

GOVERNOR AND CABINET TO MEET IN FORT MYERS

Fort Myers will be the state "capital for a day" on June 16. Governor Bush and the Cabinet will conduct their bi-weekly meeting at Harborside Event Center in downtown Fort Myers.

The Cabinet meeting begins at 9 a.m., followed at 11 a.m. by an "agency fair" and luncheon with the Governor, Cabinet members, state agency heads, and local leaders. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend. Further information is available from Jennifer Hobbie, (239) 461-7162.

EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY OKAYED

On June 8, Governor Bush approved the legislation enabling creation of the Southwest Florida Expressway Authority encompassing Collier and Lee Counties. The legislation also establishes process for Charlotte County to participate in the authority. Projects within the boundaries of these counties require approval of specified county commissions.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT LAWS

The 2005 Florida Legislature passed growth management legislation that strengthens concurrency and appropriates \$ 1.5 billion for roads and schools to try and address infrastructure problems. No new revenue sources were included in the legislation, disappointing local governments and builders.

Legislators also enacted legislation to preserve public access to the water by encouraging local government to preserve commercial waterfronts through incentives, including tax deferral or reduction for maintaining use as working waterfront, providing commercial or recreational access to water or other water dependent uses.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

REIS monthly luncheon meetings will be in the **Magnolia Room at Pelican Preserve Town Center**. The Pelican Preserve entrance is on Treeline Avenue, on the south side of Colonial Boulevard, just one mile east of I-75 (exit 136). The gatehouse attendant will direct you to the Town Center. Meetings will continue to begin promptly at 11:45 on the second Tuesday of the month.

WELCOME SHARON!

Sharon Heston is now handling REIS meeting reservations and registration. Sharon has assisted with area building industry functions and is a valued addition to our organization. Please take a minute to introduce yourself to Sharon at the next meeting and join in welcoming her to REIS.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKSHOP

Lee County Affordable Housing Methodology Workshop will be held on June 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room, Community Development / Public Works Building at 1500 Monroe St. in downtown Fort Myers.

Lee County is developing a methodology to assess the impacts that commercial development has on affordable housing and to provide a means to adequately mitigate those impacts.

The purpose of the workshop is to receive input from a broad cross section of interested parties and to inform the public and Lee County officials about the project, its schedule and general goals.

This meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are encouraged to attend. For additional information, contact Antia Richards, 479-8547 or richarah@leegov.com.

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LEE GROUNDWATER RESOURCE & MINING STUDY AVAILABLE

The Study has been presented to the Lee Board of County Commissioners and is available online. Visit Lee County's web site home page, www.lee-county.com. The link to the Study is on the left under Current Events.

The Study addresses the surficial and intermediate groundwater resources of Lee County and also the rock mine resources. It can be used for an assessment of the resource in a planning and land use context. The goal is to develop a sound, scientifically-based platform from which to evaluate land use decisions, in particular those decisions related to the DRGR land use classification, as well as mining activities.

Analyses are provided regarding the effectiveness of the existing land use designations in relation to water resources, whether any recognizable changes in resources have occurred, and any notable issues or trends with regard to groundwater aquifers meeting natural and/or human demands.

Surface Water Flow-ways for all of Lee County have been mapped to review sensitive environmental areas.

LEE PERMITS BREAK RECORD

Lee County's Community Development Department issued 906 single-family home permits in May - an all-time monthly record. It is a 37 percent increase over the 660 permits issued in May 2004. In the first five months of 2005, the county already has permitted \$1.98 billion in construction activity, compared to \$1.13 billion in the first five months of 2004. The value of the 906 single-family home permits was \$182.4 million. The county also issued permits for 204 duplex units and 348 multi-family units.

The totals are for unincorporated Lee County, City of Bonita Springs and Town of Fort Myers Beach.



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BOARDROOM REPORT

Notes from recent REIS Board meetings

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Walter Serbon and Kevin Winter are developing plans for a scholarship foundation that would provide opportunity for REIS members to make tax-deductible contributions to a business-oriented college scholarship fund. The fund would be in addition to the existing FGCU scholarship funded by REIS and the State of Florida.

LEE COUNTY LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY (LPA)

Lee LPA is currently reviewing proposed amendments to Pine Island land use classifications, concurrency and density. Other current LPA agenda items include the proposed Boca Grande community plan, and amending Lee's Comprehensive Plan. LPA agendas are online at www.lee-county.com/dcd/Calendar/lpa.

LEE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

The Land Development Code Advisory Committee continues to review Plan Amendments regarding commercial building design, permanent signs, and dewatering regulations.

PARK IMPACT FEES

Updates to the Community and Regional Park impact fee schedules for Unincorporated Lee County were approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, May 24th. The ordinance is effective June 1st; however, permit applications meeting the following two conditions will not be subject to the fee increase:

1. Your permit application must be submitted on or before July 1, 2005; and
2. The permit must be issued on or before October 1, 2005. (The fee increase for a single family home is \$363.00)

For additional information, please contact Audra Ennis, Impact Fee Coordinator, at 479-8362 or by e-mail at ennisam@leegov.com.



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