

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SOCIETY

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Matt Rocco
Shelton Weeks, PhD
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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

The February 10th luncheon meeting will feature "New Marketing Tools for Today's Market," including tips for using the new REIS web site, by Carlos Fernandez, of ISOOSI Communications. Sponsored by Phoenix Law.

"Expediting Transportation Projects" will be the topic of the March luncheon meeting, presented by Johnny Limbaugh, of Florida Dept. of Transportation.

Alex Sanchez, President of the Florida Bankers Association, will be the featured speaker at the April luncheon meeting.

At the May luncheon meeting, State Representative Gary Aubuchon will review the 2009 Legislative Session.

Sponsorship of March, April and May meetings is available. Call Steve Hurley, 337-3330, for details.

Scholarship Programs:

Applications are being received by worthy scholars and the REIS Scholarship Foundation is seeking contributions to fund scholarships to be awarded this spring. Details at www.reis-swfl.org or from Shelton Weeks, 590-7373.

Regulatory Update:

Abandoned Properties: City of Cape Coral has adopted an ordinance to require lenders to inspect properties upon filing notice of default and to register vacant properties with the City. (See story on next page for further details.)

Lee County Impact Fees: fire protection impact fees are due for review but the study may be postponed due to adverse impacts on building. The state is considering a 3-year moratorium on raising all impact fees.

Revised Florida Building Code will apply to all permit applications submitted March 1, 2009 or later. New master plans accommodating the code changes must be approved and on file for permits submitted after Feb. 28.

REIS BOARD PLANS BUSY YEAR



Front row, from left: Vice President Hal Tate; President Sharon Jenkins-Owen, AICP; Secretary Kim Donnelly; and Treasurer Kevin M. Fitzgerald. Back row, from left: Governors Shelton Weeks, PhD; Sean Ellis, Esq.; Steve Hurley; Mary Gibbs, AICP; Janie Hooker; Matt Rocco; and Past President Steven C. Hartsell, Esq. Vikki Luft was unavailable for the photo.

The 2009 REIS officers and board are launching an ambitious agenda for the year, and welcome all members to participate. The following committees have been established and members are encouraged to contact the committee chairpersons (in bold) if they wish to assist.

Programs & Speakers: **Hal Tate**

Sponsorships: **Steve Hurley**, Paul Sands

Scholarship: **Shelton Weeks**, Tom Woodyard, Sam Kiburz

Spring Workshop: **Matt Rocco**

Development Workshop: **Mary Gibbs**, Stephanie Keyes

Legislative Review: **Mary Gibbs**, **Sean Ellis**, Charles Mann

Member Relations & Annual Social Event: **Janie Hooker**,

Vikki Luft, Kim Donnelly, Scott Carney

REIS Report: **Sean Ellis**, Neysa Borkert, Charles Mann, Bill Burdette

Finances: **Kevin M. Fitzgerald**

Invocation & Pledge: **Matt Simmons**



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LENDERS HELD RESPONSIBLE

Cape Coral Ordinance 139-08 takes effect March 1st. It requires mortgagees to inspect properties within the City limits, after default by the mortgagor and prior to issuing notice of the default. If the property is vacant, the mortgagee is required to register the property with the City for a \$150 fee. The mortgagee is further required to secure and maintain the property, including pool and landscaping. The City can also require additional maintenance and security, including an on-site guard. The complete ordinance is at www.capecoral.net under the link for Ordinances Enacted / Not Yet Codified.

STATE OF THE LOCAL MARKET

Several programs are scheduled to provide updates and forecasts on the local economy and real estate market:

Winter Institute on the Gulf - Florida's Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, economist Greg Miller, consultant Ron Glass, and former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy will address trends in lending economics, community development, development financing, and the future of Florida's economy. January 29th at Naples Hilton. Details: 800-321-5011.

Political Affairs by Chris Wallace - national journalist to speak February 9th at Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers. Details: (239) 454-2067.

Market Watch - former REIS President Stan Stouder, CCIM, and Realtor Denny Grimes will present market analysis and trends for residential and commercial real estate. February 24th at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. www.MarketWatch2009.com.

Bonita/Estero Market Pulse - economic forecasts and local real estate trends presented by market analysts Bradley Hunter of MetroStudy and REIS member Michael Timmerman of Fishkind Associates, with commercial broker Jim Garinger, CCIM, of Colliers Arnold. March 24th at Three Oaks Banquet & Conference Center in Estero. Details at www.bonitaspringschamber.com.

REIS SUPPORTS "BUILDERS CARE"

The Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) announces the donation of \$5,000 to Builders Care, a non-profit community service organization that provides no-cost emergency home repair and renovation services to needy elderly, disabled and economically disadvantaged homeowners. The award was presented to Builders Care at the REIS January 13th luncheon meeting.



From left, Builders Care Executive Director Heidi Taulman; REIS President Sharon Jenkins-Owen; and Builders Care President Fred Barry.

Builders Care was founded by the Lee County Building Industry Association (Lee BIA) in 2005 and has since provided over \$700,000 in construction services to deserving homeowners in Lee County. The program is funded through financial donations and grants, as well as donated services and materials from area builders, subcontractors and construction-related businesses. Churches and other community groups also participate by fundraising and providing volunteers to work on renovation projects. Information on Builders Care is available at www.leebuilderscare.org.

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 Builders Care and is proud to be able to support its continued service to the community."

LEE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The adoption hearing for the latest version of Lee County's Comprehensive Plan, aka The Lee Plan, is scheduled for 9:30 am February 25th in Commission Chambers, Lee County Courthouse in downtown Fort Myers. Proposed Plan available at www.lee-county.com/dcd.

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