

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SOCIETY

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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

David Wilkison and James French, of the Collier County Growth Management Department, will discuss current growth and development trends at the August 9th luncheon. Sponsored by [Waldrop Engineering](#).

The September 13th luncheon will feature the latest transportation plans, presented by Don Scott, Executive Director of Lee County MPO. Sponsored by [Stantec](#).

Lee County Economic Development Director John Boland will be the guest speaker at the October 11th luncheon, Sponsored by [GFA International](#).

REIS welcomes your suggestions on programs. Please share your ideas with [Karen Miller](#), 239.936.4003.

Leading the invocation and pledge of allegiance at meetings is a great way to get in front of the REIS membership and guests. Contact [Chris Pacitto](#), 239.896.6376, to volunteer.

Scholarship Program:

The REIS Board has elected to contribute revenues from co-hosting the SW Florida Water Resources Conference in January and the Legislative Review in May toward scholarships. Total donation is expected to exceed \$500.

Applications for scholarships will be accepted until October 1st. Visit the [website](#) for details.

Annual Party:

Chair [Arleen Hunter](#) (239.949.6262) has scheduled the gala event for November 17th and has already arranged a popular live band for our entertainment. Sponsorships are available and [Peter Rossi](#) has all the information.

Reception for Lee County Commissioners:

Popular bi-annual event to introduce the new board of county commissioners will take place December 8th. This members-only event is hosted by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin, Attorneys at Law.

REAL ESTATE SYMPOSIUM SEPT. 15

The 2016 REIS educational symposium takes place at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) on September 15th. Mike Timmerman will analyze national and state economic trends and put it into local context with an explanation of Southwest Florida's real estate economics. Panel discussions with perspectives from both the public and private sectors will focus on "What's Hot" in the development industry in Bonita / Estero and Downtown Fort Myers. The agenda will include developer input on fresh projects that are either under construction or going through the entitlement process.

The half-day program is presented by REIS in partnership with the Lutgert College of Business at FGCU. Roetzel & Address is the title sponsor and GHD Services is a silver sponsor. Additional sponsorships are available - contact [Peter Rossi](#) to secure a prime position.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

A Transportation & Land Use Planning workshop and summit will take place September 29th-30th, presented by [SWFL Sustainability](#). The interactive design and planning workshop is for engineers, planners, landscape architects, plan review staff, real estate agents, government leaders, and developers. It will be on the 29th at Bonita Springs City Hall. The program summit is designed for government officials, land use attorneys, developers, real estate agents, planners and engineers. It will be on the 30th at Cape Coral Yacht Club. Details are online.

BUILDING CODE UPDATE

Florida Building Commission meets August 16th in Fort Lauderdale to review and take final action on 2017 updates to the Florida Building Code 6th Edition. Resource materials are posted [here](#).

BRING A GUEST!

REIS members are encouraged to invite colleagues or clients to the September meeting and may register their guests at the REIS member rate. Visit the [Events webpage](#) to submit your registrations.



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PROPERTY TAXES RATES IMPROVE

Lee County commissioners approved a minimum tax rate cut of 0.1 mil. Collier County elected to maintain its current rate, as did Fort Myers, Estero and Bonita Springs. South Florida Water Management District will roll back the rate 6.9% to maintain the current budget level. The final rates will be decided in September and may be reduced but cannot be increased.

SKYPLEX PROJECTS ADVANCE

Lee County Port Authority expects to have U.S. Army Corps permits for Skyplex Boulevard this month. The Publix-anchored Skyplex shopping center, at the corner of Daniels Parkway and Skyplex Boulevard, is set to begin construction this month.

SPORTS COMPLEX AT BABCOCK?

Babcock Ranch is proposing to donate 300 acres to Lee County for the County to develop and maintain a sports complex with up to 40 baseball fields and associated facilities. The land is just south of the Lee-Charlotte Counties line and on the east side of SR 31. The complex would be leased to Perfect Game, a national operator of sports tournaments and scouting services. Lee County is studying feasibility of the project.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE COURSE

"Foundations for Success in Commercial Real Estate" will be offered in Naples August 30-31st. The CCIM 2-day, case-study driven course provides brokers, students and allied professionals with an understanding of key skills, resources and business practices. Register by calling 312-321-4460, opt. 2. Info: [Bev Larson](#), 239-281-1290.

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Please join in welcoming our new member:

Shelly Verbos-Ford, of IBERIABANK, where she is vice president and business banking relationship manager for the Lee County market. Shelly has earned the Certified Treasury Professional® (CTP) and Certified Payments Professional™ (CPP) designations.

A limited number of memberships are available for new members, details are on the [REIS website](#).

WATER DISPUTE ESCALATES

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has appealed to Florida Senators Nelson and Rubio to intercede in the dispute over Lake Okeechobee water levels. SFWMD is maintaining higher than normal water levels to manage the flows to St. Lucie Canal and the Caloosahatchee River. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) demands that lake levels be reduced and has threatened legal action against SFWMD. FWS asserts that higher levels destroy habitat of the endangered snail kites and violate the Endangered Species Act.

BIMINI BASIN LAND USE APPROVED

Cape Coral City Council has designated the 48 acres at Bimini Basin as "downtown mixed," allowing commercial, entertainment, and some residential development. The [project's conceptual plans](#) may be reviewed online.

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION EVENT

The annual [Industry Appreciation Awards Banquet](#) of the Lee County Horizon Council will take place on August 25th at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Estero.


FGCU REAL ESTATE PROGRAM

REIS Treasurer Bev Larson, CCIM led a one-day class in Real Estate Fundamentals at Florida Gulf Coast University Lutgert College of Business in June. REIS member and FGCU professor Tim Allen, Ph.D., CCIM, offers the course to juniors and seniors seeking a minor in Real Estate. Former REIS presidents Steve Hartsell and Matt Simmons have also served as guest instructors at the school.

YOU CAN ADVISE GOVERNMENT

Lee County government is seeking members for several advisory committees that influence policy affecting the real estate industry, including: Affordable Housing, Conservation Land Acquisition & Stewardship (20/20), Construction Licensing, Industrial Development Authority, Land Development Code, and the Board of Adjustments & Appeals. Details and applications are [online](#).

Collier County is also seeking members for advisory committees: Affordable Housing, Board of Building Adjustments & Appeals, Planning Commission, and Growth Management Oversight. Information and applications are on the [County website](#).



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