



Downtown Talk

Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance Newsletter

From the Desk of...

Hello August!

I hope you are still enjoying your summer. Please drive carefully as children are returning to school starting August 10th. Watch for bikers, walkers, and school buses.

We are featuring the City of Bonita Springs as our August member of the month. The City Council and the city staff have been working tirelessly this past year and even during Hurricane Ian to provide a safe and growing city. It's not easy to assist over 60,000 residents, newcomers, and many visitors during the season.



As we continue to grow, our city leaders work hard to make the best decisions for the betterment of our community. It's okay to agree to disagree respectfully. Remember, it's still budget time, so I would encourage every citizen to attend council meetings and/or watch the meetings live stream, or on TV channel 98.

We are still working on making our downtown pedestrian friendly and will soon have new signage along Old 41 after the budget passes.

Speaking of the city staff, our August 22nd speaker is John Dulmer, Director of Community Development. (Permits and more.) John is very knowledgeable about what permits are needed to have a safe business or residence. If you have questions, I encourage you to attend this meeting. Thank you to long-time resident Kathy McGrath for sponsoring this month's evening and Shangri La Springs for hosting us.

At the July meeting, Zach Smith, owner of Ceremony Brewing, addressed the members about hosting trick or treaters at their

businesses along Old 41 on Tuesday, October 31st. Several members raised their hands that they were interested in participating. Please get in touch with Zach for more information.

zach@ceremonybrewing.com

Also, the city is hosting a special Halloween Stroll at Riverside Park on Saturday, October 21st—from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. If you want to host a table at the park and pass out candy, please contact the City of Bonita Springs at 239.949.6262.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, August 22nd. Until then, be safe!

Trish Leonard, IOM
President
Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance

*Honorary Mayor of Survey

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

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



August's Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 22nd

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 - John Dulmer,
Director of the City of Bonita
Springs Community
Development**

RSVP HERE



At the last BSDA meeting, Zach Smith, owner of **Ceremony Brewing**, offered to pull together Trick or Treat on Old 41. Several downtown members said they would participate; if interested, please email **zach@ceremonybrewing.com** as soon as possible.

Back to School! August 10th



**School's Starting Soon!
Don't Forget to
Watch for School Buses &
Children Crossing**

Meet your August Speaker



John Dulmer, Director of the City of Bonita Springs Community Development

John Dulmer is the Community Development Director for the City of Bonita Springs. He has lived on the west coast of Florida since 1974, growing up in Venice, Florida. He received his BS degree in Political Science from the University of Alabama and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Memphis. John has been practicing in the field of planning for over 20 years and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. John is a graduate of the 2011 Leadership Bonita Springs class.

During his career, he has worked both in the private and public sector preparing various land use policies and entitlement applications. John was involved in the adoption of the first comprehensive plan for Bonita Springs in 2002 and began employment Community Development in June 2008.

[Learn More About City of Bonita Springs Here](#)

Upcoming Speakers

September- Noelle Branning,
Lee County Tax Collector



BDSA Member Spotlight

The City of Bonita Springs

It's hard to comprehend that, a little more than three generations ago, the



roots of this thriving community were a scattering of homesteaders' shacks by a creek in the backwaters of nowhere – in a place called Survey.

In 1999, residents voted to incorporate Bonita Springs for the second time.

Bonita Springs is an attractive, affluent area with beautiful beaches, fine restaurants, excellent recreational

facilities, and an up-and-coming downtown.

Bonita Springs, with over 60,000 residents, six districts, and lots of upcoming projects, this once-upon-a-time sleepy town is finally awakened and is bustling with new projects.

Bonita Springs has long been inhabited. Archaeological discoveries place people here about 8,000 years ago, and mound building was well underway by 4,000 years ago. When Ponce de Leon sailed along our beaches and first contacted the Calusa Indians in 1513, this area was home to thousands. Native American village remains, and mounds attest to their centuries of prosperity. However, within a couple of centuries, the once mighty Calusa Chiefdom was decimated by European diseases and slave trading.

In the 1870s, Army Corps of Engineers' surveyors mapped remote Southwest Florida and pitched camp along the upper Imperial River. After the crew left, the area and community became known and recorded on maps as a "Survey". The river became known as "Surveyor's Creek".

Over the years, Survey developed from a scattering of homesteaders into a village. In 1901, a Post Office was opened, and in 1910 the two-story Eagle Hotel was in business, catering to visitors attracted to the unspoiled area's bounty of hunting and fishing.

Later, developers decided that the name "Survey" lacked sales appeal, so the town was renamed "Bonita Springs"; Indian Spring Branch became "Oak Creek"; and Surveyor's Creek was renamed "Imperial River."

In the early 1920s, Barron Collier, wanting to expand his empire, extended his Fort Myers-Southern Railroad south to include Bonita Springs. This, along with the completion of the new Tamiami Trail in 1928, brought another land boom to the area. During this period, Bonita Springs was briefly incorporated as a city.

Later, roadside attractions enticed visitors to stop in Bonita Springs. The first major tourist attraction to open was the Everglades Reptile Gardens in 1936. This roadside tourist attraction, featuring local and exotic animals, helped put Bonita Springs “on the map”. The Everglades Wonder Gardens is one of the few remaining historic resources of this type in Florida. Also, on December 27, 1957, the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track was opened in the city..

City Hall- [\(239\) 949-6262](tel:(239)949-6262)
9101 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

[Click to view Website](#)

Thank you to our Evening Sponsor:

Kathy McGrath

**If you are interested in sponsoring a future meeting,
Sponsoring the evening is \$250
For more information Call Trish
(239) 398-9999**

City Hall (2007)



City Hall (2022)



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:

CITYMEETINGS@cityofbonitasprings.org- For City Agenda Items Only

Mayor Rick Steinmeyer **Rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org**

Councilwoman Jamie Bogacz jamiebdistrict1@gmail.com (District 1)

Councilman Jesse Purdon **jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org** (District 2)

Councilwoman Laura Carr **laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org** (District 3)

Councilman Chris Corrie **chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org** (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**

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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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239.398.9999

Visit our website

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