

JUNE



BONITA SPRINGS DOWNTOWN
ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

DOWNTOWN TALK

President's Message:

June 2026

The FIFA World Cup tournament is underway and USA won their first match. We have 3 more matches taking place in Miami, on July 3rd, 11th and 18th. With the Final game taking place in New Jersey.

We are also running out of time to order your decorations for this year's Independence Day celebration; it would be nice to see everyone go all out for our country's 250th birthday.

There is still time to get in the July 4th parade. You can sign up at bonitaspringsparade.com

Our Hospitality Committee has gotten the Riverfest event approved by the City and **we are looking for sponsors and as many racers as we can get.** There will be races for canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and the opportunity to build your own vessel. If needed **canoes and kayaks are available if you don't have your own.**



We need as many people as possible to sign up for this fun family event.

Besides watching and joining in on the races there will be fun activities, food, drinks and music. Also, don't forget about the Duck races! Visit riverfestbonita.com for more information and tell all your friends!

Our upcoming meeting is on Tuesday, June 23rd and we will welcome the political action side of BERT as our speaker. We will learn how to best to support them and get the word out ahead of the vote on August 18th. Posters and promotional items will be available at the meeting.

A big thank you to Sugar Shack Downtown for being our sponsor for the month.

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.

Mike

Tuesday, June 23rd
Is the next BSDA Meeting at
Shangri-La Springs at 5:30 p.m.

Speaker: Friends of BERT

Sponsor: Sugar Shack Downtown

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

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

**June's Speaker: Friends of BERT (Bonita
Estero Rail Trail)**



Friends of BERT (Bonita Estero Rail Trail) is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) citizen group dedicated to bringing the BERT and Florida Gulf Coast Trail (FGCT) to Lee County and Collier County communities. Our mission is to generate public support for BERT and all sections of the FGCT trail network. Our advocacy group started in late September of 2022 and currently we have over 4000 members.

The proposed Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) will run from Wiggins Pass Road in Collier County border along the 11.4 mile unused rail corridor through downtown Bonita Springs and Estero ending at Estero Parkway. Once complete, BERT will become part of the Florida Gulf Coast Trail 400+ mile network stretching from Collier County to Tampa. See [Trail Maps](#)

The mission of Friends of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail is to protect and advance the BERT greenway as a conserved natural corridor with a connected multi-use trail that enhances environmental stewardship, safe recreation, and access to Southwest Florida's natural resources. We build community support, secure funding, and partner with public and private leaders to ensure the long-term preservation, safety, and sustainable use of this vital greenway for residents and visitors, and future generations.

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

[Click Here to Learn About BERT](#)

June's Sponsor: Sugarshack Downtown



In 2014, Sugarshack was born as a simple idea: capture real musicians, playing real music, in an environment where they felt comfortable enough to be themselves. No stage lights. No pressure. No filters. Just artists, instruments, and authentic moments. Those backyard sessions became Sugarshack Sessions, a YouTube series that quickly grew into a global community of music lovers drawn to something that felt raw, honest, and human.

Over the years, Sugarshack became more than videos - it became a culture. A place where emerging artists and established musicians alike could tell stories, joke between songs, and connect with people in a way that felt personal. That spirit - unpolished, welcoming, and centered around genuine connection - is what people fell in love with.

In 2025, that same spirit found a physical home.

Sugarshack Downtown was created to bring the Sugarshack experience off the screen and into real life. It's a live music restaurant built around the same values that started it all: authenticity, community, and great music. Here, live music isn't a feature - it's the foundation. Artists play nightly, the energy is intimate, and the line between performer and audience feels intentionally blurred.

Sugarshack Downtown is a place to eat, drink, and gather - but more importantly, it's a place to feel something. To discover new artists. To hear stories between songs. To stay longer than you planned. To feel

like you're part of something that's been growing organically for over a decade.

Riverfest Needs Sponsors!

The **Bonita Springs Hospitality Alliance** is bringing back **Riverfest on Saturday, August 1st** with a goal to honor the event's history while celebrating Downtown Bonita! The goal is create an inclusive, community-driven experience that supports local culture, creativity, and respect for our waterways.

For more information on the event and opportunities please visit www.riverfestbonita.com or email BonitaSpringsDA@gmail.com

[Click Here for Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

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



Elevate

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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS & JOIN NOW!
ELEVATEOURCOMMUNITIES.COM

BUILT BY LOCALS, FOR LOCALS, WITH LOCALS



4TH OF JULY

250TH 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 OR CALL 239-949-6262.



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**.

The deadline to submit events and graphics for the July newsletter has passed.

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

NOT A BSDA MEMBER? - CLICK BELOW

[Join Today!](#)

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/>

[Visit our Website](#)

**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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