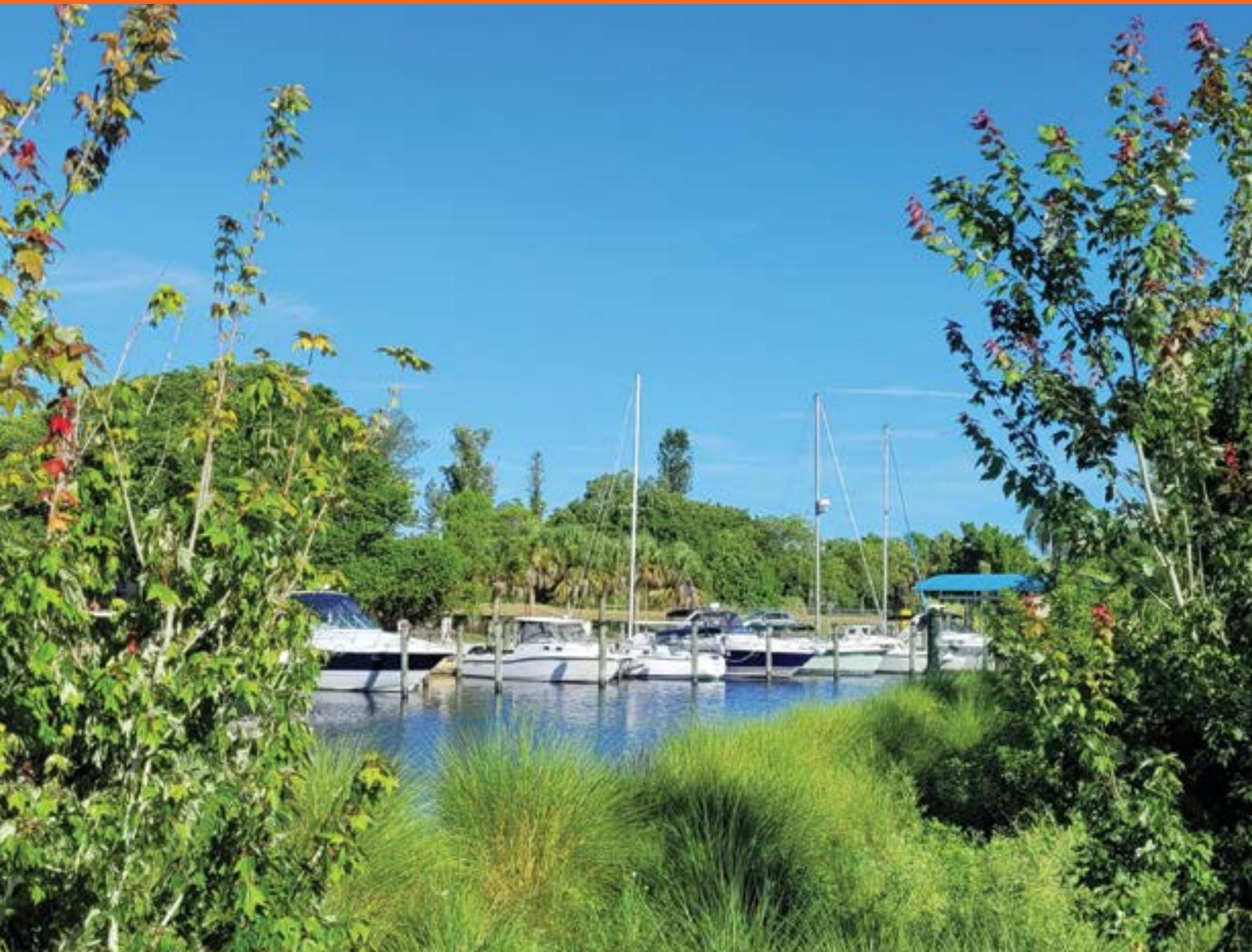


**EAST
LEE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
THE FUTURE IS HERE



25 Homestead Road N • Suite 41 | Lehigh Acres, Florida 33936
(239) 369-3322 | elccoc.org

THE FUTURE IS HERE!



Michael "Mike" Welch
Chairman - Board of Directors/
Operating Officer
chairman@elccoc.org

Welcome!

We are stronger together when we work together. The East Lee County Chamber of Commerce unites Lehigh Acres, Gateway, Alva, Buckingham, East Fort Myers and the RSW-Airport Communities.

I have the great honor of being elected by my colleagues in the business community as the current chairman of our Chamber. Stay tuned for exciting times with new regional partnerships, the introduction of new resources for our business organizations, as well as a focused voice.

As we continue through these times, our Chamber has forged useful partnerships with local and regional entities, as well as with various levels of government in service to our members. Our Chamber has become a proud resource for business in this time of the pandemic and we will continue to do so in our future.

