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Josh Philpott
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Justin Thibaut
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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Monthly Programs:

The **December 8th luncheon** will feature the Construction Management School at Florida Gulf Coast University, sponsored by [Chris-Tel Construction](#).

NeoGenomics, a Southwest Florida success story, will be the focus of the January luncheon, sponsored by [DeAngelis Diamond Construction](#).

We welcome your ideas for programs and speakers, which may be submitted to [Kent Poli](#). Check the [REIS website](#) regularly for the latest details on meetings and events for REIS and other organizations in Southwest Florida's real estate community.

Sponsorships:

Contact [Molly Scott](#), 239.226.0500, for information and availability of opportunities to sponsor REIS events.

Scholarship Program:

Donations are needed for scholarships to be awarded in 2021. REIS Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation and donations may be tax deductible. The Real Estate Investment Society manages the Foundation, allowing 100% of donations to be used for scholarships in real estate related programs at Florida Gulf Coast University. Information and an online donation form are on the [REIS webpage](#) or contact [Bev Larson](#) for details.

Horizon Council:

REIS 2020 President Mary Gentile will represent REIS on the Horizon Council in 2021. The Council is a public-private board that advises the Lee County Board of County Commissioners on economic development issues.

Lee County Commissioners Reception:

Popular bi-annual event is postponed to April 22nd, 2021. Event is exclusively for REIS members and their guests, hosted by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt. Invitations will be sent in March.

Membership:

All REIS memberships will expire December 31st and any memberships not renewed by January 8th will be offered to applicants on the waiting list. If you have any questions with your renewal, please contact [Bill Burdette](#).

SLAW DOG TOURNAMENT TEES UP

The 24th annual Paul Sands Memorial Slaw Dog Invitational golf tournament takes place December 16th. REIS member Lisa Sands has ignited interest in the fun event, which is the largest source of funding for the Paul Sands Memorial - REIS Scholarship program at Florida Gulf Coast University. Contact [Lisa Sands](#) to learn how you can participate. You may also contribute to the REIS scholarship program by visiting the [REIS webpage](#) or contacting [Bev Larson](#), (239) 281-1290.

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LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO MEET

Lee County Legislative Delegation meets December 16th to consider local bills, funding requests, and public commentary for the 2021 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 December 7th with [Brandon Miller](#), legislative assistant to Delegation Chair Spencer Roach. The agenda and meeting materials will be on [www.leedelegation.com](#). The Delegation includes all legislators serving the County and representatives of the six municipalities.

NEW SW FLORIDA LEGISLATORS

The newly elected state lawmakers will be introduced at The Chamber of Southwest Florida luncheon meeting and webcast on December 9th. The new Southwest Florida delegates are: Senator Ray Rodrigues and Representatives Adam Botana, Jenna Persons, Mike Giallombardo, and Lauren Melo.

HORIZON COUNCIL MEETING

The Horizon Council and Horizon Foundation Annual Meeting and Holiday Celebration will be December 15th at the Edison Estates Riverside Pavilion. The program will feature guests from the Edison Awards.

BEV LARSON, CCIM

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ESTERO DEVELOPMENT CODE

The Village of Estero has conducted the final workshop and first public hearing on its first Land Development Code. The Planning & Zoning Board will hold another public hearing on December 15th and the Town Council holds its second hearing on January 6th. The code sets the standards for the community's future development and redevelopment, including zoning, architecture, landscaping, and open space requirements. The proposed zoning map, land development code, and schedule of meetings are on the [Village website](#).

INSURANCE RATES TO DECREASE

Workers' compensation insurance rates will decrease by an average of 6.6% effective January 1st, the fourth consecutive year that workers' compensation premiums have been reduced.

LEE PERMIT FEES REDUCED

Lee County has reduced building permit fees by 25%. The reduced rate applies through November 30th, 2021. The discount does not apply to impact fees or fees charged by other departments or agencies.

PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Florida's legislative leaders are considering work plans to address climate change, similar to the long range work plans for transportation needs. Florida Senate President Wilton Simpson and House Speaker Chris Sprowls have both expressed interest in mapping out projects to deal with impacts of rising sea levels in coastal communities.

CHARLOTTE MITIGATION STRATEGY

The Charlotte County/Punta Gorda Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group holds its annual public meeting at December 14th. It will be a virtual meeting and the public is invited to participate. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/CharlotteLMS>. The Group proposes projects and identifies funding for mitigation activities that lessen environmental impacts and lower the economic costs of natural disasters.

CITY OF PALMS PARK REUSE?

While the City of Fort Myers has asked Lee County to demolish the downtown baseball stadium, City Councilmen Fred Burson and Liston Bochette are looking for other options to reposition the facility. Possible uses include amateur baseball, entertainment, conference center, or community recreation facilities.

REIS BRINGS THE PARTY!

The annual REIS Holiday Social brought members and their guests together for live music, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres at the riverside pavilion at the historic Edison and Ford Estates, sponsored by [Hans Wilson & Associates](#).



REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our newest members:

Juan Carlos Ayala, PMP, AIA, LEED AP, is Regional Vice President of IDD - Integrated Digital Design, a division of Constructoro Conconcreto.

Daniel Miller is commercial real estate agent with Century 21 Sunbelt Realty—Cape Coral, working with investors.

David Ciccarello, of David L. Ciccarello, P.A. law firm, specializes in business, real estate, construction, and land development law.

Diana Giraldo, Business Development Director with E3 Building Sciences, formerly Sustainability Manager at Fort Myers Community Development Department.

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

REIS KEEPS YOU CONNECTED

While many meetings and networking events are limited or curtailed due to public health issues, the Real Estate Investment Society remains your source for current information on the commercial real estate, investment and development industry. Visit our [website](#) regularly for an up-to-date calendar of industry events and associated government meetings, newsletters, and the membership roster with contact information for fellow members. We also encourage you to stay connected by joining the REIS group on **LinkedIn**, visit our **Facebook** page, and follow us on **Twitter**.

Southwest Florida's
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Real Estate Team

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