

## BOARDROOM REPORT

*News from recent REIS board meetings*

### Legislative Agenda:

Panther Mitigation is becoming a more frequent topic in development review. Panther habitat is expected to be a more prominent issue as growth pushes east and agencies review the extent of panther territory.

FEMA flood maps and new "special hazard" zones merit attention. REIS members should be informed of the potential effects on investment and development sites, as well as redevelopment of improved properties.

**REIS Scholarship Foundation:** In its first year the Foundation raised over \$12,000 in contributions from REIS members and the business community. Four scholarships, worth \$2,500 each, have been awarded. Two went to Florida Gulf Coast University students Adam Zak and Jason Fredette. Both are Business majors studying finance. Two were awarded to International College students Lori Parker and Lisa Lee, both students in the Legal Studies program. The remaining funds will be awarded for scholarships in 2007. Additional contributions for 2007 scholarship awards are now being accepted. Donation information is on the web site or by contacting Scholarship Committee Chairman Tom Woodyard, 239.425.6012.

**Membership:** Kevin M. Fitzgerald has been appointed Membership Chairman for 2007. Members with questions or suggestions about the membership program may contact Kevin at 239.437.3330 or [kfitzgerald@naiglobal.com](mailto:kfitzgerald@naiglobal.com).

The REIS membership renewal deadline has passed and memberships not renewed are being offered to the waiting list. The application for the waiting list is on the bottom of the Society Profile page at [www.reis-swfl.org](http://www.reis-swfl.org).

**Committee Assignments:** REIS members are welcomed to participate on a variety of committees, to plan programs, workshops, legislative action, social events and other activities. Contact Gerald Hendry, 239.337.0555 for more information.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Gerald Hendry, MAI, CCIM, REIS President*

Happy New Year to all! I am thrilled, as well as humbled, to lead the Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) in 2007. Approximately ten years ago, I attended my first REIS meeting at the University Centre. I remember being overwhelmed with all of the community leaders that were present at the meeting. Today, I am at the helm and anxious to provide the same strong leadership this organization has had over the past 25 years. There are certainly more qualified individuals to fill this role, however, I assure you that REIS will get 100% of my efforts. We are also blessed with another strong Board of Governors this year. The officers include:

Vice President – Steve Hartsell

Treasurer – Sharon Jenkins-Owen

Secretary – Mary Gibbs

The Board of Governors includes Kim Donnelly, Kevin Fitzgerald, Eric Lahaie, Russ Ringland, Paul Sands, Cody Vaughan-Birch, Tom Woodyard, and our immediate past president Stan Stouder.

Our Board comprises a diversified group of leaders that are ready to serve this organization. Collectively, we will continue providing education and timely topics each month. In addition, we plan to provide a workshop similar to last year's Development Workshop. We have lofty goals for luncheon speakers this year. If we don't meet the goals, it will not be from any lack of effort.

Some of the issues that REIS will pursue include: rising impact fees in Lee and now proposed for Collier County, affordable housing, insurance and a slow market. Sounds like a negative way to start the year off but we must confront these important issues. In 2007, we will be faced with many changes in the real estate market. REIS follow these issues and if necessary, be a voice on any issue we feel impacts our group.

If there is a way REIS can serve its members better, please feel free to give me a call or drop me an email. I encourage any input from the membership on speakers, workshops, or the organization as a whole. I look forward to great year with REIS.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

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## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

There are now openings on key committees that advise Lee County commissioners and staff on important growth and development issues. Information on these committees, along with an application form, is available at <http://lee-county.com/countyoofficials.htm> under "Board Appointed Committees."

**Affordable Housing Committee** reviews needs and proposed solutions to solve the low cost housing situation. REIS members Sharon Jenkins-Owen and Walter Fluegel serve on the committee. There are 2 openings. Coordinator is Gloria Sajgo, 239.479.8311.

**Land Development Code Committee** reviews proposed amendments to the Land Development Code and recommends action. Former REIS president Stan Stouder and REIS members William Prys and Helen Stallkamp serve on the committee. There are 2 openings. Coordinator is Rebecca Noble, 239.479.8389.

**Local Planning Authority** assists the comprehensive planning program and makes recommendations on Land Use Plan amendments. Former REIS president Ron Inge serves on the committee. There are 2 openings. Coordinator is Paul O'Connor, 239.479.8309.

**Smart Growth Committee** advises county commissioners on proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. REIS member Ron Hamel serves on the committee. There are 3 openings. Coordinator is Wayne Daltry, 239.335.2221.

## NEW FORT MYERS CITY COUNCIL

Nine candidates are running for three Fort Myers City Council seats. Primary election is February 6 and the general election will be April 3.

Michael Gookin, Robert Hadley, Veronica Shoemaker, and Johnny Streets, Jr. are running for Ward 2 seat. Mike Flanders and Terry Hall compete for Ward 4 seat. Thomas Leonardo, Nicholas Sacca, and Paul Schafer are running for the Ward 6 seat.



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## WELCOME NEW REIS MEMBERS:

Amanda Brock, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt  
Chuck Flanjack, First Florida Bank  
Sharail Cluck, Land Solutions  
Christopher Billings, Merrill Lynch  
Bob Evans, Evans & Wagner Commercial Group

Andrew Pyper, Pyper Engineering  
Jefferson Riddell, Riddell Law Group  
Laura Finn Fish, Platinum Coast Investment Realty  
Steve Zahorian, Jr., Bank of America Private Bank  
William Mankin, Colliers Arnold

John Scott, Encore Bank  
Ronald Hoffer, Hoffer & Associates  
Keith Berg, Beazer Homes  
David Ballew, HIW Development  
Charles Mann, Pavese Law Firm

Vikki Luft, Compass Construction  
Michael Kozak, First National Bank  
Charles Lucas, Consolidated Citrus  
Theodore Weiner, The Weiner Companies  
Ned Hale, Edward W. Hale, P.A.

Steve Hurley, Dave Douglas Associates  
Mike Thrasher, Montgomery Bank  
Edward Canterbury, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt  
Ginny Cooper, Alan D. Esparza Architect  
Robert Massengale, Alan D. Esparza Architect

Wayne G. Russell, Horizon Realty Advisors  
Tom Daugherty, Daugherty & Carr Commercial R. E.  
Amanda Barritt, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt  
Erica Chutkan, Pavese Law Firm  
S. Lee Crouch, Investor

Laureen Fratus, Orion Bank  
Don Anderson, North American Title Company  
George W. Powell, Jr., Powell Law PL  
Cindy Starnes, Oswald Trippe & Company  
Lee A. Meyers, Kaufman Rossin & Co.  
Craig A. Dearden, Realmark Development  
Jim Tamblyn, Colliers Arnold



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