Please email me directly with your comments and concerns, or for assistance at chairman@elccoc.org, or call me at 239-565-8450.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Welch



Visit Our Website at: elccoc.org

2022/2023 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ed Moore
Past Chair
*Red Sneakers
Mobile Marketing*



David Deetscreek
Treasurer
*Robert Bowers
Accounting, Inc.*



Cecil Pendergrass
Director
*Lee County
Commissioner*



Ruth Anglickis
Director
*Landex Resorts
International*



Bobbie Hunt
Director
NPR Graphics



Michael Jacobs
Director
LegalShield



Tonda Lawson
Director
*Brown & Brown
Insurance*



Dr. Joseph Restino
Director
*Assistant Principal
Harnes Marsh
Middle School*



Michael Thompson
Director
*Sunrise Realty
Network, Inc.*



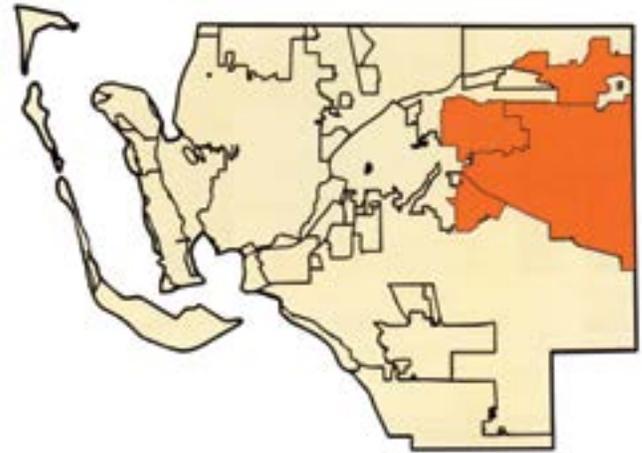
Welcome to East Lee County and the Chamber! The communities of East Lee County form and exciting future for business and opportunity in our region. I am proud to be a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors as a force in the community and I hope that you join and participate in making East Lee County and Lee County ever stronger as we move into the future together!

Honorable Cecil Pendergrass
Lee County Board of County Commissioners

EAST LEE COUNTY: SHAPE ITS FUTURE

East Lee County is growing and on track to be one of the largest communities in Lee County as well as in all of Florida. As an unincorporated community, East Lee County offers fresh opportunities for its residents to shape the culture of our community as we grow and develop. There are a variety of ways to get involved in our area. Remember, it takes everyone to participate as we grow our community in new and exciting ways. If you are a long-time resident and involved in organizations and groups, please help mentor and encourage the next generation of residents in choosing an organization to get involved with.

As a business member in our community, please investigate the wide variety of activities available to you. Pick one or two and get involved! If you are available, please consider volunteering your time. Several community and service organizations could use your help. They would appreciate you for donating some of your valuable time. Most importantly, be positive about East Lee County. Share good, upbeat stories with the local media. Let's keep improving the image of East Lee County by shining a spotlight on the kind and caring people that live here. Together, we will make a difference.



East Lee County Chamber of Commerce (ELCCoC)

The East Lee County Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the East Lee County community. Designated a Certified Chamber of Commerce by the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals, ELCCoC was originally founded in 1982 as Lehigh Chamber of Commerce and currently boasts more than 200 members. It is a not-for-profit entity dedicated to promoting and advancing the economic, civic and social growth of East Lee County.



Visit Our Website at: elccoc.org

GET INVOLVED

Meetings are Open to the Public

Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District and the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue Service hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Since the Commissioners on both of these boards are elected, it's a good idea to attend some of these meetings - watch your tax dollars at work. The Lehigh Acres architectural Planning and Zoning Board and Lehigh Acres Street Light District are also holding monthly meetings that are open to the public to discuss future developments and light placement.

Lee County Task Force

Develop Lehigh is a task force to develop the economic growth strategy for Lehigh Acres. This group is managed by the Lee County Economic Development Council.

Volunteer Opportunities

Hope Hospice, Lehigh Regional Medical Center and the Greater Lehigh Acres Area Chamber of Commerce are always in need of assistance from volunteers.

Community and Service Organizations/Clubs

Lehigh Community Services, Lehigh Senior Center, Rotary, Kiwanis, American Legion, local churches and many more are taking stock in our community by having programs, scholarships and doing fund-raising events to finance these programs.

Community Events

Newcomers and locals can visit the Spring Festival, Fall Festival, Yard of the Month, Wings Over Water and Make a Difference Day!

Yard of the Month

East Lee County Chamber of Commerce awards a "Yard of the Month" to an owner who has displayed a beautiful yard in keeping with "Love Lehigh", which

is part of a beautification program. Applications can be obtained from: ELCCOC.org and mailed back to them at 25 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres, FL. 33936.

