

MAY



BONITA SPRINGS DOWNTOWN
ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

DOWNTOWN TALK

President's Message:

May 2026

Our downtown is constantly improving! The Riverside Park renovation project is in full swing along with the Banyan tree lot improvements. We have a temporary detour while they improve the connection between the two, but it'll be over soon. The Imperial 41 project is moving right along with concrete already being poured on the North side of the river.



The shell for the first half of project telephone next to Downtown Coffee and Wine is nearly complete with the second restaurant building's walls going up now. And at the roundabout groundwork has started for another restaurant and music venue on the lot across from For Heavens Shakes.

On the Southern end of downtown, Wichcraft sandwich shop is about to open between Waffle Monkey and The Bohemian in the same plaza that Craft Spirit Social opened at the beginning of the year. On the opposite side of the street from Rooftop at Riverside and Chartreuse we will soon be welcoming Hide-A-Wai, a mojito bar. In the next couple of seasons there will definitely be more to love in our downtown that will keep people coming back to all of us.

A big thanks to Nancy MacPhee of the Lee County VCB for her presentation to our Alliance membership meeting in April and to TLC Marketing & Creative Services for its sponsorship of the meeting. Nancy shared some impressive tourism stats and ways they can help promote our area businesses. Visit leevcb.com for more info and resources.

This month we will welcome Tyler Bess of the Bonita Springs Firefighter Union 3444 and head of the Independence Day Parade. Bess let us know how we can participate in the annual tradition. There are always large crowds and it's a great way to promote your business while showing your love of our community. Thank you to Survey Cafe for being our May sponsor. If anyone would like to sponsor an upcoming meeting, please contact me. Our members and sponsors keep this organization going and we appreciate you all.

On **May 25th** the City will host our annual Memorial Day service at 9 a.m. on the Liles Hotel lawn with guest speaker Raymond Sandelli, retired Lieutenant of the U.S. Navy and former Blue Angels aviator.

This month's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26th!

Hope to see you all there!

Mike

Tuesday, May 26th
Is the next BSDA Meeting at
Shangri-La Springs at 5:30 p.m.

Speaker: Tyler Bess

Sponsor: Survey Café

Interested in sponsoring a meeting? Email Mike Gibson at bsdaprez@gmail.com.

Please RSVP for the BSDA Meeting to:
lee@shangrilasprings.com

May's Speaker: Tyler Bess

Firefighter/EMT & Independence Day Parade Manager



Tyler Bess is a fire service professional with over eight years of experience serving Southwest Florida communities. He has spent the last 3 years of his career serving the citizens of Bonita Springs, where he and his wife have both had the luxury of calling home for over 30 years.

In addition to his fire service career, Tyler brings a background in management and customer service, providing a well-rounded perspective on leadership, communication, and community engagement. He is currently serving as the Manager of the Bonita Springs 4th of July Parade, helping coordinate one of the city's largest civic events.

May's Sponsor: Survey Café



In the heart of historic Downtown Bonita Springs lies a place where time slows down — a quaint cottage-turned-café nestles beneath

ancient live oaks and draped in Spanish moss. Survey Cafe captures the charm of Old Florida, offering a peaceful, outdoor escape surrounded by palms and soaked in southern sunshine.

Our name pays tribute to Bonita Springs' original identity. In the 1870s, a team of surveyors camped right here, giving rise to the area's first name: Survey.

Decades later, this quiet corner captured the hearts of a family. Sophie, Philippe, and their son Paul discovered this little haven and knew it was something special. At the time, Paul was working in London, refining his skills in some of the world's most acclaimed restaurants — including several with two Michelin stars. After ten years of culinary training across Paris and London, he was ready to create something of his own.

Sophie brought her own rich blend of experience — from teaching and management to cooking and renovation — and, alongside Philippe, helped bring their new vision of the cafe to life.

Thank You to Everyone Who Participated in Our April Meeting!





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Friends of



Bonita Estero Rail Trail

To donate to the BERT Campaign, visit Vote4BERT2026.com.

**Click Here To Learn More About
Midterm Elections in August!**

Election Information Lee County

239-LEE-VOTE (239-533-8683) Great resource for all things voting!

