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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson will be the guest speaker at the January 10th luncheon, sponsored by [Velocity Engineering Services](#).

Lee County's goals and challenges for 2017 will be presented by John Manning, Chairman of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, at the February 14th luncheon, sponsored by [Roetzel & Andress, P.A.](#)

The March 14th luncheon will be sponsored by [State Insurance Agency](#).

REIS welcomes your suggestions for programs. Please share your ideas with [Bev Larson](#), 239.281.1290.

Scholarship Program:

REIS is accepting contributions to fund scholarships for 2017. You may contribute to the scholarship program at any time at the [REIS website](#) or by contacting Scholarship Chairman [Mark Morris](#), 239.671.3336.

Sponsorships:

Contact [Chris Pacitto](#), 239.689.1474, for information and availability of opportunities to sponsor REIS events.

Education Program:

Co-chairs [Noel Davies](#), [Bill Morris](#), and [Arleen Hunter](#) have a good budget for keynote speakers for the fall real estate symposium and welcome your ideas and help to plan another information-rich program.

Social Events:

Chair [Arleen Hunter](#), David Fry and Kent Poli are working on themes and plans for 2017 events.

Horizon Council:

Amanda Brock is the REIS representative on the Council.

Membership:

All REIS memberships expired December 31st and must be renewed at the [REIS website](#). A limited number of memberships are available for new members.

SOLVING WATER CHALLENGES

"Cooperative Solutions" is the theme of the 26th annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference, a day-long event January 13th at Florida Gulf Coast University, co-sponsored by REIS. The conference will showcase 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](#).

LEGISLATORS PLAN FOR SESSION

Lee County Legislative Delegation meets January 19th to consider local bills, funding requests, and public commentary for the 2017 State Legislative Session, which convenes March 7th. 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 6th with [Charlotte Codie](#). The Delegation includes Senators Lizbeth Benacquisto and Kathleen Passidomo, and Representatives Matt Caldwell, Dane Eagle, Heather Fitzenhagen, and Raymond Rodriguez.

LEGISLATORS LUNCHEON

Southwest Florida legislators will participate in a panel discussion February 1st to address the upcoming session. The Lee County Delegation will be joined by newly-elected Representatives Byron Daniels and Bob Rommel, both serving Collier County districts. The luncheon is hosted by [The Chamber of Southwest Florida](#).

BONITA BEACH ROAD PLANS

There will be a public meeting January 10th to discuss comprehensive plan amendments to implement the vision for Bonita Beach Road. The meeting begins at 5:30 pm at Bonita Springs City Hall. Review the Bonita Beach Road Visioning Study [final report](#).



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MARKET INTELLIGENCE

CCIM Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference takes place January 19th at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. Keynote speakers Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, and Brian Bailey, senior financial policy analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta. Other speakers include CCIM National President Robin Webb, Peter Barnett on "the office of tomorrow," Joe Collier from Mainsail Development on Fort Myers hotel/convention center development, and panel discussions. Details on the [CCIM website](#).

Annual Economic Forecast presented January 19th by Financial Planning Association of Southwest Florida at Hodges University. Douglas Duncan, senior vice president and chief economist of Fannie Mae, will discuss national economic trends and Christopher Westley, FGCU professor of economics and director of Regional Economic Research Institute, will discuss Southwest Florida's economy. www.fpa-swfl.org

Horizon Council Annual Meeting and annual report on the state of economic development in Lee County and preview of the coming year will be January 27th at Florida Southwestern State College.

MarketWatch - Real Estate presented February 22nd at Harborside Event Center by Fort Myers News-Press. Overview and forecast for local market sectors by: former REIS president Stan Stouder, CCIM; REIS member Randy Thibaut, and Realtor Denny Grimes. Details and registration at www.MarketWatch2017.com

Regional Economic Indicator Report is available every month on the [REIS website](#). The report is provided by the Regional Economic Research Institute of the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University.

IS SW FLORIDA READY TO GROW?

The Florida Chamber Foundation will conduct a town hall meeting at 9 am on January 11th, at Hodges University in Fort Myers, to engage business and community leaders in identifying key trends and factors that can drive the regional economy. Register by [clicking here](#). More information is available from the [Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council](#).

REVISING THE STATE CONSTITUTION

Every 20 years, Florida convenes the Constitutional Revision Commission to propose changes to the State's Constitution. The Commission will be established in February-March to examine the Constitution, conduct public hearings throughout the state, and propose changes that will be on the ballot in November 2018. The Commission includes the Attorney General, 15 citizens appointed by the Governor, 9 appointed by the Speaker of the House, 9 appointed by the President of the Senate, and 3 appointed by the Chief Justice. Learn more at the [Florida Bar website](#).

ESTERO COMP PLAN WORKSHOP

The Village of Estero is working on its first Comprehensive Plan to guide growth in the next 5, 10, 20 years, including infrastructure needs, population growth, and protection of resources. The first public workshop will be at 5:30 pm, January 11th, at Legacy Church.

BONITA SPRINGS PLAN REVIEW

The public is invited to participate in a discussion of the scope of optional amendments to the Bonita Springs Comprehensive Plan, 5:30 - 7 pm on January 12th, at Bonita Springs City Hall.

FORT MYERS TECHNOLOGY HUB

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation will build a 10,000 sf technology center in downtown Fort Myers with high speed optic access provided by LambdaRail, an internet research and education network. Work is expected to begin in February.

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS


Please join in welcoming our new members:

Jeffrey Gage, a Corporate Real Estate Advisor and Senior Vice President with CBRE in Naples.

Jules Robinson, with Robinson Unlimited, LLC, provides real estate services to the national retail community.

Donald Miller, PLS, PSM, is assistant director of surveying with Morris-Depew Associates.

Kenrick Gallander, AICP, former City of Destin Community Development Director, is a project manager with Morris-Depew Associates.

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