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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Collier County growth management will be the topic of the December 11th luncheon, with Mark Strain, Chairman of the Planning Commission and Chief Hearing Examiner. Sponsored by [Krise Commercial Group](#).

The new year begins with an update on economic development by Lee County Economic Development Director Ruth Buchanan, sponsored by [Sallee Promotions](#)

REIS welcomes your program suggestions. Please share your ideas with [Mary Gentile](#), 239-275-4922, ext. 235. If you are interested in leading the invocation and pledge at a luncheon, contact [Travis Merrick](#), 239-489-2443.

Sponsorships:

Contact [Kent Poli](#), 239-689-7174, for information and availability of opportunities to sponsor REIS events.

Reception for Lee Commissioners:

The popular bi-annual REIS Reception for the newly elected Lee County Board of County Commissioners will take place December 13th. The exclusive members-only event is sponsored by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin, Attorneys at Law.

Membership:

All REIS memberships expire December 31st and may be renewed at [www.reis-swfl.org](#). Memberships not renewed by January 4th will be offered to applicants on the waiting list. If you have any questions please contact [Bill Burdette](#).

Scholarship Program:

REIS Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation and donations may be tax deductible. REIS manages the Foundation, which allows 100% of donations to be used for scholarships. Details are on the [REIS webpage](#).

REIS Address Change:

The new mailing address for REIS is P. O. Box 86, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0086.

REIS HONORS LEE COMMISSIONERS

REIS hosts a private members-only reception for the newly elected Board of Lee County Commissioners on December 13th at Edison National Bank, hosted by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. The festive bi-annual event provides an opportunity to become acquainted with elected officials in a relaxed, social atmosphere. Invitations have been mailed and reservations are required. If you are a REIS member and do not receive an invitation, please contact Bill Burdette at info@reis-swfl.org.

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO MEET

Lee County Legislative Delegation meets January 15th to consider local bills, funding requests, and public commentary for the 2019 State Legislative Session. The meeting is from 9 to 5 in Florida Southwestern State College Nursing Building, Room AA-177. Bills must be submitted and presentations registered by January 7th with [Delegation Chair Dane Eagle](#). The Delegation includes Senators Lizbeth Benacquisto, Kathleen Passidomo, and Ben Albritton, and Representatives Dane Eagle, Heather Fitzenhagen, Spencer Roach, and Raymond Rodriguez. The County's six municipalities are also represented on the Delegation.

WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

REIS is co-hosting the annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference, a day-long event January 25th at Florida Gulf Coast University. "Bridging Troubled Waters, Uniting to Promote Regional Solutions" is the theme of the conference, which showcases how agencies, engineering firms, and non-profit organizations can work together on actions to improve water systems and the environment. The conference brings together researchers, managers, decision-makers, consultants, and other interested parties to discuss ongoing scientific research and innovative projects, share ideas, and increase awareness of water supply, water use efficiency, and watershed health. Registration is on the [American Water Resources Association website](#).

BEV LARSON, CCIM
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APPRAISAL THRESHOLDS MAY RISE

The National Credit Union Association (NCUA) proposes to raise the threshold for requiring appraisals on non-residential property from \$250,000 to \$1 million. If approved, federal banking agencies would be under pressure to match it, after having recently increased their threshold to \$500,000 earlier this year. Nearly all Small Business Administration (SBA) loans would fall below the higher threshold and not be subject to required appraisal.

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our newest members:

Charles Huether, partner with HCH Development Group, based in Fort Myers.

Cora Harkins, director of business development and marketing with Gates Construction.

Sean Friend is VP and Lee County Retail Market Manager with IBERIABANK.

Michael Erickson is the owner of Inside Out Kitchen And Bath, a design-build firm.

Charles Ringland is president of Ringland Development Corp., a commercial and residential construction firm.

Russ Ringland is a Realtor with Proia Realty and past president of Ringland Construction.

Jodi Huntoon is the marketing manager at Stevens Construction and also assists with project development.

Membership information is on the [REIS website](#).

AIRGLADES PROJECT ADVANCES

Construction is expected to begin in 2019 on Airglades International Airports planned cargo facilities just outside of Clewiston. Florida Department of Transportation is financing the preliminary engineering and design of the Perishable Air Cargo Complex up to \$1 million. The Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Privatization Project team is reviewing the airport's application and is expected to conclude the process by end of this year. Students in Nova Southeastern University's Master of Science in Real Estate Development program have designed concepts for ancillary land uses, amenities and related development on adjacent properties in a program sponsored by the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors.

REAL ESTATE OUTLOOK

CCIM Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference takes place February 11th at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Estero. Keynote speaker is Lawrence Yun, Ph.D., chief economist with the National Association of Realtors. Analysis of local market sectors will be presented by Southwest Florida experts. [Click here for details](#).

REIS BRINGS THE PARTY!

The annual REIS Holiday Social was a home run this year with members and their guests enjoying camaraderie, live music with the popular band "After Hours," scrumptious arrays of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and cocktails in the upper level VIP Suites at Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers.



The party was generously sponsored by:

[Henderson Franklin, Attorneys at Law](#)
[BB&T](#)
[Roetzel & Andress](#)
[Hans Wilson & Associates](#)
[GFA International](#)

NFIP UNCERTAINTY CONTINUES

Congress extended the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) until midnight December 21st. The Senate has also passed a 6-month reauthorization of NFIP but the House of Representatives has not acted on it. Congress could approve yet another short extension in a resolution to continue funding the federal government, as the current funding plan is also due to expire December 21st.



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