<http://www.lee.vote>

Register to Vote

<https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>

Everyone wishing to vote by mail MUST request a mail-in ballot, even if you've voted by mail in past elections.

Go to the link below, or call 239-LEE-VOTE (239-533-8683)

Bonita Springs Branch Office

at Bonita Commons
25987 S Tamiami Trail, #105
Bonita Springs, 34134

<https://www.lee.vote/277/Request-a-Vote-by-Mail-Ballot>

If you were recently issued an updated Florida Driver's License or ID. Card, you will need to update that number **FIRST** before making a web request. You can make that update at [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://www.lee.vote/277/Request-a-Vote-by-Mail-Ballot) or call 239-533-8683.

Key Dates:

- Voter Registration Deadline: July 20, 2026
- Deadline to request Vote by Mail: August 6, 2026
- Early Voting Begins: August 8, 2026
- Safe date for mailing ballot: August 11, 2026
- Election Day: August 18, 2026

**Discover All That Downtown Has
to Offer This Month**
(Click the Flyer for More Info)

Be Mom's FAVORITE

MAY 10TH

We Deliver!

- ♥ Fresh Flowers
- ♥ Blooming Plants
- ♥ Chocolates
- ♥ Ice Cream
- ♥ Jewelry
- ♥ Unique Boutique Gifts



Heaven Scent
FLOWERS *and* BOUTIQUE

Over 40 Years of Making Life Bloom.

239-992-LOVE (5683)

27515 Old 41 Rd. Bonita Springs, Fl. 34135

ONLY THE BEST

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY
SATURDAY, MAY 2ND | STARTING AT 2:30PM

OVER \$500 IN CASH & PRIZES
ENTER TO WIN! REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 4PM.
21+ UP WATCH PARTY UPSTAIRS.

SPECIAL DERBY COCKTAIL MENU
\$10 & \$12 ADULT BEVERAGES.

DRESS TO IMPRESS WIN \$20 GIFT CARD
FIRST 10 LADIES IN A HAT OR DERBY GEAR GET A \$20 GIFT CARD.

FREE ROSES FOR LADIES
AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

27333 OLD 41 RD, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

Memorial Day Service

Monday May 25th, 2026
at 9:00 am

Downtown Bonita Springs
Liles Hotel Lawn
27300 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Guest Speaker:
Raymond Sandelli
Lieutenant U.S. Navy (ret)

- Former Naval Aviator
 - Sixth Fleet operation during 1973 Middle East war and 1974 Cypress conflict
 - 1700 hrs flight time & 295 carrier landings
- Blue Angels Demonstration Squadron 1977-1978
 - A4 Skyhawk
- Lee County Commissioner
 - 2019-2024

For questions, please call 239-949-6262

BEST DERBY HAT CONTEST
SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

OVER \$500 IN PRIZES!
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 4PM

1ST	\$50 CASH PRIZE MINT JULEP GLASS SET ROSE COLLECTOR'S PIN ADJUSTABLE HAT	
2ND	MINT JULEP & LILY GLASS ROSE COLLECTOR'S PIN ADJUSTABLE HAT	
3RD	ROSE COLLECTOR'S PIN ADJUSTABLE HAT	

*First 10 ladies in a hat or derby gear (fascinators) get a \$20 gift certificate

27333 OLD 41 RD, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135 | EATDRINKPARADISE.COM

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Bonita Springs Downtown Events

- Memorial Day Service, May 25th
- 4th of July Parade
- Riverfest- Saturday, August 1st
- Art-Music Walk, Thursday, October 15th
- Halloween on Old 41 Saturday, October 31st

Do You Have an Upcoming Event?

We invite BSDA members to send us an email with the event details and/or a graphic **by the 15th of each month** to be featured in the **following month's email**. If you need design help TLC would be happy to assist for a small fee.

The deadline to submit events and graphics for the second May newsletter is Friday, May 15th.

Please email emma@trishleonard.com with your event information or any questions you may have regarding the newsletter.

Membership:

BSDA is a community-driven organization that brings together businesses, nonprofits, 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: <https://bonitadowntownalliance.com/membership/>



**Help Our BSDA Community Grow by
[Liking and Following Our Facebook Page](#)**



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

[Visit our Website](#)

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

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