



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

Newsletter

August 2023

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



From The President



***EHS President
Gail Langner***

It's hard to believe that it is August already. It seems as though time just flies by vs. the days when we were all in elementary school and the days just dragged waiting for summer.

Our speaker series will begin again in September, but with a fun twist. September 16th at 9:30 am we will be guests of The Friends of the Koreschan. They were so kind to offer to host us at their location and their head docent will be our speaker. The cost, as normal, will be \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Food will be provided.

The only difference is there is a \$5 donation to the state park at the guard shack off west Corkscrew, so you're welcome to stay afterwards to tour the park if you'd like.

Mark Your Calendars For Upcoming Events:

September 8, 9, 10	Assessment Fair	Historical Society	Varied
September 16th	Speaker Series	Koreschan State Park	9:30 am
October 14th	Fall Yard Sale	EHS Cottage	7:30am
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November 18th	Speaker Series	Country Creek	9:30 am
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January 19th	Annual Meeting	Country Creek	1:00 pm
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April 13th	Speaker Series	Country Creek	9:30 am

We were disappointed to lose the mango tree that we used to make jam but found a tree on the Village of Estero property and was given permission to gather those. We now have a replenished stock of jam plus a limited number of red pepper jelly as well. \$7 or two for \$12 for sale in the gift shop. If the red pepper jelly is a hit, we will be making more.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the upcoming season both at our location in Estero and at our events. We appreciate your support and interest in helping us keep the Estero area history alive for future generations.

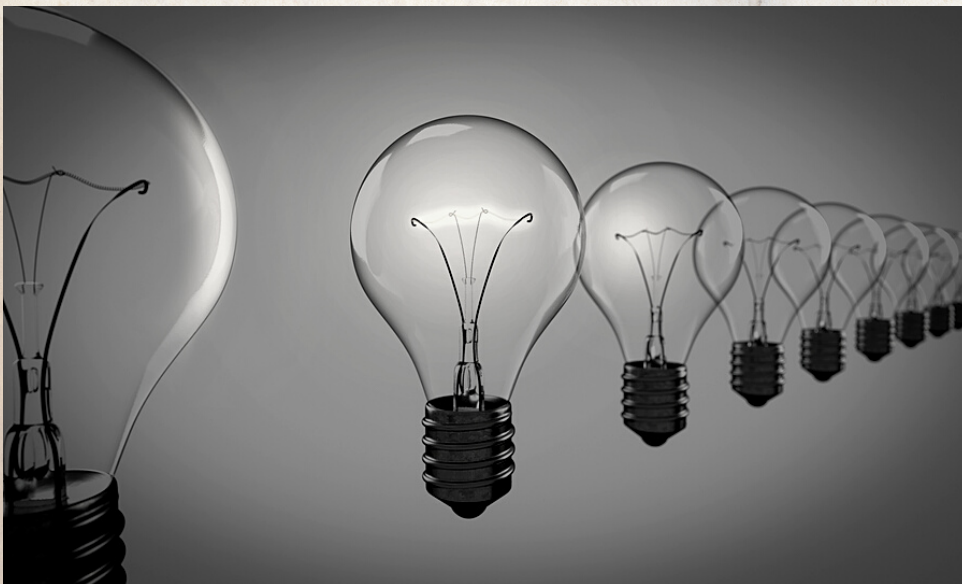
Thank you for your support,

Gail Langner

EHS Board President

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Did You Know?

**1945
Electricity Comes To
Estero!**

After the end of World War II, Estero gets electricity.

TEMPORARILY

CLOSED



Please make note and mark your calendars! The EHS Cottage, Museum and Schoolhouse will be closed from August 1st to September 5th for minor repairs and deep cleaning. Regular weekly hours will resume on Wednesday Sept. 6 by appointment only and regular Saturday hours from 1pm to 4pm.



Alligators & Crocodiles, Oh My!

