

# MAY



BONITA SPRINGS DOWNTOWN  
ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

## DOWNTOWN TALK

### President's Message:

#### *May 2026 Reminder*

We are close to the unofficial start of Summer, but it feels like it's already here with the heat and the afternoon thunderstorms! I'm hearing from nearly everyone that things have definitely slowed down and I'm definitely seeing it too. So, remember to run things as efficiently as possible during the off season.



I'd like to congratulate Caitlin and Brandon on their latest downtown business "Wichcraft" sandwich shop that opened this past week.

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 their sponsorship of the meeting. Nancy shared some impressive tourism stats and ways the VCB can help promote our area businesses. Visit [leevcb.com](http://leevcb.com) for more info and resources.

This month we will welcome **Tyler Bess of the Bonita Fire Department** and head of the Fourth of July parade at our meeting to 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.

Don't forget to join us on **May 25th** when the City will host our annual **Memorial Day service at 9am on the Liles Hotel lawn** with guest speaker Raymond Sandelli Lieutenant U.S. Navy (ret) and former Blue Angels aviator.

Enjoy the three day weekend and take a moment on Monday to remember and honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

Our monthly meeting is on **Tuesday, May 26th at 5:30 p.m.**

I 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](mailto:bsdaprez@gmail.com).

**Please RSVP for the BSDA Meeting to:**  
[lee@shangrilasprings.com](mailto: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.





Friends of [friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com](mailto:friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com)



Bonita Estero Rail Trail

## Trails That Tie Us Together

### **DOWNTOWN** SUPPORTS

-  Stronger Local Businesses
-  Better Future for Bonita
-  Connected Downtown
-  Safer Streets



To donate to the BERT Campaign, visit  
<https://bonitaesterorailtrail.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

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## The City of Bonita Springs Is Looking for Sponsors!

### Bronze Sponsorship \$500

The promotions and advertisements begin with our Bronze Sponsorship. Your business will benefit from the following promotions:

- Deadline to apply: 3 months before event date
- Inclusion in a press release
- Inclusion in one social media ad
- Your Logo on the event T-shirt (T-shirts must be offered at the event and you must meet the deadline)
- 1 - 10' x 10' booth space

### Booth Sponsorship \$250

As the name implies, the booth sponsorship offers your business the opportunity to set up a 10' x 10' booth space to showcase your company. No additional benefits are included in this sponsorship level.

### City Outreach



The City of Bonita Springs has a combined Social Media outreach of over 25,000 followers and growing! Additionally, over 30,000 residents are subscribed to the city's e-blast notifications.

## Contact Us

Lora Taylor  
Communications Director  
e: [lora.taylor@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:lora.taylor@cityofbonitasprings.org)  
o: (239) 949-6262

Karessa Minoli  
Community Relations Specialist  
e: [karessa.minoli@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:karessa.minoli@cityofbonitasprings.org)  
o: (239) 949-6262

Logan DeShong  
Communications Strategist  
e: [logan.deshong@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:logan.deshong@cityofbonitasprings.org)  
o: (239) 949-6262



9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs FL 34135  
phone | (239) 949-6262



## 2025-2026 Event Season Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship Opportunities  
Brochure

For more information, or to become a sponsor contact Lora Taylor at [Lora.taylor@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:Lora.taylor@cityofbonitasprings.org) or call 239-949-6262

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

# *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

The logo for Elevate SWFL, featuring the word "Elevate" in a cursive font and "SWFL" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it, all enclosed in a circular emblem.

# JOIN OUR LEAGUES

**FUN GAMES. NEW PEOPLE. GOOD FOOD.**

**VOLLEYBALL**

STARTING JUNE 15TH

**SOCCER**

STARTING JULY 6TH

**BASKETBALL**

STARTING JUNE 15TH

**BONITA SPRINGS, FL**

**AT SPORTS CHALLENGE AMERICA**



ELEVATE\_SWFL

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS & JOIN NOW!**

**ELEVATEOURCOMMUNITIES.COM**



**BUILT BY LOCALS. FOR LOCALS. WITH LOCALS**

A graphic for the 4th of July 250th Celebration. On the left is a stylized American flag with the Statue of Liberty's head and crown. To the right, the text '4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, a dark blue banner contains the text '250<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION' in white. To the right of the main text is the City of Bonita Springs logo, which includes a palm tree and the text 'City of Bonita Springs Florida Small Town Charm. Big Bright Future.' Below the banner is a red box containing white text about the celebration and event details.

**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**

**250<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES, THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS IS INVITING ALL BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS IN BONITA SPRINGS TO DECORATE IN PATRIOTIC COLORS AND DÉCOR, HELPING CREATE A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

THE CITY WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY STAR SPANGLED BONITA EVENT ON JULY 4TH BEGINNING AT 6 P.M. THE EVENING WILL FEATURE AN OUTDOOR CONCERT BY THE BEN ALLEN BAND, FOLLOWED BY A SPECTACULAR FINALE WITH A SYNCHRONIZED DRONE, LASER LIGHT, AND FIREWORKS SHOW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.CITYOFBONITASPRINGS.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFBONITASPRINGS.ORG) OR CALL 239-949-6262.

## Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Downtown Events

- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**
- **Riverfest- Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Art-Music Walk, Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **Halloween on Old 41 Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

## 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 June newsletter has passed.**

Please email [emma@trishleonard.com](mailto: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 email 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**

[Join Today!!](#)

**CONNECT WITH US**



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