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Past President Bev Larson, CCIM

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Lee County's goals and challenges in 2019 will be addressed by Larry Kiker, chair of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners at the February 12th luncheon. Sponsored by [Chapman Insurance Group](#).

Economic opportunity zones will be explained by John Talmadge and Ruth Buchanan of the Lee County Economic Development Office, at the March 12th luncheon. Sponsored by [Roetzel & Andress](#).

REIS welcomes your program suggestions. Please share your ideas with [Mary Gentile](#), 239-275-4922, ext, 235.

Sponsorships:

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

Membership:

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

Horizon Council:

2018 REIS President Bev Larson has been appointed to serve as the REIS representative on the Horizon Council. The Council and Horizon Foundation host their annual meeting January 18th at Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Fort Myers. The keynote speaker is Joe Lacy, a national specialist in structuring corporate incentive packages and financing arrangements.

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.

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.

There will be sessions on Regional Collaboration, Strategies for Resilient Water Systems, Water Reuse, Legislative Updates and Emerging Issues.

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 watershed health. Registration is on the [American Water Resources Association website](#).

FLOOD INSURANCE EXTENDED

On December 21st, Congress extended the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) until May 31st, 2019. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ceased allowing insurers to issue and renew policies due to the government shutdown but quickly reversed its action under pressure from real estate groups and Senator Rubio. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) research shows that 40,000 home sales are lost every month that flood insurance is not available.

APPRAISAL THRESHOLD UPDATE

The U.S. Senate passed two bills in December that link the Small Business Administration's appraisal threshold to the threshold for commercial real estate as established by bank regulatory agencies. Identical bill were passed by the House of Representatives earlier. If signed by the president, the threshold would rise from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and commercial transactions below that amount would not require an appraisal. The bills are S.3552, the Real Estate Appraisal Harmonization Act and S.3553, the Small Business Access to Capital and Efficiency Act.

BEV LARSON, CCIM
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MARKET INTELLIGENCE

CCIM Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference

takes place February 11th at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Estero. Lawrence Yun, Ph.D., chief economist with the National Association of Realtors will explain economic conditions affecting real estate. CCIM Institute chief economist KC Conway will discuss the retail market sector. Danny Rice, managing director of Central Florida Colliers International, will discuss the national brokerage community and technology. There will also be a panel discussion on economic growth and forecasts.

floridaccim.com/outlook2019

MarketWatch 2019

will be held February 26th at Hertz Arena. Local real estate experts analyze market trends, present research, and provide insights and predictions. Development and new home sales will be addressed by REIS member Randy Thibaut, ALC, residential real estate will be discussed by Denny Grimes, and commercial real estate will be presented by former REIS president Stan Stouder, CCIM. MarketWatch2019.com

The Future of Collier County

The data-rich presentation delivered by Collier County Planning Commission Chairman Mark Strain at the REIS December luncheon is available on the REIS website under [Resources - Reports & Documents](#).

Transportation Projects Planned

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has released the [tentative work program](#) for Southwest Florida for 2020 through 2024.

Regional Economic Indicator Reports

Monthly reports on Southwest Florida economic trends are published by the Regional Economic Research Institute at Florida Gulf Coast University and posted on the REIS website under [Resources - Reports & Documents](#).

INDUSTRY INFO AND CONNECTIONS

Check the [REIS calendar](#) for meetings and events of agencies and professional organizations in Southwest Florida. You may also submit events you'd like to see added to the calendar to info@reis-swfl.org. The [Resources section](#) of the REIS website is also updated regularly with useful data and links to other sources.

REIS HONORS LEE COMMISSIONERS

REIS welcomed the Lee County Board of County Commissioners to a private members-only reception on December 13th at Edison National Bank, hosted by Edison National Bank and Henderson Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. The festive bi-annual event provided an opportunity for REIS members to become acquainted with elected officials in a relaxed, social atmosphere.



Hosts and former REIS presidents Robbie Roepstorff and Russell Schropp offer a warm welcome.



Commissioner Brian Hamman

Commissioner Larry Kiker



REIS President Bev Larson recognizes the Lee County commissioners.

REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our newest members:

Kaylee Tuck, attorney with Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt, concentrates on land use and environmental law.

Richard Walker, senior engineer with GHD, specializes in civil and transportation engineering.

Linda Miller is a senior planner with Avalon Engineering.

Gary Griffin, P.E., is president of B & I Contractors, vice president of Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance and past chair of the Horizon Council.

Anthony Palermo, AICP, is assistant director of community development for the City of Fort Myers.

Anthony Cameratta, P.E., is responsible for engineering and land development issues for Cameratta Companies.

Ashley Suarez, real estate lawyer at Roetzel & Andress, focuses on development and commercial leasing.

Anthony Gamero of Build by Science of SWFL, LLC.

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

Southwest Florida's
Commercial & Residential
Real Estate Team

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