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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

The September 12th luncheon was cancelled due to the effects of Hurricane Irma.

Lee County Property Appraiser Ken Wilkinson will explain the latest trends in property values at the October 10th luncheon, sponsored by [GFA International](#).

There will be no luncheon in November, in favor of the annual social event.

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. REIS members and their guests will enjoy live entertainment, a scrumptious array of hors d'oeuvres and full bar. Sponsorships are available.

Real Estate Symposium:

Annual educational program is rescheduled for November 9th at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU).

Scholarship Program:

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 reached the 250 person cap in July and 7 applications have been received since. The retirement of a few honorary members now allows REIS to offer memberships 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](#).

REAL ESTATE SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

One of the nation's leading authorities on community planning and designing commercial centers will headline the annual REIS Real Estate Symposium on November 9th at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU).

David Dixon is a leader in planning new suburban downtowns and building livable, resilient communities. Dixon has received national acclaim for leading the planning of post-Katrina New Orleans.



David Dixon, FAIA, Senior Principal and Urban Design Group Leader, Stantec

The program will also include commentary from Robert Beatty, dean of Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and Regional Economic Research Institute Director **Christopher Westley**. An interactive panel discussion of regional trends will be moderated by **Sean Ellis** and include the keynote speakers, area builders, developers, real estate experts, and government officials.

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 approved. Register on the [REIS website](#).

The title sponsor of the Symposium is **Roetzel & Andress**. Gold sponsors are **Morris-Depew Associates** and **Sitti Engineering Group**. Silver sponsors include **VIP Commercial, LandQwest Commercial Property Management, Crown Roofing, IWG Advisors, and Office Furniture & Design Concepts**.

FLOOD INSURANCE EXTENDED

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has been extended for 3 months and will now expire the end of this year if not reauthorized by Congress. An assortment of proposals to reform the program are being considered by the House of Representatives and Senate, with terms from 5 to 10 years, a range of reductions in the cap on annual rate increases, and various approaches to surcharges on commercial properties.

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LEGISLATORS PLAN FOR SESSION

Lee County Legislative Delegation meets October 18th to consider local bills, funding requests, and public commentary for the 2018 State Legislative Session. The meeting is from 9 to 5 in Florida Southwestern State College Nursing Building, Room AA-177. Bills must be submitted and presentations registered by October 6th with [Charlotte Codie](#). The Delegation includes Senators Lizbeth Benacquisto, Kathleen Passidomo, and Denise Grimsley, and Representatives Matt Caldwell, Dane Eagle, Heather Fitzenhagen, and Raymond Rodrigues.

CANADIAN SNOWBIRD VISA ACT

The Canadian Snowbird Visa Act has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. It would allow Canadian visitors to stay in the U.S. an extra 2 months, beyond the current 182-day limit, if they own or rent a U.S. residence. They must be 50 years old and would be prohibited from working or collecting public assistance.

HORIZON COUNCIL AWARDS EVENT

The Horizon Council and the Lee County Economic Development Office celebrate local business contributions at the Industry Appreciation Awards on October 12th at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs.

WATER & WASTEWATER EXPOSITION

The Annual SW Florida Water & Wastewater Exposition will take place October 19th at Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. The event offers market information, exhibits on new equipment, materials and technology, and networking with consultants, manufacturers, and regulators. The Expo is presented by the Florida Water Environment Association Southwest Chapter, American Water Works Association Region V, and Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association Region 8. Register at the [Florida Water Environment Association](#).

COLLIER COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX

Collier County will develop a regional tournament-caliber sports facility on 60 acres at City Gate, near I-75 and Collier Boulevard. Initial concept includes 8 baseball fields, 8 multi-purpose fields, 3,000 seat covered stadium, 125,000sf fieldhouse, beach volleyball, running trails, bicycle track and rest areas.

CITY ELECTIONS ARE OCTOBER 3RD

Cape Coral will elect a mayor and 4 council members and voting is citywide for all offices. The October 3rd Primary Election will include the Mayor and City Council Districts 1 and 4. Districts 5 and 6 will appear in the General Election with the top two vote-getters for Mayor, District 1, and District 4. All races are nonpartisan.

Fort Myers will elect a mayor and 3 council members. The October 3rd Primary Election includes the Mayor, who will be elected citywide, and City Council Wards 3 and 5, which will be decided by voters residing in those wards. City Council Ward 1 candidates will appear in the General Election with run-off candidates for Mayor and Wards 3 and 5. All races are nonpartisan.

The General Election will be held November 7th.

OPEN ELECTIONS PROPOSED

A group called LEE VOTER FREEDOM is proposing an amendment to the Lee County Charter to make county commissioners nonpartisan officers, elected by all voters, regardless of party affiliation. Officials in all six cities in Lee County, along with the School Board, are already chosen in nonpartisan elections. The group plans to collect the signatures of 7% of Lee County registered voters in order for the proposal to appear on the ballot in the 2018 general election. Information at [www.http://leevoterfreedom.com](http://leevoterfreedom.com)

SW FLORIDA MARKET TRENDS

The Collier Building Industry Association (CBIA) and Lee Building Industry Association (BIA) will host the annual Market Trends program on November 7th at Miromar Design Center in Estero. REIS member Randy Thibaut will present facts and insight on the land development and home building industry. Register with [cbia.net](#) or [bia.net](#).

ANNUAL REIS SOCIAL EVENT

The festive annual party allows REIS members to become better acquainted in a relaxed, social atmosphere. The event is November 16th and invitations will be sent in the coming weeks. Sponsored by The Place On First, Joiner Architecture, B & W Structural, Priority Marketing, Roetzel & Andress, D3 Creative Studio, and Henderson Franklin, Attorneys at Law.



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