Did you know that the fearsome American Crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*) and American Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) can be found coexisting in Southwest Florida? These formidable creatures not only share the same habitat in the West Everglades but also possess distinct characteristics that set them apart.

To differentiate between the two, alligators sport a U-shaped snout, whereas crocodiles exhibit a more pointed or V-shaped snout. Moreover, alligators typically boast a black coloration, while crocodiles tend to display a lighter shade of grayish brown.



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary



The History of Estero Fire Rescue

Part 1

The Estero Fire District had its beginnings in 1964. Until that time, Lee County contracted with the City of Ft. Myers to provide fire protection to the Estero area. If a fire broke out, the call went up to Ft. Myers and an engine was sent south on two-lane US 41 to Estero, a trip of nearly 20 miles. Needless to say, this provided very little protection for the residents of Estero. Any structure would likely burn to the ground in the time it took the truck to arrive.

In the early 1960's, the community began the process of setting up a volunteer Fire Department in Estero. In 1964, the Estero Precinct 12 Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 was created. George Horne was appointed the first Fire Chief, a position he held for 18 years.

In those early days, firefighting equipment was hard to come by. When a new fire engine or other equipment was needed, the community would host bake sales to help raise the money. The volunteer department had no authority to tax the citizens for the service they provided. The company operated on local contributions and donations from established fire districts.

*Next month will be part 2,
The Growth of Estero Fire Rescue Begins.*

Courtesy of EsteroFire.org

For More Information about Estero Fire Rescue Contact:

Susan Lindenmuth / Director of Public Affairs

239-390-8000

or email Lindenmuth@esterofire.org



Estero Historical Society Board Meeting - All Members Are Welcome



You're invited to mark your calendars for the upcoming EHS Board meeting, scheduled for Friday, August 18th at 12:00 noon. As always, all EHS members are warmly encouraged to attend.

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

Estero Historical Society Kicks Off 2023-24 Lecture Series with Event at Koreshan



A History of the Koreshan Unity Settlement will be the topic of the first event of the 2023-24 Saturday Lecture Series hosted by the Estero Historical Society. The event will be held at the historic Art Hall in the Koreshan State Park located at the northwest corner of US 41 and Corkscrew Blvd. The event is scheduled to begin at 9:30 am on

Saturday, Sept. 16. Continental breakfast will be served. The presenter will be Ron Westcott, the lead docent of Koreshan State Park.

Koreshan Unity Settlement, a religious sect, founded by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed in Chicago, moved to what is now Estero in 1893. The utopian community was based on a commitment to communal living and a belief that the universe existed on the inside of the Earth. They were an industrious community that built and operated a printing facility, boatworks, cement works, sawmill, bakery, store and hostelry. The Koreshans had a profound effect on the development of southwest Florida which Mr. Westcott will detail in his presentation.

Koreshan State Park charges a \$5 entry fee at the ranger station. Visitors can tour the park following the presentation. In addition, attendees are asked to register for the presentation in advance on the Estero Historical Society website www.esterohistoricalsociety.com. EHS members pay \$10 each and non-members pay \$15 each.

Learn more about the Estero Historical Society at the website referenced above or by visiting Facebook.com/esterohistory. The historical society museum, housed in two early 20th century buildings, is located inside Estero Park at 9285 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.



We Need YOU.....



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

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

Welcome Jim Ward



Jim Ward

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Jim Ward to our EHS team as he steps into the Liaison role with the Estero Chamber of Commerce.

Jim has been a resident of Spring Run at the Brooks since 2003 and a resident of Florida since 2006. He has been involved in local club governance in Florida for 15 years having served on the Board of Directors of Spring Run Golf Club as Treasurer and President. Jim also served on the Spring Run Charitable Foundation Board, and on the Board of Directors of The Commons Club at the Brooks as Treasurer and President. He was also on the board of the Brooks Community Development District (CDD). During

his tenure within those positions he was directly involved with the member purchase of The Commons Club from the Bonita Bay Group, and also oversaw numerous million dollar club renovation projects.

