

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SOCIETY

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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

The July presentation on the WildBlue project is available on the [REIS website](#), courtesy of Don Schrotenboer and Private Equity Group.

"Putting Existing Regional Land Uses and Development Patterns into Context" will be discussed by Mark Morton, Director of Strategic Real Estate and Business Development with U.S. Sugar Corp., at the August 11th luncheon, sponsored by [GHD Services, Inc.](#)

The September 8th luncheon is sponsored by [U.S. Trust](#).

Florida Bankers Association CEO Alex Sanchez will be the speaker at the October 13th luncheon, sponsored by [Morris-Depew Associates, Inc.](#)

REIS welcomes your suggestions on programs and speakers you would like to see at the luncheons. Please share your ideas with [Amanda Brock](#), 239.344.1269.

Luncheon and Event Sponsorships:

Sponsorships of REIS luncheons are being reserved quickly. Contact Chairman [Peter Rossi](#), 239.514.4100 for availability and details. Prime sponsorships are also available for the fall symposium and annual social event.

Scholarship:

Scholarships have been approved for 4 area college students and will be awarded this fall. The awards will deplete funds and donations are sought for next year's scholarships. Information is on the [REIS web page](#), along with an online form for contributions to the programs.

Member Relations & Social Events:

The 2015 annual social event will rock the riverfront with live music and great food on November 5th at the Marina at Edison Ford, served by Pinchers. Contact Social Event Committee Chairs [Bev Larson](#) and [Peter Rossi](#) to help or to join sponsors [Grandbridge Real Estate Capital](#) and [Hans Wilson & Associates](#) with this popular event.

REIS SYMPOSIUM COMING SOON

The 2015 REIS educational symposium "**Forging Ahead - Emerging Economic Trends**" will be October 2nd at Florida Gulf Coast University, presented by REIS and the Lutgert College of Business.

The keynote speaker on national trends is Dr. Randy Anderson, Ph.D., CRE, President of Griffin Capital Asset Management. Jesse Panuccio, Executive Director of Florida Dept. of Economic Opportunity, has been invited to speak on state trends. A panel discussion of local commercial trends will include: Adam Palmer, of LandQwest Commercial; Blake Gable, of Barron Collier Companies; Michael Greenberg, of Neal Communities; and Mark Stevens, of Stevens Construction. Lee County Commission Chairman Brian Hamman will present the welcome address.

Roetzel & Andress is the title sponsor, with co-sponsors VIP Realty - Commercial, LandQwest Property Management, and Neal Communities. Additional sponsorships are available - contact [Peter Rossi](#). Register now on the [REIS website](#).

ICSC SW FLORIDA CONFERENCE

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) will meet in Bonita Springs on August 6th. Speakers include Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson, Jr., Lee County Economic Development Director Shane Farnsworth, Collier County Director of Business and Economic Development Bruce Register, Collier County real estate appraiser Raymond Carroll, and Marshal Goodman, Director at Catalyst Accelerator Network. Registration at <http://www.icsc.org>.

GLOBAL ECONOMY IMPACTS SWFL

Noted economist Mark Vitner will explain how global economic turmoil affects local economic development at the Horizon Council meeting on August 28th. Open to the public but reservations required. Information on [Horizon Council website](#). Presented by the Horizon Foundation and Lee County Economic Development Office.



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FLORIDA REDISTRICTING

A Special Session of the Florida Legislature will be held from August 10th - 21st to amend a portion of Florida's Congressional Districts. District 25 is one of the districts to be re-mapped. District 25 currently includes most of Collier County, western Hendry County, and parts of Dade and Broward Counties. [My District Builder website](#) has been established to allow the public to monitor the process and submit comments on the maps as they are developed. The Florida Supreme Court will review the revised maps September 22nd-25th.

A Special Session of the Legislature is planned October 19th -November 6th to redraw state Senate districts.

MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

A symposium on "Making Dollars & Sense of Mixed Use Development" will take place at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers on October 14th. The day-long program will address the advantages and challenges of urban infill and redevelopment, transit-oriented development, and traditional neighbor mixed use. Presented by Urban Land Institute and City of Fort Myers, details on [City website](#).

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Lee County Economic Development Office is recruiting "digital ambassadors" to share positive news about doing business here. Visit [ambassadors.leecountybusiness.com](#) to choose the social media platform you'd like to use. You will receive emails with information and suggested media content that you can share with your contacts.

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our new members:

Irina Prell, Elysium Homes
Cameron Schwartz, RE/MAX Realty Group Commercial
Aura Mamian, Century 21 Selling Paradise
G. Donald Thomson, Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt
Jeff Mason, Florida Community Bank

Membership details and application are on [REIS website](#).

REIS MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

REIS member **Tina Mayfield Ekblad** has been named Southwest Regional Chair of Connect Florida Board of Governors.

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ESTERO PLAN TO BE UNVEILED

The "Interim Comprehensive Plan Amendments" for the Village of Estero will be presented at the August 18th public hearing for the Planning and Zoning Board. The hearing is at 5:30 pm at Estero Community Park. The proposed amendments may be reviewed by [clicking here](#). Comments may also be submitted by email to Planning and Zoning Board Chairman [Roger Strelow](#) or Community Development Director [Mary Gibbs](#).

PRIVATE CAPITAL CREATES JOBS

A [report on the EB-5 program](#), released June 25th, shows the investment visa program generated over \$5.2 billion in private investment in projects from 2005 to 2013. Funding projects in all 50 states, including real estate, the program was found to be 500% more effective in creating jobs than the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009. The program is scheduled to expire in September. Legislation is pending in both houses of Congress (H.R. 616, S. 1501) to reform and reauthorize EB-5.

CARRIED INTEREST TAX AT RISK

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) proposed regulations in July that would disallow investment managers from classifying income as capital gains, thereby achieving a lower tax rate. The regulation has implications for real estate investment partnerships.

CORPS DOUBTS EPA WATER RULE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted comments in April and May that contend the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule to expand the scope of waters regulated by the Clean Water Act are flawed. The Corps noted that EPA decisions about which waters are protected under the Act are "arbitrary" with "no basis in science or law" and "vulnerable to legal challenges." Congress is currently considering legislation to withdraw the rule. Florida has now joined one of several lawsuits filed by states that seek to overturn the rule.

REIS EXPANDS SOCIAL MEDIA

Real Estate Investment Society bulletins and news are now being distributed via [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and Twitter (@REISofSWFL). Please share REIS news with your clients, colleagues, and business contacts.



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