



Downtown Talk

Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance Newsletter

From the Desk of...

Happy July!

I hope you are enjoying your summer; it sure has been hotter than normal. Hats off to the local Firefighters Union for a wonderful parade. I thought this was one of the most well attended parades over the years. Also, a big shout out to the City of Bonita Springs and the Special Events Committee for a fantastic fireworks and laser light show. The music, along with the food trucks and the positive energy, could be felt everywhere.



Downtown is really coming along. Sugar Shacks building is taking shape. Sugar Shack even put a float in the parade. Many downtown businesses were well represented, including the Mayor of Survey, an honorary position which I was voted on by many businesses and residents to keep the Bonita Springs Historical Society moving forward with their many projects. Thank you to everyone who voted! It was fun riding in the parade with my beautiful sash. Thank you, Mikel Herendez, Executive Director of the Bonita Springs Historical Society, and Derrick Botana, President of the Bonita Springs Historical Society, for all you do for our community.

This is the first time the Bonita Springs Downtown Business Alliance (BSDA) has held a July meeting. The board of directors felt it was important as it's the city's budget month. It is always good to know

where your tax dollar are going to keep improving our city. Speaking of downtown, the city will start alerting the trucks who by-pass our downtown to go north or south with signage and education of the new pedestrian friendly downtown. Working alongside our law enforcement, we hope to get everyone on board.

On April 19, 2023, City Council gave staff directions to proceed with changes to the Sea Turtle Ordinance, Article II, Chapter 7 of the Land Development Code. This is certainly great news to our sea turtles. The city adopted sea turtle protection regulations initially from Lee County in 2001 and amended them in 2006. Since then, there have been several changes in lighting technology and research on protection of endangered sea turtles. Many of these changes have been incorporated into the revised Model Ordinance, and staff recommend the city's regulations be updated for general consistency with the Model Ordinance and adjacent municipalities. The Local Planning Agency found the amendment consistent with the Comprehensive Plan at their June 8, 2023, meeting. Staff have made a few changes since the First Reading based on feedback from public comments.

Ever wonder what buzzes in your ear and eats you alive especially after it rains? Find out at our July 25th Downtown Alliance meeting as our speaker is David F. Hoel, PhD, Executive Director of Lee County Mosquito Control. David attended Texas A&M University, graduating in 1986 with a B.S. in entomology and later with an M.S. in 1993 with a specialization in mosquito biology. I am not sure if you are aware, but you do pay a tax for mosquito control. Our sponsor for the meeting, is Survey Café.

Stay cool!

Trish Leonard, IOM
President
Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance (BSDA)

Visit our website: <https://bonitadowntownalliance.com/>
Follow us on Facebook @bonitaspringsdowntownalliance.

July's meeting at Shangri-La Springs inside the Harvest and Wisdom Dining Room



July's Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 25th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Location: Shangri-La Springs, 27750 Old 41 Rd

Business Agenda:

**5:30 pm- Social Hour
& Cash Bar**

Secretary's report

Introductions of guests

**Speaker - David F. Hoel, PhD. Lee
County Mosquito Control**

RSVP HERE

Events Happening Downtown

Meet your July Speaker



David F. Hoel, PhD, Lee County Mosquito Control

Dr. David Hoel was born and raised in Columbia, S.C., attended high school in Oklahoma and served 3 years in the Army as an ammunition specialist. Afterwards, David attended Texas A&M University, graduating in 1986 with a B.S. in entomology and later with an M.S. in 1993 with a specialization in mosquito biology. In 1994 he received a commission as a Medical Service Corps Officer in the U.S. Navy, serving as a Medical Entomologist

from 1994 to 2017. He deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and served for 2 years as an entomology researcher and department head of the Vector Biology Research Program at the U.S. Naval Medical Research Center #3 in Cairo, Egypt. He completed a PhD at the University of Florida in 2005 studying the bionomics of *Aedes albopictus* while on active duty. Other Naval assignments included assistant professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Navy researcher and liaison officer with the CDC (Atlanta) and also in the same capacity with the USDA's Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology in Gainesville, FL. While working with the CDC, David served as the county entomologist for the President's Malaria Initiative in Uganda, Nigeria and Liberia. Immediately after retiring from the Navy, David accepted an Assistant Director position at the Lee County Mosquito Control District. Upon the Director's retirement in December 2018, David interviewed for and was hired, serving as the 4th Director of LCMCD since its inception in 1958. David's research interests include the bionomics of mosquitoes, mosquito trap modification and development with light and attractants for increased efficacy, insecticide resistance in mosquitoes, and mosquito control technology

[Learn More About Lee County Mosquito Control Here](#)

BDSA Member Spotlight



The Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs (Arts Bonita) is committed to enriching the lives of the community by providing opportunities for artistic expression, education, and appreciation. Arts Bonita has two campus locations—each dedicated to the visual or performing arts.

The Visual Arts Center, 26100 Old 41 Road, is comprised of multiple fine art galleries and fully equipped art studios, a gift store, and beautiful sculpture gardens.

A variety of classes are offered at this center, including painting, drawing, pottery, and sculpture.

The Performing Arts Center, 10150 Bonita Beach Road, is home to the 400-seat Hinman Auditorium and the 200-seat Moe Auditorium & Film Center. At this diverse center, patrons can enjoy an ongoing array of live music, theatre, comedy, film, lectures, and youth & adult classes in art, music, theatre, and dance.

[\(239\) 495- 8989](tel:2394958989)

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

10150 BONITA BEACH RD

Bonita Springs, FL

VISUAL ARTS CENTER

26100 OLD 41 RD

Bonita Springs, FL

[Click to view Website](#)

Thank you to our Evening Sponsor:



We are in need of Evening Sponsors for Future Meetings

**Sponsoring the evening is \$250
For more information Call Trish
(239) 398-9999**

Riverside Park (2007)



Riverside Park (2020)



We have watched wonderful businesses enter our growing Downtown Bonita Springs the past few years. Thank you for helping us grow Downtown Bonita!

City of Bonita Springs Contacts:

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Councilwoman Jamie Bogacz **jamiebdistrict1@gmail.com** (District 4)

Councilman Nigel Fullick **nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org**; (District 5)

Councilman: Fred Forbes fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org (District 6)

City Manager: Arleen Hunter arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org

Click Here to explore Downtown Bonita Springs 15 years ago!

TLC Marketing and Creative Services is proud to produce the BSDA monthly Newsletter.

If you would like to have a professionally designed newsletter or email campaign, contact Chastity Culver, B.A. at TLC Marketing and Creative Services at chastity@trishleonard.com or call (239) 405-8115. [Click here to view the website.](#)

NOT A BSDA MEMBER? - CLICK BELOW

Application

"Advocating a prosperous
downtown for the Bonita Springs
Historic Old 41 District"

Collaboration | Communication | Education | Advocacy | Awareness

Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance
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