Jim worked in the NYC area as a senior financial manager for a Fortune 500 Pharmaceutical and Consumer Products company and later as a Division Vice President of Finance with a Fortune 500 Health Care corporation. Responsibilities included domestic and international strategic planning, annual budgets, acquisitions and divestitures, operations analysis, and business development.

He has a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in financial management from Pace University in NYC.

Jim has lived in NYC, Long Island, Bergen County NJ, and North East Pennsylvania. He is married 49 years to Carol. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Jim enjoys golf, pickle ball, the Florida beaches and spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

District 6 represents The Brooks Communities, Mirasol at Coconut Point, Residences at Coconut Point, and Rapallo.

Areas of interest include – water quality and conservation, fiscal management, recreation, and economic development.

Term: 2021-2025

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

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.



MANGO HUNT ADVENTURE: JARS OF JAMS AND OTHER DELIGHTS!

Hey there, museum enthusiasts and jam lovers! It's time to share an exciting tale of camaraderie, resilience, and mouthwatering delights that unfolded at our beloved museum gift shop. So grab a seat and get ready to embark on a thrilling mango hunt with us!

It all began with an invitation email that read, "Who wants to go on a mango hunt?" Our gift shop had recently run out of the much-loved jars of jams, leaving us craving the sweet, juicy goodness of mangoes. But there was a twist! Our regular source for this delectable stone fruit had been lost due to the unfortunate hurricane Ian. What were we to do?

Enter the indomitable Gail Langner, a true go-getter with a heart of gold. She immediately sprang into action, making phone calls and seeking permission from the Village to embark on a special mango-gathering mission at the River House. Permission granted, the date was set for July 18th, and our team of hunters and gatherers, including Gail, Roslyn, and Bo, gathered to begin their adventure.

With John Quinn as their guide at the River House, the picking commenced,



Gail Langner

and in no time, a bountiful supply of mangoes had been gathered. It was a true team effort, and the sense of accomplishment and joy was palpable among our group.

But the adventure didn't stop there! Before bidding farewell, Mr. Quinn generously treated some of our gatherers to a personal tour of the River House, a delightful bonus to an already wonderful day.

A few days later, the talented duo of Gail and Roslyn took charge of peeling and prepping all those juicy mangos, and the process of canning our new supply of Mango Jam began. The enthusiasm was infectious, and the joy of creating something delicious together brought even more smiles to their faces.



Roslyn Gula

And guess what? The excitement didn't end with Mango Jam! Gail and Roslyn's newfound passion for canning inspired them to whip up a large batch of Hot Pepper Jelly. Trust us when we say, this jelly is a hit at any gathering when served over a block of cream cheese with your favorite cracker. It's absolutely scrumptious!

Now, the best part of this entire adventure is that you get to join in on the fun. Head on over to the ESH Cottage gift shop, where you can stock up on these delectable treasures. But hurry, they are selling fast, and you wouldn't want to miss out on these jars of goodness. Each jar is priced at just \$7, and you can get two for the incredible price of \$12.



Mango Jam



Red Pepper Jelly

So, come on down and indulge in the fruits of our mango hunt labor. It's not just about the jam and jelly; it's about the memories, the laughter, and the sense of community that fills our hearts. Together, we've turned a challenging situation into a joyous occasion, and we can't wait to share these delightful treats with all of you!

Remember, the Mango Jam and Hot Pepper Jelly are flying off the shelves, so don't miss your chance to savor these flavorful delights. Let's celebrate the spirit of togetherness and the joy of discovery as we relish the sweetness of mangoes in every spoonful. See you at the gift shop!



Estero Planning & Zoning

Mixed-Use Development Approved!

On July 11, the Estero Planning, Zoning, and Design board approved a development order for the creation of "Via Coconut," a vibrant 20-acre mixed-use planned development. This new project will be located on the corner of Via Coconut Point and Corkscrew Road.

