

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

SCHOLARSHIP FUND GROWING:

The REIS Scholarship Foundation, guided by Kevin Winter and Walter Serbon, is preparing criteria for processing applications and awarding over \$12,000 in scholarships to colleges and universities in the region. The fund consists entirely of donations from REIS members and local businesses, with 100% of donations available for scholarships to area colleges. REIS is providing administration for the Foundation. The goal is to award all funds for the 2006-2007 school term, then solicit donations to replenish the fund for next year's scholarships. Contact Walter Serbon, 239.437.0025, for more information.

INDUSTRY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON:

REIS will again co-sponsor the Horizon Council's annual Industry Appreciation Luncheon, scheduled for Sept. 22 at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers.

REGULATORY ISSUES:

Workforce Housing: Horizon Council's recent symposium on workforce housing was well attended, but did not establish a plan of action. Lee County is studying a variety of remedies, including "linkage fees."

Concurrency: Recent Lee County Concurrency Report reveals failing traffic levels on State Road 82. Most Lehigh Acres properties have vested development rights, but properties between Lehigh and I-75 are affected.

MEETING SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Only a few opportunities remain for businesses to sponsor REIS luncheons this year. Contact Jim Kinsey, 939-1367 or jkkinsey@kinseysells.com, for details.

ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT TO BE COMPETITIVE:

This year's annual social event will feature golf and tennis tournaments, followed by a casual cocktail reception. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 13, at Pelican Preserve in Fort Myers. Stay tuned for details.

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON:

Program will address the property insurance crisis.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS WORKSHOP

REIS will present a workshop on the process of regulatory approvals for real estate developments. The workshop will educate investors, developers, brokers, government officials, and related professions on the complexities of development entitlements. Experts from both government and private sector will offer step-by-step outlines with guidance on costs and timetables. A project case study will be featured and a panel of experts will discuss questions from the audience.

The half-day program will cover the process from due diligence through impact fees. Attendees will be provided important contact information on regulatory agencies, helpful hints, and insight on new legislation in the pipeline.

The workshop is being developed by REIS members Mary Gibbs, Stephanie Keyes, and Jim Kinsey and is tentatively scheduled for mid-September at Pelican Preserve Town Center. Details will be provided in future REIS REPORTS, on the REIS web site, and special E-bulletins to members.

US REP. HARRIS TO ADDRESS REIS:

Congresswoman Katherine Harris is scheduled to speak at the August meeting. **Senator Bill Nelson** has also been invited. Both are candidates for US Senate currently held by Nelson.

Please make plans and reservations early. The July meeting sold out quickly and we don't want any members to be excluded from attending this high profile meeting.

EXPRESS CHECK-IN AT MEETINGS:

Members and their guests may preregister for REIS luncheons and take advantage of the new "Express Lane" at the registration table. Make your reservations on the REIS web site, by emailing sheston@swfla.rr.com, or calling Sharon Heston at 239.410.1253. Then mail your check to Sharon Heston, 154 Elephant Way, North Fort Myers, FL 33917.

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LEE CONCURRENCY REPORT

Lee County commissioners approved the new Concurrency Report. Reported shortcomings in service levels on SR 82 east of I-75 may affect rezonings and development approvals. A portion of Daniels Pkwy. near Lehigh Acres may pose similar problems in the near future. Pine Island traffic levels support recently affirmed restrictions on rezoning and residential development. The full report is at www.lee-county.com/dcd/

LEE CODE ENFORCEMENT MOVES

Lee County Code Enforcement office has relocated to the 3rd floor of County / City Annex at 1826 Hendry St. in Fort Myers.

REIS IN THE NEWS

The mid-June issue of *Florida Real Estate Journal* featured an article on the 25th anniversary of the REIS organization, detailing the continuing evolution to serve its members and the community. "One benefit of being 25 years old is you get the long-term perspective on issues, which helps you understand the issues on a more penetrating level," said REIS President Stan Stouder in the article.

REIS MEMBER HONORED

Sheeley Architects was named "Architectural Firm of the Year" at the **SUMMIT AWARDS** as presented by the Lee County Building Industry Association. Sheeley Architects received additional awards for Architectural Design of the Year for residential and commercial projects.

PROMOTE YOUR EXPERTISE

REIS members may publish articles in the *Fort Myers News-Press* "Commercial Connection" column, published every Sunday. Topics should relate to commercial real estate and be approximately 800 words. There's no fee involved. Contact Drew Robinson, 489-3033 ext. 219 or drobinson@viprealty.com, for details.

REIS MEMBERS INVOLVED

REIS has always presented its membership as a resource to the community, available to serve on government advisory boards, civic groups, professional organizations, and community programs. REIS members maintain active involvement and influence in:

- Florida Transportation Council
- Florida Planning & Zoning Association
- Governor's Affordable Housing Study Committee
- Water Resource Advisory Board
- Lake Okeechobee Committee of SFWMD
- Coastal Conservation Association
- Appraisal Institute
- Association of Eminent Domain
- Fla. Chapter of American Planning Association (FAPA)
- Florida Association of Realtors
- SWF Chapter of CCIMs
- Gulf Citrus Growers Association
- Florida Bankers Association
- Lee County Horizon Council
- Lee County Airports Special Management Committee
- Lee County Greenways Steering Committee
- Lee County Housing Finance Authority
- Lee County Conservation Lands Committee
- Collier County Economic Development RE Board
- Lee County Affordable Housing Committee
- Collier County Development Services Advisory Comm.
- Metropolitan Planning PO Citizens Advisory Comm.
- Lee County Executive Regulatory Oversight Committee
- Lee County Disaster Advisory Council
- Lee County Land Development Code Advisory Comm.
- Lee County Local Planning Agency (LPA)
- Lee County Roadway Landscape Advisory Comm.
- Lee County Smart Growth Committee
- Naples/SW Apartment Association
- Lee Building Industry Association (BIA)
- Fort Myers Downtown Management Association
- Fort Myers Downtown Retail Task Force
- Fort Myers Board of Adjustments
- Cape Coral Council for Progress

plus many other civic, community, and charitable groups.



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