

2012 OFFICERS:

President Kim Donnelly
Vice President Steve Hurley
Treasurer Sean Ellis, Esq., LEED AP
Secretary Matt Simmons

2012 GOVERNORS:

Amanda L. Brock, Esq.
Jean Gruss
Roy Hyman
Steven P. Kushner, Esq.
Karen Miller
Robin M. Mixon
Lisa Sands
Past President Kevin M. Fitzgerald

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Redevelopment opportunities with brownfield sites will be explained by David Latham, chairman of Florida Brownfields Association outreach committee. Sponsored by [Roetzel & Andress](#).

The September 11 luncheon will be sponsored by [Brooks & Freund](#). [Ackerman Senterfitt](#) will sponsor the October luncheon.

REIS welcomes suggestions for programs from members. Please convey your ideas to [Steve Hurley](#), 239.337.3330. Sponsorships for future luncheons, workshops and social events are available. Contact [Jean Gruss](#) for details. (239.275.2230).

Scholarship Programs:

We are seeking applicants for scholarships to be awarded this fall. Qualifying criteria and contacts for submitting applications at the participating universities and colleges are on the [REIS website](#).

Horizon Council:

Kevin M. Fitzgerald, REIS representative to the Horizon Council, reports that the annual Industry Appreciation banquet and awards ceremony will be September 21 at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers.

Gala Social Event:

The REIS annual party will be at The Edison restaurant on November 15. To assist in planning or to reserve prime sponsorship positions contact Event Chair [Robin Mixon](#) at (239) 334-6870 or 872-3273.

Reception For Lee Commissioners:

The popular bi-annual reception will take place after the November elections at Edison National Bank and will be sponsored by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin Attorneys at Law. This festive gathering is exclusively for REIS members and their guests.

REIS WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 14

Public-Private Partnerships will be the focus of a panel discussion and interactive workshop presented by REIS and the Lutgert College of Business on September 14 at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The panel discussion brings together an impressive roster of regional and local speakers, including noted consultant Lowell Clary, Chris Hodgkins from MAT, George Burgess from Becker & Poliakoff, PA, Don Paight from the City of Fort Myers, State Representative Trudi Williams, a consulting engineer, Tom Danahy, president of Babcock Ranch, and Benita M. Whalen, PE, South Florida Water Management District.

Registration begins at 8 am with the program from 8:30 until noon. Campus parking pass and continental breakfast will be provided. Admission is \$25 for REIS members, \$15 for active college students, and \$45 for all others. Details and registration at [REIS website](#).

[Becker & Poliakoff, PA](#), is the primary sponsor of the workshop. [HSA Engineers & Scientists](#) co-sponsors.

Education Committee chairs Steven P. Kushner and Karen Miller are finalizing the agenda and will announce the itinerary and registration details shortly. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact [Steven](#) (239.433.7707) or [Karen](#) (239.936.4003) for details.

REIS MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The summer membership campaign has brought many new members to REIS and also encouraged several former members to rejoin. A few REIS memberships remain available and the annual dues have been deeply discounted to just \$50 for those who join prior to August 8. The new members receive full membership benefits, member rates for luncheons and workshops, and invitations to the exclusive member social events later this year. Now is the time to encourage business associates and fellow professionals to join REIS. Just submit the [membership application](#) on the REIS website.



Hoffer & Associates
Environmental • Engineering • Water Resources
www.HofferAssociates.com (941) 628-0205
"Let us do your next phase 1 assessment"



Maxwell & Hendry
Valuation Services, Inc.
Real Estate Appraisers - Consultants
www.maxwellhendry.com

FREE MARKETING RESOURCES

Learn how to access and use the market data, incentives, sales leads, and other resources provided by Lee County Economic Development Office in a free workshop August 17 at the REALTORS® Association of Greater Fort Myers & the Beach. Class is from 2:30 to 4:30, followed by a 5pm networking reception at Fort Myers Ale House. Register at www.swflrealtors.com. Hosted by Commercial Alliance of the REALTORS® Association.

LET'S MIX IT UP

Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) members are invited to join with members of other development industry organizations at 5:30 on August 28 at Royal Palm Yacht Club for the annual mixer and exhibition. Presented by Commercial Contractors Council, with the local chapters of REIS, Urban Land Institute (ULI), US Green Building Council, American Institute of Architects (AIA), and Construction Specifications Institute (CSI). Register at [Lee Building Industry Association \(BIA\)](http://Lee Building Industry Association (BIA)).

LEE PARKING REGS MAY CHANGE

Lee County staff is proposing major revisions to the parking requirements for commercial properties, most of which would reduce the number of spaces required. In some cases the changes would increase the green space requirements for the property. The [draft ordinance](#) and [summary](#) are available for review. Adoption hearings by the Board of County Commissioners are scheduled for August 28th and September 11th.

REINSTATE OR EXTEND PERMITS

Lee County is reviewing a proposed ordinance to allow reinstatement of some permits that have expired since 2006. The proposal would allow reinstatement without imposing impact fee increases that have occurred since the permit expired. Review the [draft ordinance](#).

The Governor's declared state of emergency during Hurricane Debby triggered permit extension provisions adopted in 2011. The period for local development orders, building permits, and DEP or SFWMD permits is tolled through August 24, 2012 and extended for 6 months afterwards. Permit holders must notify the permitting agency of their intentions in writing by Nov. 21.

LET THE VOTING BEGIN!

Early voting begins August 4 with **Primary Election Day on August 14**. Important local and state offices may be decided in the primaries. The Southwest Florida Leadership Initiative (SWFLI) has interviewed and analyzed candidates on their qualifications and positions on issues of particular concern to Southwest Florida. The interview questions and candidate scorecard are available for your consideration. The [scorecard](#) is provided for information only and is not the opinion of this newsletter or the Real Estate Investment Society. SWFLI is a local, non-partisan, citizens' organization dedicated to better government. The organization's goals and membership are included with the scorecard for your reference.

LOAN BUYBACK DEMANDS PERSIST

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac continue to demand that lenders repurchase or refund loans that are nonperforming or are no longer covered by mortgage insurance. Since the federal government seized control of the two mortgage giants in 2008 they have forced banks to buy back or refund \$80 billion in flawed loans and currently have \$15.3 billion in buyback demands.

Buyback demands typically cite inflated appraisals and flawed underwriting. The practice impacts banks' reserve requirements and their ability to make new loans. In addition, appraisers are burdened with demands to re-evaluate or defend their work.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), which regulates Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, is now working with those agencies and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the federal mortgage insurer, to develop a framework that would provide lenders with more certainty regarding their buyback exposure.

NEW WATER QUALITY GOALS

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) is calling for an 86% decrease in mercury pollution as it moves to set mercury reduction goals as required by the Florida Watershed Restoration Act and federal Clean Water Act. Draft report and contact information for submitting comments is at [DEP website](#).

Advertise your business here!
Contact Bill Burdette for details:
(239) 936-1404
bill@burdetteinc.com

SPEATH
ENGINEERING

•Civil •Planning •Structural •Consulting
www.SpeathEngineering.com Phone: 239-275-1899