completion of the newly constructed ADA ramp project.

The ceremony witnessed a remarkable turnout, with esteemed guests including the EHS Board of Directors, EHS Members, local residents, and distinguished figures such as Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble, Councilmember Jim Ward, Engage Estero President Jim Gilmartin, former Mayor Bill Ribble, Estero Forever Foundation President John Quinn, and Councilmember George Zalucki.

Board President Gail Langner expressed her gratitude, acknowledging the pivotal role played by various entities in realizing the vision of an inclusive and accessible community space. Langner emphasized the indispensable support provided by the Estero Forever Foundation, Estero Council of Community Leaders, and the responsive citizens who generously answered Engage Estero's plea.

The newly constructed ADA ramp represents a monumental achievement for the Estero Historical Society and the entire community. It symbolizes a commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that people of all abilities can access and enjoy the rich history and cultural heritage preserved within the society's walls.

The Estero Historical Society invites everyone to delve deeper into their captivating endeavors. Visit their website at [www.esterohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.esterohistoricalsociety.com) to explore the fascinating stories, artifacts, and exhibits that showcase Estero's vibrant past.

With the successful completion of the ADA ramp project, the Estero Historical Society has taken a significant step forward in fulfilling its mission to preserve history, engage the community, and inspire future generations. As they continue to cherish the past and embrace the future, the society looks forward to welcoming visitors from all walks of life to experience the treasures it holds.

Join the Estero Historical Society in celebrating this remarkable accomplishment and embark on a journey through time by visiting the cottage museum. Together, let us cherish our heritage and build a more accessible future for all.



## Coconut Point Residences at Brooks Town Center among topics for the Planning, Zoning & Design Board on July 11, 2023

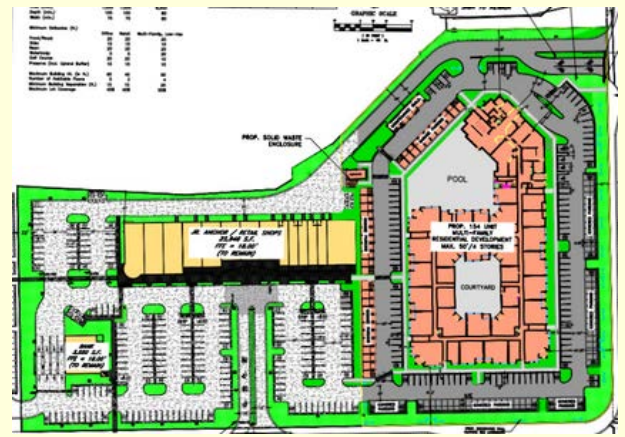
The Board will start their meeting at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, with a public information meeting for a development order for Coconut

Pointe Residences at Brooks Town Center. This is the proposed project to demolish the Winn Dixie building on the 9.95-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Coconut Road and Three Oaks Parkway.

A public hearing will then be conducted for the final plan to develop the 154-unit multifamily development of Coconut Pointe Residences at Brooks Town Center.

The Board will also conduct public hearings for the Estero Bay Chevrolet lighting upgrade and a development order for Via Coconut's mixed-use development with 330 multifamily units and commercial buildings located at 21650-21750 Via Coconut Point.

**Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, Village Hall, 9401 Corkscrew Palms Circle, near the entrance to the Estero Community Park.**



Coconut Pointe Residences at Brooks Town Center

## Coconut Point's Cheesecake Factory sets opening date



The craze for cheesecake is almost upon us, with the opening date for Estero's Cheesecake Factory officially unveiled.

Southwest Florida residents can enjoy the beloved chain restaurant as soon as Aug. 22, according to the restaurant website.

While Collier County has had a Cheesecake Factory at the Coastland Center mall since 2005 and there are 20 scattered around the state, the Coconut Point location will be Lee County's first. The chain currently has 20 locations in Florida.



## Celebrating the Success of the 2023 SA Contest

We're excited to bring you the latest update on the highly anticipated SA Contest that took place this year. The judging phase commenced on March 16, 2023, and the Estero community was abuzz with anticipation.

The SA Contest, organized by the EHS Society in collaboration with the Greater Estero Chamber and Engage Estero (formerly ECCL), offered a remarkable opportunity for local Estero schools to showcase their talented students.

The contest encompassed three distinct categories: Government, History, and Business, all specifically related to Estero. This thematic focus allowed participants to delve into the various aspects of our community, showcasing their knowledge and insights.

