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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

The July luncheon will feature Lee County Clerk of Courts Linda Doggett, sponsored by [GATES](#).

Don Paight, Executive Director of Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency, will be our speaker at the August luncheon, sponsored by [Wright Construction Group](#).

The September luncheon speaker will be Drew Breakspear, sponsored by [Henderson Franklin](#) law firm.

Executive Director of Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau Tamara Pigott will speak at the October luncheon, sponsored by [AMRC Environmental](#).

REIS welcomes your suggestions on programs and speakers you would like to see at the luncheons. Please share your ideas with [Sean Ellis](#), 239.337.3850.

Education Workshop:

"The Real Estate Market Revival - Let's Get Ready to Roll" will be September 13. Prime sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Education Committee Chairs [Steven Kushner](#) and [Karen Miller](#) for details.

Scholarship Programs:

The REIS Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation, is seeking contributions for scholarships to be awarded at the end of the year. Details are available on the website or from Chairs [Matt Simmons](#) or [Lisa Sands](#).

Horizon Council:

The annual Industry Appreciation Event will be Sept. 20 at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers.

Annual Social Event:

[Chair Bev Larson](#) is planning a gala event for November. Prime sponsor positions are available.

Membership:

A limited number of memberships are available. The [membership application](#) is on the REIS website.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE JULY 20th

The Paul Sands Memorial - REIS Scholarship fund at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) will award two scholarships of \$2,500 each in August. Applications are required by July 20. Details are on the [REIS website](#) or by contacting Karie Seilberger at FGCU, (239) 590-1060.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

The September 13th REIS Workshop, "The Real Estate Market Revival - Let's Get Ready to Roll!", will feature a keynote address by Dr. Ronald B. Toll, Provost & VP of Academic Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). Program speakers include:

- Manuel de Zárraga, Executive Managing Director of HFF, a real estate investment banking expert;
- Brian Goguen, Sr. VP of Barron Collier Companies;
- Milt Flinn, COO of Kitson & Partners;
- Pat Neal, President of Neal Communities, Inc.;
- W. Stephen Hagenbuckle, Managing Principal of TerraCap Management;
- Glen Salyer, Acting Assistant County Manager for Lee County; and
- Paige Rausch, Real Estate Consultant with Boback Commercial Group.

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Urban Land Institute (ULI), FGCU, The Chamber of Southwest Florida, and HSA Engineers & Scientists. Primary topics include:

- *Resurrecting Stalled Projects*
- *Strategies for Choosing Site Selection Teams*
- *Innovative Financing Strategies*

The workshop takes place from 8am to noon at FGCU. Parking pass and refreshments are included. Continuing Education Credits are pending for attorneys, professional engineers, and certified planners. Workshop details and registration are on the [REIS website](#).

A limited number of co-sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Education Committee Chairs [Steven Kushner](#) and [Karen Miller](#) for details.



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DEVELOPMENT PERMIT EXTENSIONS

Florida Governor Scott signed HB 7019 which provides for automatic two-year extensions of development permits and approvals. Extensions require written requests filed by October 1 with the agency that granted the approval. The option applies to permits and approvals set to expire before January 1, 2014.

LEE PLAN OVERHAUL

The Local Planning Agency (LPA) will review proposed revisions to the Administrative Chapter on July 22. In September, County staff will begin bringing the other elements of the Plan to the LPA for final review, which will continue through November.

AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

Agricultural interests and landowners have requested changes to proposed updates to the Future Land Use and Economic Elements of the Lee County Comprehensive Plan. They seek policies that encourage land use regulations that facilitate agricultural use, avoid burdensome regulations that add cost without measurable benefits, assure access to appropriate infrastructure, and encourage the promotion of "agri-tourism" as a suitable and appropriate form of economic development.

FORECLOSED PROPERTIES UPDATE

Foreclosure filings in Lee County dropped to 362 in June, the lowest in 2 years. On July 1, new state laws became effective that will expedite the foreclosure process and get foreclosed properties on the market quickly. On August 13 Lee County commissioners plan to hear public comment and discuss a proposed ordinance to register foreclosed properties. The proposal would require lenders to register properties that are vacant and in process of foreclosure or foreclosed, pay an annual registration fee, post signs, and inspect and maintain the subject properties. A third party vendor would manage the registry. The [draft ordinance](#) is available for review.

STAYING INFORMED & INVOLVED

The [calendar of events](#) on the REIS website is constantly updated with industry and government events.

NEW LOAN EXAM PROCEDURES

In June, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) updated exam procedures for the new mortgage rules issued in January, most of which will take effect in January 2014. The exam procedures require lenders to provide applicants with free copies of appraisals, set screening standards for loan originators, and prohibit increases in payments to brokers and loan officers for loans with higher interest rates, prepayment penalties or higher fees. They further prohibit mandatory arbitration of loan disputes, single premium credit insurance, and the waiver of consumer's rights to file court claims over alleged violations of federal law. Review [TILA](#) and [ECOA](#) exam procedures online.

FGCU APPEALS FOR I-HUB FUNDING

Southwest Florida community organizations are rallying to support Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) appeal for the state to continue funding development of the FGCU Innovation Hub for renewable energy. Governor Scott vetoed a \$7.5 million budget allocation for development of the 241-acre research center, which many see as a catalyst for economic growth in the region.

COLLIER BUILDING FEES REDUCED

Collier County is reducing building permit fees 5%, effective August 1. The reduction applies to set fees. Fees based on building size will remain the same for the time being. Online filing has increased efficiency in review processes, producing surpluses which will now be returned to the community.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

REIS now offers a **LinkedIn Group** to expand networking opportunities and provide information on current issues of interest to Southwest Florida real estate investment and development professionals. Join the [REIS Group](#) today to participate in discussions and learn more about your colleagues and the local commercial real estate industry.

The **REIS REPORT** also welcomes contributions from members. Articles should be educational or informational, not focused on promoting a business or property. Please submit story ideas to REIS Communications Chairman [Randy Krise](#) or [Bill Burdette](#).

Southwest Florida's
Commercial & Residential
Real Estate Team

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The logo for FORGE ENGINEERING INC features a stylized red and white "F" above the word "FORGE" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below "FORGE" is "ENGINEERING INC" in a smaller font, and "INNOVATIVE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS" in an even smaller font.

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