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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Monthly Programs:

Ben Siegel, executive director of Lee County Port Authority, will deliver a report on the future of air transportation at the **February 14th luncheon**, sponsored by [DeAngelis Diamond Construction](#).

The **March 14th luncheon** will look at the goals and challenges for Lee County, with Brian Hamman, chair of Lee County Board of County Commissioners, sponsored by [LSI Companies](#).

Hurricane recovery and the economic outlook will be addressed by John Talmage, director of Lee County Office of Economic Development, at the **April 11th luncheon**, sponsored by [Maxwell Hendry Simmons](#).

Sponsorships for 2023 luncheons are very limited so please contact [Janet Davis](#) if you're interested.

Horizon Council:

The Lee County 2022 Industry Appreciation Awards takes place February 10th in Fort Myers. REIS is a longtime member and supporter of the Horizon Council, a public-private board that hosts the annual event and advises the Lee County Board of County Commissioners on business and economic policy.

Reception for Lee County Commissioners:

This popular event for REIS members and the newly elected Lee County commissioners is rescheduled for April 6th. Sponsored by [Edison National Bank](#) and [Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt](#).

Membership:

Memberships expired December 31st but you may still be able to renew by logging in on the [REIS website](#). Annual dues are \$150 per person, based on the calendar year.

Scholarship Program:

The REIS Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that enables individuals and businesses to make tax-deductible donations in support of scholarships. The Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) manages the Foundation, allowing 100% of donations to be used for scholarships. Learn how you can participate and support the REIS scholarship program on the [REIS webpage](#).

PROPERTY TAX REBATES

The Florida Legislature passed Senate bill 4A in December to provide tax refunds on 2022 property taxes for homes rendered inhabitable for at least 30 days by Hurricane Ian, including vacation and rental homes. Charlotte and Collier Counties property appraisers have posted rebate application forms on their websites. Property appraisers in the region are also working on procedures to adjust 2023 taxable values, based on property condition as of January 1st.

CLEAN WATER ACT UPDATED

The Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers finalized the redefinition of "waters of the United States," known as WOTUS. The definition determines the jurisdiction of the federal government and became effective December 30th. WOTUS includes traditional navigable waters; impoundments of WOTUS; tributaries to traditional navigable waters, adjacent wetlands, and intrastate water features that have relatively permanent flow to traditional navigable waters or have a significant nexus with those waters. Also included are tributaries that alone or in combination with similarly situated waters in the region, significantly affect the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of other jurisdictional waters. Wetlands adjacent to such tributaries will also be jurisdictional.

BONITA SPRINGS PLAN REVIEW

Bonita Springs is nearing completion of the Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR) of the Comprehensive Plan. A second public workshop was conducted on January 10th and the timeline and workshop reports are available at the [City's EAR website](#).

WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

"Hurricanes of 2022: Effects on the Built and Natural Environments of Southwest Florida" is the theme of the 32nd annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference, presented by American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Florida at Florida Gulf Coast University on February 3rd. The event is co-hosted by REIS. Sessions will analyze hurricane forecasting and effects and address the impacts on the region's infrastructure, water quality, and ecology. Full conference program and registration is at [AWRAFlorida.org](#).

BEV LARSON, CCIM

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MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Charlotte County Hospitality Market

ULI Southwest Florida Chapter focus on development in the hospitality industry on January 25th in Punta Gorda.

swflorida.uli.org

Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference

Florida CCIM Chapter Southwest District presents regional economic outlook and market reports on January 30th in Fort Myers. Lee County Property Appraiser Matt Caldwell is a keynote speaker. flccim.com/southwest-outlook-2023

Emerging Market Trends in Real Estate

Annual ULI Southwest Florida District event features a detailed report on market trends by Renee Sarria, partner with PwC. Kristine Smale, senior vice president of Zonda, provides perspective on the local region. swflorida.uli.org

Market Trends of Southwest Florida

Annual presentation on March 14th in Fort Myers by local real estate experts analyzing market trends and providing insights and predictions. Randy Thibaut, ALC, Denny Grimes, and Justin Thibaut, CCIM, are the featured presenters. markettrendsswfl.com/

Regional Economic Indicator Report is published each month by the Regional Economic Research Institute (RERI) at Florida Gulf Coast University and is posted on the REIS Resources webpage.

WELCOME NEW REIS MEMBERS

Russell Budd, CEO and owner of PBS Contractors, is a Florida general contractor and certified master builder.

Denise Deters is the business development officer with Wells Fargo in Fort Myers.

Jeremias Francioli, CIMA, EA, is a financial advisor with 1031 Exchange Connection, a qualified intermediary.

Mellone Long is the assistant director of the City of Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency. She formerly served as the City's Community Development director.

Amy McQuagge is director of marketing with Sanibel Captiva Community Bank.

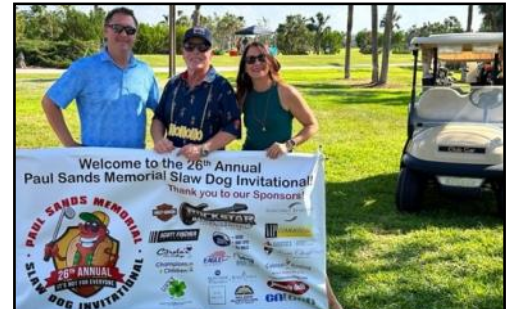
Tyler Sharpe, P.E., is a land development engineer with Johnson Engineering.

Ryan Richards, AIA, LEED AP, a licensed Florida architect, is co-founder and partner with RG Architects.

Ed Goff is Market President Gulf Coast with Workscapes, applying his extensive experience in interior design and furnishing of commercial properties.

SLAW DOG TOURNAMENT DELIVERS

The 26th annual Paul Sands Memorial Slaw Dog Invitational golf tournament provided a full day of good times while producing \$29,500 for the Paul Sands Memorial - REIS Cypress Lake Golf Club pro Jon Pazdera with tournament hosts Scott Fischer and Lisa Sands. program at Florida Gulf Coast University. Learn more about the REIS scholarship program and how you can participate by visiting the REIS webpage.



Cypress Lake Golf Club pro Jon Pazdera with tournament hosts Scott Fischer and Lisa Sands.

SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

The Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) proudly announces the award of the annual Paul Sands Memorial - REIS Scholarship to 13 Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) students. The scholarships each provide \$2,500 toward tuition and books. Recipients include:

Colten Beane, junior in Construction Management
Alexandra Boser, senior in Finance and Real Estate
Allison Conley, senior in Economics and Real Estate
Cody Deal, senior in Construction Management
Benjamin Hermiston, senior in Finance and Real Estate
Avery Kloeppel, senior in Construction Management
Merko Kucaj, junior in Construction Management
Alexandra Layton, senior in Construction Management
Eric Reyes, senior in Construction Management
Hunter Stevens, junior in Construction Management
Daniel Trejo-Garcia, sophomore in Construction Management and Computer Information Systems
Yulissa Valdez, senior in Construction Management
Alessa Valerio, junior in Construction Management

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT EXCELS

Andres Boral, recipient of the Paul Sands Memorial - REIS Scholarship in 2012 and 2014, has opened his own engineering firm in Estero: Boral Engineering and Design. While in the MBA program at Florida Gulf Coast University, Andres had to write a business plan and chose to create a plan for an independent engineering firm. After graduation, he followed the plan and his firm has now completed nearly 300 projects and has 7 employees.

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