Mentor a Child

Over 30,000 children live in Lehigh Acres with limited activities outside school. Mentor a child and change a life!

Committees

The East Lee County Chamber of Commerce has several to choose from, such as the Special Events Committee that helps organize events such as the Annual Gala, luncheons and others.

MAJOR MEMBERS

Bowers Accounting
Brown & Brown Insurance
C. Bagans First Realty
Coldwell Banker/Fred Elliott
Landex International
Lee Health System
Legal Shield
Lehigh Regional Medical Center
Millenium Physician Group
NPR Graphics
Physicians Primary Care
Southwest Waste
Sunrise Realty Network, Inc.
TECO/People's Gas
Waste Pro
Ygrene Financial

LEE COUNTY OPPORTUNITY ZONES

In 2018, 15 census tracts throughout Lee County, FL, were designated as Opportunity Zones. These zones are economically distressed communities where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. Opportunity Zones are designated to spur economic development by providing tax benefits to investors. Investors can defer tax on any prior gains invested in a Qualified Opportunity Fund (QOF). If the investor holds the investment for at least 110 years, the investor is eligible for an increase in the basis of the QOF investment equal to its fair market value on the date that the QOF investment is sold or exchanged.

What is an Opportunity Zone?

Opportunity Zones are designated to incentivize new equity investments in low income communities nationwide. All of the underlying incentives relate to the tax treatment of capital gains, and all are tied to the longevity of an investors' stake in a qualified Opportunity Fund. There are three core incentives:

Temporary Deferral: A temporary deferral of inclusion in taxable income for capital gains reinvested

into an Opportunity Fund. The deferred gain must be recognized on the earlier of the date on which the Opportunity Zone investment is disposed of or on December 31, 2026.

Step-Up in Basis: A step-up in basis for the deferred capital gains reinvested in an Opportunity Fund. The basis is increased by 10% if the investment in the Opportunity Fund is held by the taxpayer for at least five years and by an additional 5% if held for at least seven years, thereby excluding up to 15% of the original deferred gain from taxation.

Permanent Exclusion: A permanent exclusion from taxable income of capital gains from the sale or exchange of an investment in an Opportunity Fund if the investment is held for at least 10 years. This exclusion only applies to gains accrued on investments made through an Opportunity Fund. There is no permanent exclusion possible for the initially deferred gain.

Lehigh Acres has two zones of Opportunity which makes it an attractive investment opportunity to the business community.



Lehigh Acres is one of Lee County's fastest growing communities with over 116,000 residents calling the community home. Affordable housing and a casual lifestyle are attracting a younger population, dominated by families. With a strong supply of land, convenient access to Interstate 75, Southwest Florida International Airport and a growing workforce, Lehigh Acres is poised for continued growth.

EAST LEE LEHIGH ACRES OPPORTUNITY ZONES

These are 53 businesses with a combined total of 442 employees within the East Lehigh Opportunity Zone. According to ESRI's Retail Marketplace Profile Report, many types of business have the potential for success in this area.

The East Lehigh Acres Opportunity Zone is approximately 13.29 square miles and is comprised of three census tracts: 403.08, 403.13 and 403.14.

There are roughly 1,500 vacant parcels in this opportunity zone totaling almost 470 acres. Most have been subdivided into smaller lots but currently have zoning that allows for multi-family or commercial usage.



WEST LEE LEHIGH ACRES OPPORTUNITY ZONES

There are 39 businesses with a combined total of 124 employees within this Opportunity Zone. According to ESRI's Retail Marketplace Profile Report, many types of business have the potential for success in this area.

The West Lehigh Acres Opportunity Zone is approximately 1.75 square miles and is comprised of one census tract: 401.22.

Approximately 930 of those parcels, around 460 acres, currently have zoning that allows for multi-family or commercial usage.





LEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Grow your business in East Lee County.

TARGET INDUSTRIES IN OUR REGION



Aviation, Aerospace and Airport Services

Transportation: Air Transportation

Manufacturing: Transportation Equipment, Flight Training, Space and Technology Research



Construction Trade

Construction

*Building Construction- General Contractors & Operative Builders
Heavy Construction; Except Building Construction- Contractors
Construction-Special Trade Contractors*



Destination and Entertainment

Retail Trade, Eating and Drinking Places, Services

Hotels, Rooming Houses, Camps and Other Lodging Places; Amusement and Recreation Services



FinTech

Fintech (Financial Technology) refers to software and other modern technologies used by businesses that provide automated and improved financial services.

2201 Second St #500 • Fort Myers, FL 33901 • (239) 338-3161