

## BOARDROOM REPORT

*Notes from recent REIS Board meetings*

### LUNCHEON ADMISSION RAISED

Guest admission to REIS luncheon meetings will increase to \$35, beginning with October 11 meeting. The fee for REIS members remains \$25.

### TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Florida Dept. of Transportation, under direction of new Secretary Stutler, continues to develop goals and strategies for a 20-year plan. Considering tolls to fund new roads. School transportation needs are a key planning element. Focus on funding backlog of road projects by implementing a "pay and go" option provided in recent growth management legislation (Transportation Regional Initiative Plan or "TRIP"), allowing developers to proceed if road improvements are budgeted and developer pays its proportionate share of the impact.

### ECONOMIST TO ADDRESS REIS

Respected national economist David Jones, CEO of Investors Security, is scheduled to be the featured speaker at the October luncheon meeting.

### REIS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

"REIS Scholarship Foundation, Inc." is being structured to allow 100% of contributions to be used for scholarships. Contributions will be eligible for tax deduction. The program is on track to begin later this year.

### LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE

Lee County District 3 Commissioner John Albion will run for state representative in 2006, to replace Bruce Kyle. Kyle is leaving the legislature due to term limits and is running for circuit judge. The business community in Lehigh Acres is actively seeking a candidate to replace Albion.

Lee Commission Chairman Doug St. Cerny (District 1) and Vice Chairman Tammy Hall (District 5) are both up for reelection in 2006. Hall is running for reelection and there is speculation that former commissioner Andy Coy may oppose her. Turnover of 3 commission seats could leave the board dominated by veteran commissioners Ray Judah and Bob Janes.

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## 2006 OFFICERS NOMINATED

The REIS Nominating Committee will propose the following slate of officers and governors at the September 13 luncheon meeting, with the election scheduled for the October 11 meeting. Election is by vote of REIS members.

President: Stan Stouder  
Vice President: Gerald Hendry  
Treasurer: Steve Hartsell  
Secretary: Rob Fowler, Jr.

Board of Governors:

Mary Gibbs Sharon Jenkins-Owen Jim Kinsey  
Walter Serbon Cody Vaughn-Birch Hal Tate  
Kevin Winter Frank Mullins (as past president)

## PLANNING COUNCIL TO STUDY ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF GROWTH

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council is implementing economic modeling software customized for Southwest Florida. The program will help businesses and communities predict the economic impacts of projects and changes in policies. The Council is hiring a staff economist and hopes to launch the first model studies this fall.

Studies will be conducted jointly with area Economic Development Offices and the newly established Regional Economic Research Institute at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The program will generate realistic year-by-year estimates of the total regional effects of many policy initiatives, including economic and demographic changes. Economic incentive programs, comprehensive plan changes, new developments, and even weather events are considered.

Information on the program is available from Ken Heatherington or David Burr, (239) 338-2550.

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## DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDED

Lee commissioners have adopted amendments to the Land Development Code (LDC) that affect single-family lot grading, dewatering applications, notice requirements for zoning hearing continuances, open space and flowway regulations, among others. Revised Ordinance No. 05-14 and Ordinance No. 05-15 are posted on the Community Development web site: [www.lee-county.com/dcd1/Downloads/OrdinanceReviews.htm](http://www.lee-county.com/dcd1/Downloads/OrdinanceReviews.htm)

## EMINENT DOMAIN LAW REVISITED

Florida's eminent domain law will be a focal point of the next legislative session, as state leaders respond to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that economic development could not be excluded as a possibly valid public use and thereby a justifiable reason to use eminent domain to acquire property. State lawmakers are already drafting revisions to the law that would be more restrictive.

Governor Bush is expected to support legislation that ensures that Florida's laws don't lean too far from personal property rights. On August 17, the *Florida Times-Union* reported Bush stating "Our laws allow for the possibility, at least, of a government entity using eminent domain powers for a private use. Those laws were found to be constitutional, but that doesn't mean the Legislature can't change those laws to restrict the use of eminent domain."

## WATERMEIER ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

REIS governor Janet Watermeier has been elected vice chairman of the Florida Transportation Commission, which oversees the Florida Dept. of Transportation and advises the governor and cabinet. Janet has served on the Commission since 2001. She also serves on the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and Florida's Long Range Economic Strategic Task Force.



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## LEE MPO ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking volunteers to serve on its Citizen Advisory Committee. Vacancies include one from the City of Fort Myers, one from the City of Cape Coral, and one from Lee County District 4. The MPO develops the long-range multi-modal metropolitan transportation plan and programs state planning of the Lee County transportation system. Information: Ron Gogoi, (239) 338-2550 ext. 239.

## "PAY AS YOU GROW"

The recent overhaul of Florida's Growth Management law will be explained and discussed by Rep. Mike Davis, attorney Nancy Linnan, and a panel of local leaders in Naples on Sept. 28. The event is presented by ULI Southwest Florida and the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (FAPA). Information: 800-321-5011.

## "ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER"

REIS members and guests will gather on November 17th to celebrate the good times. The popular annual social event will take place amid the beautiful surroundings of the Heitman estate on the shore of the Caloosahatchee River. Mark your calendar and plan to kick off the holiday season with good cheer, food, drink and live music. Invitations will be mailed in October.

## 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.



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