

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SOCIETY

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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson will be the speaker at the January 12th luncheon, sponsored by [Velocity Engineering Services](#).

The February 9th luncheon will be sponsored by [Henderson Franklin, Attorneys at Law](#).

REIS welcomes your suggestions on programs. Please share your ideas with [Karen Miller](#), (239) 936-4003.

Luncheon and Event Sponsorships:

Contact Chairman [Peter Rossi](#), 239.514.4100 for availability and details.

Scholarship:

The Paul Sands Memorial Slaw Dog Golf Tournament takes place December 17th. Last year's event raised \$5,800 for the Paul Sands Memorial -REIS Scholarship Program at Florida Gulf Coast University. Information on REIS scholarship programs is on the [REIS web page](#).

Membership:

All memberships expire December 31st and must be renewed on the [REIS website](#). Dues remain \$125 for the calendar year. Memberships not renewed by January 8th will be offered to new members.

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our new members:

Jonathan Sieg, Pavese Law Firm
Douglas Wiebel, Wiebel, Hennells & Carufe, PLLC
Andrea Poulton, WCI Communities
Joseph Hemrick, Florida Community Bank

Membership details are on the [REIS website](#)

YEAR END FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Please consider contributing to the REIS scholarship program. The REIS Scholarship Foundation is a 501(C)3 corporation and donations may be tax deductible. Details and online donation form are on the [REIS web page](#).

WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

The 25th Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference will focus on the future of water resources as the area's population grows. REIS is a co-host of the prominent day-long event, happening January 15th at Florida Gulf Coast University. The conference brings together researchers, managers, decision-makers, agency staff, consultants, and other interested parties to discuss ongoing scientific research and innovative projects, to share ideas, and to increase awareness of the issues of water supply, water use efficiency, waterbody protection, watershed health, and environmental sustainability facing Florida. Sessions will conclude around 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by a networking social session. Visit the Conference website, <http://awra.caloosahatchee.org/2016> for additional information and registration.

LEGISLATORS PRE-SESSION LUNCH

Southwest Florida legislators will present priorities for the 2016 Legislative Session at a December 17th luncheon in Fort Myers. The event takes place at the City Pier Building and is hosted by The Chamber of Southwest Florida and the Realtors Association of Greater Fort Myers and The Beach.

STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH

Southwest Florida's economy continues to show strong growth, according to the latest Regional Economic Indicator Report. The full report is now available every month on the [REIS website](#), through cooperation with the Regional Economic Research Institute of the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVISED

Lee County's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) must amend the 2040 plan by December 31st. The list of Cost-Feasible Projects is being amended to accelerate widening of Corkscrew Road east of I-75. The MPO will conduct a public hearing December 18th at Cape Coral City Hall. The draft of the Long Range Transportation Plan may be viewed at the [MPO website](#).



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CCIM FINANCIAL ANALYSIS COURSE

"Financial Analysis for Commercial Investment Real Estate," the initial course in the CCIM program, will be offered in Fort Myers January 25th - 28th, at the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Myers and The Beach. Information: info@ficcim.com or (407) 703-8173.

LEE PLAN UPDATES

At the Management & Planning Workshop on November 3rd, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) provided Community Development Staff with new direction on the recommended updates to the Lee Plan stemming from the 2011 Evaluation & Appraisal Report (EAR). The Board agreed with Staff's recommendation to prepare updates with a more targeted and balanced approach versus the far-reaching amendments proposed in the EAR. Staff's proposed direction will also comply with the significant changes in state requirements for comprehensive plans implemented via the 2011 Community Planning Act. Rather than completely rewrite the Lee Plan, as anticipated by the 2011 EAR, Staff will pursue a more focused set of amendments that better align the Lee Plan with the BOCC's Strategic Planning Initiatives. REIS will continue to monitor this important process!

REALTORS' LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The Florida Association of Realtors (FAR) is focusing on these issues in the upcoming Legislative Session:

1. Phase out the current sales tax on commercial leases. SB 116 and HB 247 seek a 1% reduction in the tax. FAR wants a 1% reduction every year until the tax is eliminated entirely.
2. Increase funding of Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Lawmakers appropriated \$175 million in the last session. \$326 million is available in 2016.
3. Cap fees charged by community associations for estoppel certificates.
4. Restore Florida's water resources while protecting property rights. FAR advocates using monies from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to manage land and resources the state already owns, protecting springs, lakes and waterways from pollutants, and expanding the use of alternative water supplies and water storage on agricultural lands.

REIS PLAYS WELL WITH OTHERS

REIS members networked with the CCIM Chapter, CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women), and Lutgert College of Business professors and students at a November mixer at Gulf Coast Town Center. Hors d'oeuvres were provided by the CCIM Chapter and Lutgert College of Business.



REIS MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

REIS member **Dennis Noah** has been elected president of the Horizon Council for 2016.

Former REIS President **Robbie Roepstorff** has been elected secretary of the Lee County Industrial Development Authority.

Former REIS President **Randy Mercer** has been elected vice president of Lee Building Industry Association (BIA). REIS member **Bob Bassett** is on the Board of Directors.

LEE PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Pine Island Community Plan update and Land Development Code (LDC) amendments will be reviewed by the Local Planning Agency (LPA) December 14th, in Lee County Commission Chambers.

Lehigh Acres Activity Centers on Gunnery Road at SR 82 and Lee Boulevard will be reviewed for adoption in the LDC by the Executive Regulatory Oversight Committee (EROC) January 13th, in Lee County Administration Building, 2115 Main Street, 1st floor conference room.

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