A panel of esteemed judges was entrusted with the important task of evaluating the essays and selecting the winners. Among this year's judges were four former teachers from Estero High School who brought their wealth of experience and expertise to the table. We extend our gratitude to Gail Langner, Roslyn Gula, Nancy Brodbeck, and Joann Ribble for their invaluable contributions to the judging process.

To honor the outstanding achievements of the contest participants, an awards ceremony was held. This event was a moment of celebration and recognition for the winners, as well as an opportunity for the entire Estero community to appreciate their exceptional work. The presentation of awards served as a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion exhibited by these talented individuals.

We congratulate all the participants of the SA Contest for their outstanding efforts and commendable achievements.

Thank you to everyone involved in making the SA Contest a resounding success. Let's continue to celebrate and support the growth of our vibrant community.

### 4th Grade Winners:

**1st Place: Bella DePasquale** - Cyrus Teed: A notable figure in the history of Estero

**2nd Place: Kirin Thrash** - The Calusa

**3rd Place: Jacobe James** -

Cyrus Reed Teed Founder of Estero

### Highschool Winners:

**1st Place: Jack Calder** – Historical Society

**2nd Place: Brittany Streitmatter** – Engage Estero

**3rd Place: Emma LeLievre** – Chamber of Commerce







## Hurricane Season Is Officially Here!!

Hurricane Season lasts six months: June 1 – November 30. Every household should have a family emergency plan.

There are a number of things you may do to prepare before the season starts and, hopefully, you will not need to use them.

In case of an emergency, always call 911.

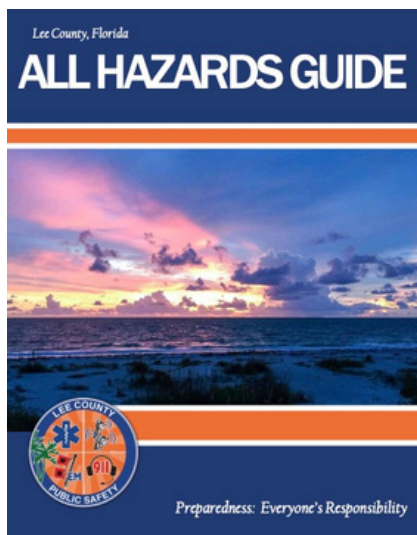
Everyone should have an emergency supply kit for your family and pets, with enough supplies to last at least 3 days without power.

To report a power outage, call Florida Power & Light at 1-800-468-8243.

If you are unable to resolve your situation, contact the Village at 239-221-5035.

The county's All Hazards Guide outlines storm preparations and is available.

Estero Fire Rescue, 21500 Three Oaks Parkway, will have sand bags available for those who need them.



## Hurricane Preparation Guide

The All Hazards Guide is an official, locally prepared document for Lee County residents which includes important hurricane preparation and education, as well as information on flooding, tornadoes and other weather threats.

**[Click Here To Download](#)**



## Shelters

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**Emergency Shelters open when determined by Emergency Management officials.** Not all shelters are always opened. Local radio and TV stations will announce which shelters are open at the time of a storm. Pet-friendly shelters will be available for every storm, although locations may vary. No registration is required. Visit [www.lee.gov.com/storm](http://www.lee.gov.com/storm) for the latest information at the time of a storm event. For a complete list of emergency shelters, click [HERE](#).

- Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd
- Hertz Arena, 11000 Everblades Parkway

### **Other Shelters in Lee County:**

- Alico Arena, 10501 FGCU Boulevard S., Ft. Myers
- Three Oaks Elementary, 19600 Cypress View Drive, Ft. Myers
- Three Oaks Middle School, 18500 Three Oaks Parkway, Ft. Myers
- Bonita Springs YMCA, 27200 Kent Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
- Florida Gulf Coast University Alico Arena, 12181 FGCU Lake Pkwy E, Fort Myers, FL 33913

## Important Contacts

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- Lee County Emergency Operations – (239) 533-0622
- Estero Fire Rescue – (239) 390-8000
- San Carlos Fire Department – (239) 267-7525
- Red Cross South Florida Division – (561) 833-7711
- Florida Power & Light Report Outage -(1-800-468-8243)

## Know Your Zone

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**Do you know your Evacuation Zone?** Hurricane evacuation zones are no longer referenced by storm category, but are now named by hurricane surge evacuation zones: A, B, C, D and E. We want you to know your zone, and to challenge your friends and family to know the same!

