# June 24th BSDA Meeting Updates



### President's Message – June 2025

Summer is officially here, and while some areas may just now be feeling the heat, downtown Bonita Springs has a unique opportunity to shine.

Our secret? The many restaurants, attractions, events, and more that have come together to make our charming town even brighter. It's generating foot traffic and excitement, and now is the perfect time for all of us to continue that momentum. Let's



continue to unite to attract and engage our visitors and turn this summer into a vibrant summer season.

We have everything it takes to become the more dynamic, hip, and inviting version of other downtown communities. With passionate entrepreneurs like Moran Kennedy expanding their culinary footprint and Brendon and Caitlin Schewe continuing to raise the bar with their new restaurant, Canary Club, the foundation for success is already in place. And we can't forget local favorites like The Rooftop at Riverside, Survey Café, Chartreuse, Ceremony Brewing, For Heaven Shakes Ice Cream, and **many others that make Bonita Springs special.** 

As Deputy Mayor Jesse Purdon proudly says, "Bonita Springs is the Greatest City in America." With more affluent residents within a five-mile radius than even Naples' Fifth Avenue, we are perfectly positioned to become Southwest Florida's next big hotspot. As Mark Twain famously said, "The secret to success is to find out where people are going and get there first." We're well on our way. We're excited for what's next!

At our May meeting, Nicole Perino, Director of Parks and Recreation, shared an exciting update on the renovation of Riverside Park. The improvements, which will span this summer and next, will keep the park open for key events like the 4th of July. Upgrades include ADA compliance and artificial turf to ensure long-term durability. Nicole also outlined plans for enhancements to the Little League fields and the addition of new youth soccer fields and restrooms. She expanded parking near the dog park—improvements that the community eagerly anticipated. Thank you to Wintrust Bank for sponsoring the meeting.

Don't forget to get your red, white, and blue ready for our 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, starting at 9 a.m. It's always a fun, splash-filled celebration. (*Just a reminder, no candy can be thrown from floats for safety reasons.*) That same evening, join us at Riverside Park for a dazzling fireworks display at dusk. It's sure to be a memorable holiday!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our June 24th BSDA meeting, which will feature the new Executive Director of the YMCA, Chris Sapp. Thank you, John Jenkins, for sponsoring the evening.

See everyone then!

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

Tuesday, June 24th is This Month's BSDA Meeting Shangri-La Springs at 5:30 p.m.



Don't miss this month speaker: YMCA Vice President of Operations, Chris Sapp

Chris grew up in Virginia where he attended Virginia Commonwealth University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Exercise Science. He has been working with YMCA for 18 years and brings experience from previous roles at Summerville Family YMCA, YMCA of South Palm Beach County, Central Florida YMCA and The Wellbridge Company. He has a robust skill set that includes program development, program management, sales, fundraising, volunteer management and more.

Visit Their Website Here

### Please RSVP for BSDA Meeting's!

Contact: lee@shangrilasprings.com

Thank You John Jenkins for Sponsoring This Months Meeting!



John Jenkins has over 40 years of experience practicing in the areas of administrative and business law, with a concentration in public utilities, particularly water and wastewater. John's firm was located in Tallahassee but served clients statewide. He first became involved in Lee County in the mid-1980's while assisting the Bonita Bay development establish a wastewater utility to serve this landmark project. Soon after, he began a years long association with the then Bonita Springs Water Company, assisting them with tax exempt financing through the Lee County IDA, rate setting, capital expansion, nonprofit tax and regulatory issues. John worked with the private North Ft. Myers Utilities on wastewater issues, the developer of Lehigh Acres on utility refinancing issues, with Barron Collier Companies and Kitson & Partners in creating the utilities serving Ave Maria and Babcock Ranch respectively, and represented the City of Marco Island in its acquisition of the water and wastewater facilities serving the Island, to name a few. From 2015-2024, John served as Executive Director of Bonita Springs Utilities, Inc., helping guide the Coop through two hurricanes and a pandemic. He has since returned to private practice and continues representing clients on utility, regulatory and general business matters.

Come explore downtown and experience all the events and life we have to offer!

LET'S CELEBRATE
OUR FREEDOM

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This June, eBella Magazine is celebrating the men who inspire us, lead us and make our community better everyday.



Do you know a man who's achieved something great or has made a lasting impact?

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THURSDAY, JUNE 12 11 AM TO 2 PM

WINTRUST BANKING CENTER 26851 S. Tamiami Trail | Bonita Springs

On Thursday, June 12, lunch is on us! Swing by the bank between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a special treat from Frosty Bear! Enjoy your choice of a snow cone, ice cream, or hot dog. Available to the first 75 guests, one food item per person. First come, first served.

No purchase necessary.

### WINTRUST BANKING CENTER

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Wintrust Banking Center is a branch of Lake Forest Bank & Trust Company, N.A.



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#### **MEMBERSHIP!**

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 JOIN OR RENEW AT: <a href="https://bonitadowntownalliance.com/membership/">https://bonitadowntownalliance.com/membership/</a>



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.



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Mike Gibson, BSDA President BSDAPrez@gmail.com

**Visit our Website** 

### NOT A BSDA MEMBER? - CLICK BELOW

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