Via Coconut Development Overview:

The impressive Via Coconut development will encompass a diverse range of features, including:

Multifamily Units: A total of 330 multifamily units will be built, housed within elegant three- or four-story buildings.

Commercial Spaces: Spanning 27,310 square feet, commercial spaces within the development will foster a dynamic and lively environment.

Public Park: A 1-acre public park located on Via Coconut Point, opposite the Genova community, will provide a serene and inviting green space for all to enjoy.

Access and Connectivity: Via Coconut will offer two access points on Via Coconut Point, and the project will also incorporate future pedestrian and vehicular access to the west.

Dog Park: Four-legged friends will have their dedicated space to play and socialize.

Pocket Park: A charming pocket park will offer a delightful retreat for relaxation and social gatherings.

Multiuse Path: For those seeking an active lifestyle, a scenic multiuse path will wind its way through the development, providing opportunities for walking, jogging, and cycling.

Fishing Pier: Enthusiastic anglers will have a spot to cast their lines and enjoy the tranquility of fishing.

A Collaborative Effort: Estero 5 LLC, the applicant behind this visionary project, presented the development to the board during a public information meeting on Jan. 11, 2022. The Village staff, recognizing the potential benefits of the project, recommended approval with 17 stipulations.

Prioritizing Excellence:

Estero 5 LLC embraced the proposed conditions set forth by the Village staff. This agreement underscores their commitment to resolving any potential issues before proceeding with building permits.



Golf Coast Driving Range on Williams Rd to Close; New "Entertainment District" Planned

The Golf Coast Driving Range on Williams Rd will be permanently closing its doors. The facility, which was acquired by the Village of Estero in 2022, is set to cease.

The closure is directly linked to the proposed 20-acre development site on the corner of Williams Rd and Via Coconut Rd, which is designated to become Estero's vibrant "Entertainment District." This ambitious undertaking is bound to transform the landscape of our beloved community and offer an array of recreational opportunities.

Engage Estero, a prominent local organization, expresses that the closure of Golf Coast Driving Range will come as a shock to many Estero residents who have cherished this public golf practice facility. As it currently stands, the range remains the sole public golf practice facility in the vicinity.

DON'T FORGRET TO



SAVE THE DATE

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August Animal Rescue Spotlight



Located in Gulf Coast Town Center
9902 Gulf Coast Main St D-140
Fort Myers, FL 33913
239-237-2960
www.cattyshackcafe.com

Hello! I'm Suzanne, a wacky little old lady of 11 years! I love, love, loveeee head scratches, especially in this one spot behind my ear! I will gladly tell you how much I love that scratched! Afterwards, any cozy covered cave bed will be perfect for my nap time! I am currently in foster care and am looking for my furever family. Older kitty's need love and I need a furever home and family to share my senior years with. Come meet me, I am located at Cattyshack Cat Cafe here in Ft. Myers.

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>

Q FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

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KORESHAN STATE PARK

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A WAY OF LIFE FROM MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO

Cast Iron Cafe Cooking Demonstration

Sunday August 6th 9am to 12pm
3800 Corkscrew Rd Estero FL 33928





Hertz Arena

11000 Everblades Pkwy • Estero, FL33928

Phone: 239-278-4422

Web: www.hertzarena.com/events-tickets

August 24th / 7:30pm
Doors Open at 6pm
Ticket Prices Starting At \$69.75



August 25th / 8pm
Doors Open at 6:30pm
Ticket Prices Starting At \$53

August 29th & 30th / 6pm
Doors Open at 6pm
Ticket Prices Starting At \$39



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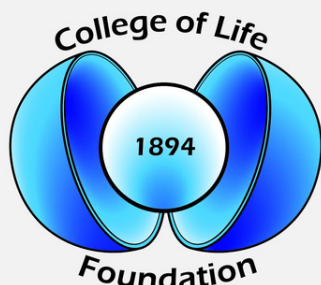
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Volunteers Needed...

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

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