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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

The February 8 luncheon will feature the annual Economic Development report by Jim Moore, director of Lee County Office of Economic Development. The event is sponsored by [Grandbridge Real Estate Capital](#).

REIS welcomes suggestions for programs from members. Please convey your ideas to Kim Donnelly, kdonnelly@reliancebankfsb.com or (239) 768-4522. Sponsorships for future luncheons are available and Jim Garinger has all the details: (239) 418-0300 or jgaringer@colliersarnold.com.

Scholarship Programs:

Applications are being reviewed for scholarships to be awarded this spring. Students at FGCU, Hodges University, Edison State College, and Southwest Florida College may qualify for scholarships. Details are on the REIS website or scholarship@reis-swfl.org.

Luncheon Invocations:

Jerry Wallace is scheduling members to lead the pledge of allegiance and offer an invocation at the luncheon meetings. Contact him to get on the schedule: jwallace@jwallaceinc.com or (239) 437-1111.

Horizon Council:

The 2011 Horizon Council includes several REIS members, including Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson and former REIS Presidents Hal Tate, Russell Schropp, Ron Inge, and Robbie Roepstorff.

Membership Renewal:

REIS memberships expired December 31 and those not renewed are now being offered to new members. A membership application is on the bottom of the home page at www.reis-swfl.org.

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS AND FINANCIERS IN SW FLORIDA

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) is rolling out a major in Real Estate Development & Finance and is seeking guidance from the local real estate industry to establish appropriate curriculum. Shelton Weeks, PhD, director of the Lucas Institute for Real Estate Development & Finance at FGCU's Lutgert College of Business, announced the initiative at the REIS January luncheon.

"The programs that we are developing blend outstanding academic instruction with insights that can only be obtained from industry executives who have extensive experience in the complex process of real estate development. The result will be nationally recognized programs that prepare our graduates for the wide range of challenges they will face in this increasingly competitive industry," stated Weeks.

The college currently offers a minor in real estate and plans to grow the program to offer a major in 2012. REIS members and others in the business community will be asked to participate in a survey to guide the school in developing courses that will prepare students to succeed in the business world. The survey link will be emailed to REIS members and posted on the website.

LEE PLAN UPDATE

The draft Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to update the Lee Plan to 2035 is scheduled for a public hearing at the Local Planning Agency (LPA) January 31, followed by a presentation to County Commissioners on February 28 and final adoption hearing with County Commissioners on March 1. Meeting details and the draft report are at the Lee County Dept. of Community Development, www.leegov.com/dcd.



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REAL ESTATE OUTLOOK

The CCIM Annual Southwest Florida Real Estate Outlook Conference is January 27 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Fort Myers. Guest speakers and panel discussions share insight on commercial and residential markets. Details and registration at www.swflccim.com.

LEE COUNTY LAND USE SYMPOSIUM

Third annual event provides long range outlook for Lee County with focus on demographic trends, land use patterns, transportation needs, and economics to the year 2035. Presentations and panel discussions to include former Florida DCA director Linda Shelley, economist Hank Fishkind, Florida Transportation Commissioner Joe Mazurkiewicz, and experts from University of Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Edison State College. Takes place February 11 at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. Information and registration: Angela Brooks, 800-226-0436 or abrooks@fowlerwhite.com.

MARKET WATCH 2011

The annual review and forecast for Southwest Florida real estate takes place February 22 at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. Former REIS President Stan Stouder, CCIM, will assess commercial market sectors and Denny Grimes will offer an overview of residential trends. This year's event will feature a presentation on the nation's credit crisis by financial consultant David Jones, PhD, and perspective on regional real estate trends by Lawrence Yun, PhD, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors®. Information at (239) 267-2638 or www.MarketWatch2011.com.

REGIONAL DESIGN SCHOOL PLANS

The Southwest Florida chapters of American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) invite you to discuss objectives for a comprehensive Design School for our region. Meeting on January 26 at the Franklin Shops in Fort Myers. Details at www.aiaflasw.org.

Advertise your business here!
Contact Bill Burdette for details:
(239) 936-1404
bill@burdetteinc.com

TRANSPORTATION PLAN FINISHED

Florida Dept. of Transportation has finalized the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), identifying goals and strategies to guide decisions and investments over the next 50 years. The final 2060 FTP is at www.2060ftp.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION NEWS

In December, Florida's First District Court of Appeals ordered 1000 Friends of Florida and Martin County Conservation Alliance to repay Florida taxpayers for legal fees incurred in a land use appeals case. Litigation was over an amendment to the Martin County Comprehensive Plan that permitted landowners to cluster housing in exchange for preserving the balance of the site. It did not increase the number of units permitted and the judge ruled that the amendment would not create sprawl or more development. Environmental groups predicted that the ruling would have a chilling effect on future litigation.

NEW REGULATIONS DELAYED

EPA pollution standards for Florida waters will not be implemented until summer 2012. Meanwhile, in December the State of Florida sued the federal government to block the regulations. Mandatory septic tank inspections, passed in Florida's 2010 legislative session, have been delayed, pending changes to be considered in the 2011 session which ends in May.

RIDERS ARE THANKFUL TO REIS

Special Equestrians, a volunteer-run charity that serves disabled persons in Southwest Florida, has completed an ADA restroom at their therapeutic riding center in Buckingham with \$2,500 donated by REIS in 2010. The organization and those it serves thank REIS for the generous support. Special Equestrians also welcomes REIS members to the Taste of Love 8 on February 20 at The Design Studio by Raymond in Fort Myers. The fundraising event features a cooking extravaganza, wine pairings, cigar bar, auctions, and live entertainment. Details at www.specialequestrians.net.

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