

# March BSDA Newsletter 2025



BONITA SPRINGS DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE  
NEWSLETTER

## DOWNTOWN TALK

### From the President...

March 2025

From the desk of the President:

Well, February always goes by quickly, but this year it seemed like I blinked and it was gone. I'm hearing that February was a much better month than this past January with its suboptimal weather. That's a good thing because we need to rake in the money while we can. Hopefully, it'll stay cold up North and keep our snowbird benefactors here a little longer.



We had another great turnout for our monthly meeting with everyone coming to hear the latest from Barron Collier about their upcoming Downtown project. We heard that we should see work starting on the seawall first and then groundwork starting in about six months. They also said they have had a lot of unsolicited interest in the commercial portion of the project which is a very good sign that people want to open their businesses in our downtown.

It's the height of season with many events going on. This weekend we have the final art show of the season at Riverside Park, the Bonita Boat Show at the Poker room, and while the event is out of town, Bonita's very own Randy Alander of Dolly's restaurant will be defending his first place

trophy at the final Swamp Buggy race on Sunday. Also wanted to give a shout-out to Ceremony Brewing for the successful chili cook off where they raised big money for BERT.

Don't forget about this year's Bonita Springs Short Film Festival, they are still looking for entries. This year's theme is: The Magic of Bonita Springs.

Submitting films shot in and around our businesses is a great way to showcase what the downtown has to offer. There are always some amazing films. Click the link for guidelines or call Antonio for technical guidance.

The deadline is March 29

<https://bonitaspringsfilmfestival.org/guidelines/>

For technical support and any additional information call Antonio at 239-404-3377

The Historical Society will be having its Popup Biergarten again on March 13th-15th in Riverside Park.

Our speaker this month will be former Bonita Springs Mayor Ben Nelson who will be giving us a little history of the decades-long attempts to revive the Old 41 corridor.

I would like to thank our sponsor this month, Survey Cafe, we appreciate you guys. We appreciate the Shangri La for always hosting our group as well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask that if any of you would like to sponsor an upcoming meeting please reach out to me and I'd be happy to get you set up. Sponsors help defray the food costs for the meetings and get a chance to talk about their business at the meeting and get showcased in the newsletter.

**Visit our website:** <https://bonitadowntownalliance.com/>

**Follow us on Facebook @bonitaspringsdowntownalliance**

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**Tuesday, March 25th is the BSDA Meeting,**

# Shangri-La Springs at 5:30 p.m.



## BSDA is Excited to Announce Our March Speaker! **Ben Nelson, Former Mayor**

**Ben Nelson is a 3rd generation native Floridian, has been a Bonita Springs resident since 1960 and has owned and operated Nelson Marine Construction for 44 years. Ben has served on the Board of Directors of the Bonita Springs Utilities, is one of the City of Bonita Spring's original Councilmembers having served as Councilman for District Six for eight years and Mayor for eight years.**

**Ben has also served on the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Horizon Council Executive Committee, the Bonita Springs Economic Development Council, and is currently the Chairman of the CREW Land & Water Trust**

**He has been married to his wife Lori for 25 years. Ben has 3 adult children, (Nick and Neil age 45 and daughter Megan, age 40) and six grandchildren.**

**Ben was honored to be named Bonita Springs Citizen of the Year in 2008, finalist for the Uncommon Friends Business Ethics Award in 2010, finalist for the News-Press Person of the Year in 2012, named one of "SW Florida's Elite Power Eight" by Gulf Shore Business in 2014 and in 2016 was named (along with his fellow Council Members) "Public Official of the Year" by the News Press.**

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# Please RSVP for BSDA Meeting's!

Contact: [lee@shangrilasprings.com](mailto:lee@shangrilasprings.com)

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## A Big Thanks to March's Meeting Sponsor !



Survey Cafe adapted it's name from the historic name of Bonita Springs. It was so named because a group of surveyor's made camp here in the 1870s . 7 year's ago Paul the son , Sophie the mother and Philippe the father fell in love with with that atmosphere and unique location . At the time Paul was working in London . After 10 years of training and perfecting in the best restaurants in Paris and London , Paul was ready to start his own .His experience in several 2 Michelin star restaurants , gave him a solid back ground .As far as Sophie , her working experience is eclectic ,from teaching to managing to cooking to remodeling she had gained a very solid experience , enough to launch a new adventure .For the last 7 years , we have put our heart and knowledge to make of Survey Cafe what it is today .A charming cafe , specialized in French deliciousness , sweet or savory we bring our expertise to bring you the best experience .

[Visit Their Website](#)

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**Get Up and Get Active !  
Downtown Bonita Springs Has  
Something for Everyone**



PARADISE COAST PARENT PRESENTS

# POP UP MARKET

**MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> | 12PM - 5PM**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
FOOD TRUCKS • FULL BAR  
POP-UP MARKET • GIVEAWAYS  
KID & DOG FRIENDLY

27333 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL 34135  
[www.EatDrinkParadise.com](http://www.EatDrinkParadise.com)



Visit Their Website And Explore more!

