

REIS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH PRESIDENTS REUNION IN FEB.

The 25th anniversary of REIS, formerly the Real Estate Securities and Syndication Institute (RESSI), will be celebrated in style at the Feb. 14 luncheon meeting. A reunion of past presidents will share insight and anecdotes of Southwest Florida's investment and development industry. Visit the "Meeting Programs" page for details and online reservation form.

BOARDROOM REPORT

Notes from recent REIS Board meetings

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Luncheon Programs: Gerald Hendry
Luncheon Sponsors: Jim Kinsey
Horizon Council: Rob Fowler, Jr.
Legislative Issues: Mary Gibbs
Scholarship Foundation: Walter Serbon & Kevin Winter
Education: Cody Vaughan-Birch & Sharon Jenkins-Owen
Social Events: Sharon Jenkins-Owen
Membership: Hal Tate

REIS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Walter Serbon has begun soliciting corporate donations to the scholarship foundation and expects to reach \$10,000 by February.

GROWTH & REGULATORY ISSUES

Lee Plan amendments have been approved by State Dept. of Community Affairs, with exception of Leeward Yacht Club.

Discretionary exactions on development orders issued by City of Fort Myers are a cause for concern and caution.

The **DRGR / water resource study** and **blasting** regulations remain under review and discussion in Lee County.

Affordable housing crisis and related impact fees merit REIS attention. Complex issue with wide-ranging effects and no practical solution being implemented. REIS to consider program or workshop to address issue.

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BLASTING STUDY RELEASED

A study of development site blasting challenges the severe regulations enacted by Lee County. The study will be discussed by the Blasting Ad Hoc Committee at 2 p.m. Jan. 25 in the first floor conference room of Lee's Community Development Building. Lee hired consultant Terra Dinamica to study the issue, as part of an ongoing review by the Blasting Ad Hoc Committee.

The study is available at the County's web site: <http://www.lee-county.com/dcd/>

REIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

REIS proudly announces that its annual scholarship has been increased to \$1,000 and awarded to Adam Zak,, a 21-year old resident of Fort Myers and a full-time student at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). This is the second time that he has been awarded the REIS scholarship.

Mr. Zak is a 2003 graduate of Fort Myers High School, where he earned a 3.45 GPA and received the Business Achievement Award. He is currently majoring in Finance at FGCU with a grade point average of 3.41. He is also studying business ethics and is interested in the real estate business.



Scholarship winner Adam Zak (center) with Scholarship Chairman Kevin Winter (left) and 2005 REIS President Frank Mullins.

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Economist Henry Fishkind will present national and local economic forecasts at the annual SW Florida Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference, Jan. 26 in Fort Myers. Lee Commissioner John Albion will provide an infrastructure and transportation update, while six real estate experts will review trends in various market sectors. Information: <http://southwestfl.ccimnet.com> or Julie Mankin, 239.489.3303.

MARKETWATCH

Statistical data and analysis of Southwest Florida's real estate market will be presented by industry experts on Feb. 21 and 22 in Fort Myers. Includes economic trends, insight on new opportunities, and discussion of development and construction industry. Information: www.MarketWatch2006.com

DISCUSS GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The National Issues Forum "A Nice Place To Live: Creating Communities; Fighting Sprawl" is a series of 3 open discussion meetings allowing residents, government officials, and planners to share ideas, concerns and suggestions about growth and development. The forums are free and the public is welcome. They are at South County Regional Library in Estero, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., on January 17, 24, and 31. Information: 239.390.3200.

ESTERO REGS ADDED TO CODE

Estero development regulations, included in the Estero Community Plan, are being added to Chapter 33 of the Lee County Land Development Code. The regulations were developed by the Estero Design Review Committee.

LEE'S 20/20 PROGRAM WELL-FUNDED TO BUY MORE LAND

Lee County's "20/20" land conservation program has nearly \$20 million cash in hand to buy environmentally sensitive lands. The funds are in addition to the funds set aside for Babcock Ranch purchase. Information and forms for sellers are available at www.lee-county.com/countylands/Cons2020 or by calling Lynda Riley, 239.479.8505

MARKETING OPPORTUNITY

Sponsorship of REIS luncheons provides prominent, personal exposure to the leaders in the real estate investment and development community. \$350 sponsorship includes your logo on 350 meeting notices, representation in press releases and on REIS web site, opportunity to present displays and distribute brochures at the meeting, in addition to a personal presentation. Information: Jim Kinsey, 239.939.1367.

TRANSCRIPTS OF LEE COMMISSION MEETINGS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Transcripts of regular Lee County Board of Commissioners meetings are now available on the County's website: www.lee-county.com/publicresources then click "Lee TV" then click "Meeting Transcript." Information: 239.332.2737.

ENTERPRISE ZONE EXPANDED

The Fort Myers / Lee County Enterprise Zone has nearly doubled in size and has been reauthorized for the next 10 years. Numerous sales tax, property tax, and income tax incentives are available to businesses locating within the zone. A map and Information is available at the Lee County Economic Development Office web site, www.leecountybusiness.com or by calling 239.338.3161.



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