

2009 OFFICERS:

President Sharon Jenkins-Owen, AICP
Vice President Hal Tate
Treasurer Kevin M. Fitzgerald
Secretary Kim Donnelly

2009 GOVERNORS:

Sean Ellis, Esq., LEED AP
Mary Gibbs, AICP
Janie Hooker
Steve Hurley

Vikki Luft
Matt Rocco
Shelton Weeks, PhD
Steven C. Hartsell, Esq.

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

The January meeting will feature "Lee County Challenges & Goals for 2010" by Tammy Hall, newly elected chair of Lee Board of County Commissioners. Meeting is sponsored by Burson Real Estate School.

"2010 and Beyond - Navigating the New Economy" will be presented at the February meeting by economist John Jung of the BB&T Washington office. The meeting is sponsored by BB&T.

Legislative / Regulatory Action:

The **deadline for permit extensions**, as allowed by the Growth Management Reform Act (SB 360) is Dec. 31st. A 2-year extension is available for permits that have expiration dates between Sept. 1, 2008 and Jan. 1, 2012. Many local governments are requiring the filing of a formal application and charging a fee.

Public access to documents submitted through Lee County's application process for zoning, planning, and development review cases is now available. Access these documents through E-Connect, a searchable data base, at <http://www3.leegov.com/econnect/>

Amendment 4:

REIS will present a public information program in 2010 to educate voters on the proposed amendment to the state constitution that would require voter approval for adoption or amendment of local land use plans. Details of the amendment and the consequences for local government and the business community are presented at <http://florida2010.org>

Scholarship:

The REIS Scholarship Foundation will launch its annual fund-raising campaign in January. Anyone wishing to make charitable contributions in the 2009 tax year is encouraged to contact Shelton Weeks, (239) 590-7373.

REIS 2010 OFFICERS ELECTED

The REIS 2010 officers and 4 new governors were elected at the Dec. 8 Luncheon Meeting.

President: Hal Tate; Reliance Bank, FSB

Vice President: Kevin M. Fitzgerald; NAI Southwest Florida, Inc.

Treasurer: Kim Donnelly; Reliance Bank, FSB

Secretary: Steve Hurley; David Douglas Associates, Inc.

Board of Governors:

Jim Garinger; Colliers Arnold

Stephanie Keyes; Realtors Association of Greater Fort Myers and the Beach, Inc.

Matt Simmons; Maxwell & Hendry Valuation Services, Inc.

Jerald L. Wallace; J.L. Wallace, Inc.

Returning Governors are:

Sean Ellis; Esq., LEED AP, Roetzel & Andress, LPA

Vikki Luft; Compass Construction, Inc.

Shelton Weeks, PhD; Florida Gulf Coast University

Immediate Past President, Sharon Jenkins-Owen, AICP, will also join the Board.

Gratitude and plaques were extended to retiring governors Mary Gibbs, Janie

Hooker, and Matt Rocco.

Retiring REIS Governor Janie Hooker proudly displays a plaque recognizing her service to the organization.



RENEW YOUR REIS MEMBERSHIP

REIS memberships expire Dec. 31 and must be renewed by Jan. 8. Membership renewal must be done online and dues may be paid by check or credit card. Annual dues remain \$125 per person. Members must log in on the home page in order to renew.



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REIS REPORT

December 2009

news for Southwest Florida's commercial and investment real estate community

Published by the Real Estate Investment Society, copyright 2009

REIS HELPS SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS



From left: REIS President Sharon Jenkins-Owen with Special Equestrians President Jan Fifer, Board Members Mindy La Croix and Allison Spencer, and REIS member Bob Murray.

REIS has donated \$2,500 to Special Equestrians, a horseback riding program which provides therapeutic riding to mentally and physically-challenged children and adults. Special Equestrians is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt public charity that is solely supported by contributions from individuals, corporations, civic organizations, private grants, and service fees. It is an all volunteer self-administrative organization, allowing 100% of all contributions to go directly to the support of the program. The REIS donation will be used to improve the organization's 10-acre farm in the Buckingham area which serves Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades Counties. Details are at www.specialequestrians.net

Sharon Jenkins-Owen, President of REIS, presented the donation and noted that, "REIS, on behalf of the real estate investment and development industry, applauds the work of Special Equestrians and is proud to be able to support its continued service to the community."

COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM

Lee County commissioners have adopted a resolution to promote the inclusion of pedestrian walkways and bike paths in all future road projects, new or improved, in public rights-of-way or in private developments. County staff has been directed to develop guidelines for implementation of the program by April, for review and approval of the commissioners.

The REIS December Luncheon
is sponsored by



DIVERSIFYING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Lee County's Horizon Council and Economic Development Office have launched a new initiative to attract business by tapping into the contacts and networks of existing local businesses. Horizon Council member and former REIS President Ron Inge explained the program at the REIS December luncheon. The economic development effort is armed with a \$25 million incentive fund, low-cost bonds, professional support staff, and a new web site that will be the go-to site for research on the local area.

Your ideas and suggestions about prospective businesses are needed and may be shared with [Ron Inge](#) or Economic Development Director [Jim Moore](#) via email or by calling (239) 338-3161.

REIS AWARDS FGCU SCHOLARSHIP

The REIS endowed scholarship fund at FGCU is providing this year's scholarship to Krista Adams, a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The scholarship provides \$500 toward tuition and books. Adams also recently received a \$2,500 scholarship from the REIS Scholarship Foundation.



FGCU scholar Krista Adams and REIS President Sharon Jenkins-Owen.

Krista is pursuing a degree in Finance with a minor in Real Estate. She plans to earn a graduate degree and follow a career in real estate development.

REIS established the FGCU scholarship program in 1999 to benefit local students seeking business-oriented education. The program was funded initially with a \$5,000 endowment from REIS, which was matched by the State of Florida's Ethics and Business Scholarship Program. The scholarship fund is structured to continue in perpetuity. Applicants must be graduates of a Southwest Florida high school and have completed the freshman year of college. They must also be enrolled in the School of Business.

This advertising space is available!

For details, contact:

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