**Sunshine ACE Hardware**  
**EGG fest 2025**  
Food, Fun & Live Music!

**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 22ND, 2025**

Big Green Egg

11 AM - 3 PM  
Riverside Park | Bonita Springs  
Register at: [SunshineAceEGGfest.com](http://SunshineAceEGGfest.com)

**Benefiting:**

**Sponsored By:**

Join the EGGfest, Hosted by Sunshine Ace Hardware!  
On March 22nd at 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Get Your Tickets Here!

**March**  
Live Music Lineup

7 DAYS A WEEK!

FEB 26	Bryce Ivie 7-10pm	MAR 15	The Lineup Band 1-4pm
FEB 27	Thomas Scott 7-10pm	MAR 15	Sudamerica Latin Groove 7-10pm
FEB 28	West Wave 7-10pm	MAR 16	Iskander & Roots Almighty 5-8pm REGGAE NIGHT
MAR 1	Delta Crossing 1-4pm	MAR 17	Gator Nate 4-7pm
MAR 1	Bryce Allyn Band 7-10pm	MAR 18	Eric Whitener 4-7pm
MAR 2	Heavy Hitters Duo 1-4pm	MAR 19	Light the Wire 7-10pm
MAR 2	B-Town Boys 7-10pm REGGAE NIGHT	MAR 20	Caleb Neff & Sheena Brook 7-10pm
MAR 3	Eric Whitener 7-10pm	MAR 21	The Freecoasters 7-10pm
MAR 4	Devon Meyers 7-10pm	MAR 22	Hirie / Sprout / Matt & Zack 7pm
MAR 5	Soul System Revival 7-10pm	MAR 23	The Lineup Duo 1-4pm
MAR 6	Brian Blount 7-10pm	MAR 23	Joey Calderaio 7-10pm REGGAE NIGHT
MAR 7	The Charlie Pace Band 7-10pm	MAR 24	Aydin Holt 7-10pm
MAR 8	The Pafina Turners 1-4pm	MAR 25	Joe Yeoman Trio 7-10pm
MAR 8	John Salloway & The Regulars 7-10pm	MAR 26	Tommy Wotruba 7-10pm
MAR 9	Claire Liparulo 1-4pm	MAR 27	The Dead Ataris 7-10pm
MAR 9	Nostaljah 7-10pm REGGAE NIGHT	MAR 28	Soapy Tuna 7-10pm
MAR 10	Matt Walden 7-10pm	MAR 29	The Lineup Duo 1-4pm
MAR 11	Andy Mo 7-10pm	MAR 29	Sun State Blues 7-10pm
MAR 12	Penny Lane 7-10pm	MAR 30	Phenomenal Animal 1-4pm
MAR 13	Zack Couron 7-10pm	MAR 30	Ichroniq 7-10pm REGGAE NIGHT
MAR 14	Back Country Boys 7-10pm	MAR 31	Maffy Jollie 7-10pm

BONITA SPRINGS  
**SUGARSHACK**  
Downtown

Bring your friends, bring your appetite, and bring your love for live music - we'll handle the rest.

Ticketed Venue Night

Visit SugarShack Here

Enjoy These Pictures of Our



BSDA Members at Last Month's Meeting!





# Celebrating National Women's Month

In honor of National Women's Month, we're hosting *Women, Wills, and Wine*. A NO COST presentation to inspire women to take charge of their decisions and build confidence.

Friday  
March 7th | 4 - 5:30 P.M.

Waterford Executive Centre,  
27911 Crown Lake Boulevard,  
Suite 201 | Bonita Springs

**Lyons & Lyons**  
Attorneys at Law

## Women, Wills, & Wine

A will ensures your property is distributed according to your wishes, not Florida's intestacy laws. Learn what YOU need to know about protecting your assets. Don't let the State of Florida Probate steal your dreams and wishes!

- Gift Bag for Attendees
- Wine & Cheese
- Networking

Limited Seating!

RSVP: [Lstevens@lyons-law.com](mailto:Lstevens@lyons-law.com)

Call: 239.948.1823

[Lyons-law.com](http://Lyons-law.com)



Abby Lyons,  
Associate Attorney.

Visit our Website For More Information!

## MEMBERSHIP!

**RENEWING MEMBERS: Watch for your 2025 invoice coming soon!**

BSDA is a community-driven organization that brings together businesses, non-profits, and local residents dedicated to the growth, promotion, and preservation of Old Downtown Bonita Springs, maintaining its unique old Florida charm.

Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance Inc. is organized exclusively as a business league. We are a Florida nonprofit corporation and IRS 501(c)6 organization with Federal tax FEIN ID #81-1385933.

The annual Membership period is from September 30th - October 1st



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

**If you would like to have a professionally designed newsletter or e-mail campaign, contact TLC Marketing & Creative Services (239) 405-8115.**

**[Click here to view the website.](#)**



**Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance**  
**PO Box 367553**  
**Bonita Springs, FL 33936**

Mike Gibson, BSDA President  
BSDAPrez@gmail.com

**NOT A BSDA MEMBER? - CLICK BELOW**

**Visit our Website**

**Join Today!!**

CONNECT WITH US



TLC Marketing and Creative Services | 9148 Bonita Beach Road, Ste 201 | Bonita Springs, FL 34135 US

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