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## BOARDROOM REPORT

*News from recent REIS board meetings*

**Luncheon Programs:**

Emerging economic opportunities in Hendry County will be revealed by County Manager Charles Chapman at the August 8th luncheon, sponsored by [Sallee Promotions](#).

Lee County Property Appraiser Ken Wilkinson will explain the latest trends in property values at the September 12th luncheon, sponsored by [GHD Services](#).

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

**Sponsorships:**

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

**Annual Social Event:**

The popular event will take place on November 16th at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in the Fort Myers River District. Live entertainment is booked, a tempting menu is planned and sponsorships are available.

**Real Estate Symposium:**

Annual educational program will be presented September 14th at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU).

**Scholarship:**

The REIS Scholarship Foundation has selected 3 students at Florida Gulf Coast University to receive scholarships for the coming term. Donations are needed to support future scholarship awards and may be made on the [REIS website](#).

**Membership:**

The REIS membership roster has reached the 250 cap! Applications are still being accepted and maintained on a waiting list, as the Board of Governors is reviewing options for expanding the roster. As membership opportunities become available they will be offered to those on the waiting list in order of the date applied. Anyone Interested in joining REIS is encouraged to apply online on the [membership page](#).

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES - AND MORE!

The annual REIS Symposium will feature two nationally-respected keynote speakers on the changing patterns of community planning and commercial real estate development. **Robert Gibbs** is acclaimed for his innovative methods in applying modern trends to commercial development in town centers and historic cities. **David Dixon** is a leader in planning new suburban downtowns and building livable, resilient communities.

The program will also include commentary from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) President **Michael Martin** and Regional Economic Research Institute Director **Christopher Westley**. An interactive panel discussion will include first hand insight from area builders, developers, commercial real estate experts, and government agencies.

The half-day program is presented in partnership with the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. It takes place at FGCU on September 14th. AICP credits are pending. Register on the [REIS website](#).

The title sponsor is Roetzel & Andress. Co-sponsors include Morris-Depew Associates, VIP Commercial, and LandQwest Commercial Property Management. Additional sponsor opportunities are still available. Contact [Chris Pacitto](#), 239.689.1474 for information.

## ARCHITECTS CONVENE IN NAPLES

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Florida Chapter Annual Convention and Trade Show is in Naples July 27th—29th. National keynote speakers, educational sessions, exhibits, social events and wide range of tours. Details and registration on [AIA web site](#).

## DEVELOPING RURAL LANDS

An information-rich program on development in the Rural Lands Stewardship Area (RLSA) of Collier County is now available on the [REIS website](#). The program was presented at the REIS June luncheon by Al Reynolds.

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## FLOOD INSURANCE IN LIMBO

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will expire the end of September if not reauthorized by Congress. Existing policies would remain in effect but new policies would not be issued. The Senate is considering at least 2 major bills, including one by Senators Nelson and Rubio that would extend NFIP 6 years and reduce the cap on annual rate increases from 25% to 10%. Other proposed changes being reviewed by the House and Senate include a 10-year extension, improving flood maps, supporting local mitigation measures, reducing commissions, and shifting more coverage to the private market.

## FORMER REIS PRESIDENT LAUDED

Sharon Jenkins-Owens, AICP and 2009 REIS President, was awarded the prestigious George W. Simons Jr. Award at the 2017 Florida Planning and Zoning Association's State Conference. Sharon is a Principal Planner for the Lee County Department of Community Development specializing in community planning.

## REIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our new members:

**Sadie Comfort**, with Four Square Realty Investments.

**Phil Fischler** is a principal with Fischler Property Company, a commercial development firm. Phil is a licensed real estate broker and professional engineer.

**Katherine Kyle** Community Engagement Leader with Thrivent Financial.

**Mark Cincotta** is Business Development Manager with Nova Engineering & Environmental.

**Kimberly Riching** is in business development and sales with Stroemer & Company, CPA.

**Andrew Green** is Client Services Coordinator with Colliers International and focuses on commercial real estate.

**Doug Shipp**, CPCU, CIC, AAI, is a Risk Manager and Executive Vice President with Insurance and Risk Management Services.

**Joseph A. Adams** is an attorney with Pavese Law Firm, specializing in real estate, environmental, and land use.

## LEGISLATORS REVIEW 2017 SESSION

Over 100 attended the REIS July luncheon to hear Senator Kathleen Passidomo and Representatives Matt Caldwell, Dane Eagle, and Ray Rodriguez review the Legislative Session.



◀ Rep. Rodriguez explains Enterprise Florida compromise.



The lively program focused on legislation, amendments, and budget allocations relevant to the real estate community and included insights into the legislative process. Former REIS President Matt Simmons ably moderated the



interactive discussions on property taxes, building codes, lease taxes, economic development programs, transportation improvements, conservation and water policy.



◀ Rep. Caldwell received an award from the Florida Planning & Zoning Association (FPZA), presented by REIS Governor and FPZA Director Arleen Hunter.

## REINING IN CLEAN WATER RULES

The federal Environmental Protection Agency announced that it is taking action to return more power to the states by revising the Clean Water Rule, which designates jurisdiction over wetlands and seasonal streams. The Clean Water Rule was introduced in 2015 to clarify the Clean Water Act of 1972 but has been held up in appeals courts and never fully implemented. The Supreme Court has ruled twice in the past 5 years to give landowners more power to go to court to protect their property rights, citing concern about government overreach.

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