**Why is it important to know your zone in Lee County?** We are evacuated by zones for storm surge and wind, in a phased manner. This means we may order the evacuation of zone A before you see any effects of the tropical storm.

# Out & About Spotlight



## 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>

## FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

### Art Gallery Exhibitions

For up-to-date event information please visit:  
[FGCU.EDU/ARTGALLERIES](http://FGCU.EDU/ARTGALLERIES)

### Art & Design Special Events

For up-to-date event information please visit:  
[FGCU.EDU/ARTEVENTS](http://FGCU.EDU/ARTEVENTS)

### Music / Nisita Concert Series and Music Special Events

For up-to-date event information please visit:  
[FGCU.EDU/CONCERTS](http://FGCU.EDU/CONCERTS)

### Student Ensemble Concert Series

For up-to-date event information please visit:  
[FGCU.EDU/CONCERTS](http://FGCU.EDU/CONCERTS)

### Theatre Performances

For up-to-date event information please visit: [FGCU.EDU/THEATRELAB](http://FGCU.EDU/THEATRELAB)



Box Office: 239-278-4422

please visit: [www.broadwaypalm.com](http://www.broadwaypalm.com)



**JULY 7 - AUGUST 12, 2023**

### EVENT DETAILS

**Date:** July 29, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**Doors Open:** 6:00 pm

**Ticket Prices:** Starting at \$24.00

**Parking:** \$30.00 plus tax and fees - Cashless



## GUTFELD LIVE

with Special Guest Tom Shillue

# THE KING OF LATE NIGHT TOUR

**Sunday, July 16**

Suncoast Credit Union Arena at FSW



# Our Proud Business Supporters





## Rotary Club of Estero

P.O. Box 743  
Estero, FL 33929



239-405-8115  
[www.tlcmarketing-events.com](http://www.tlcmarketing-events.com)

9148 Bonita Beach Rd  
SE #201, Bonita Springs,  
FL 34135



PO Box 763  
Estero, FL 33929  
[www.esteroforeverfoundation.org](http://www.esteroforeverfoundation.org)



Village of  
ESTERO

239.221.5035

9041 Corkscrew Palms  
Estero, FL 33928

[www.estero-fl.gov](http://www.estero-fl.gov)

**BONITA VIDEO, LLC**  
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Estero, FL  
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Inform > Engage > Impact

P.O. Box 424  
Estero, FL  
33929-0424

[www.EsteroToday.com](http://www.EsteroToday.com)



The heart of Southwest Florida

239-390-1137

9990 Coconut Rd.,  
Suite #324  
Estero, FL 34135

[www.esterochamber.org](http://www.esterochamber.org)



239-333-4447

24600 S Tamiami Trl.,  
Suite #208  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

[www.customjewelryinbonitasprings.com](http://www.customjewelryinbonitasprings.com)

## O'Donnell Landscaping

239.992.8842

4291 Williams Road  
Estero, FL 33928



Rentals-Fishing-Kyaks  
SUP-Canoes-Gear

239-992-4050

20991 S Tamiami Trl.,  
Estero, FL 33928

[www.esteroriveroutfitters.com](http://www.esteroriveroutfitters.com)



239.277.1515

9210 Estero Park  
Commons Blvd.  
Suite 9 -  
Estero, FL 33928

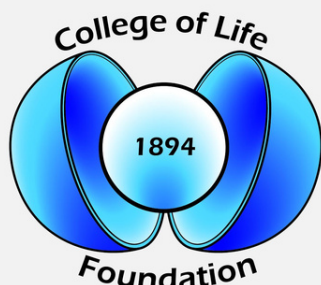


One Team. Protecting Your Dream.

239.790.4445

10600 Chevrolet Way #107  
Estero FL 33928

[www.StateInsuranceUSA.com](http://www.StateInsuranceUSA.com)



239-992-2184

9911 Corkscrew Rd.,  
Lucas Center Facility Development  
Estero, FL 33928



Top Choice Solutions

Real Estate  
Contract To  
Close Specialist

239-268-1006

[www.TopChoiceSolutions4u.co](http://www.TopChoiceSolutions4u.co)

## Volunteers Needed...

If you are interested or know anybody  
that is, please email us at:

[EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)