

August



BONITA SPRINGS DOWNTOWN
ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

DOWNTOWN TALK

President's Message:

August 2026

Thank you to everyone who participated in Riverfest and all of you who attended. It was a great day and the weather held out for us. We had many different vendors on site and throughout the course of the day, somewhere between **1,100 and 1,400 visitors**. We had a great crowd for the paddling events between the canoe, kayak and many paddle board racers.



The Build Your Own Race brought out the spectators along the river, and they stayed for the duck race. For the first time back after a eight year hiatus, it was definitely a success. Thank you to all those on the Hospitality Committee for putting in countless hours to put on an incredible event.

This month we will hear from FGCU's R.I.S.E. Program at our August 25th meeting. Thank you to Shangri-La for sponsoring this month.

Early voting is underway for the Primary election on August 18th. As a private citizen and as the president of the Bonita Springs

Downtown Alliance I urge everyone to please go out and support BERT and to let your neighbors know as well.

School is back in session this week, so please drive safe and allow more time to get where you are going. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting!

Mike

Tuesday, August 25th

**Is the next BSDA Meeting at
Shangri-La Springs at 5:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: FGCU R.I.S.E.
(Real Independence. Successful Employment.)**

Sponsor: Shangri-La Springs

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

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

August's Speaker: FGCU R.I.S.E



Florida Gulf Coast University's program R.I.S.E., which stands for Real Independence, Successful Employment, is Southwest Florida's first university program for adults with intellectual disabilities. The two-year certificate program, which celebrated its first commencement in 2023, offers students a university experience focused on gainful employment and independence.

August's Sponsor: Shangri-La Springs



Shangri-La Springs, located in the heart of Downtown Bonita Springs, celebrates a century of history, healing, and timeless beauty. Since 1926, its grounds have welcomed guests seeking restoration, inspiration, and a deeper connection with nature. This milestone year honors the generations of stories, traditions, and transformative experiences that make Shangri-La Springs a sanctuary unlike any other.

Riverfest Makes A Splash













Congratulations to the Winners of the Duck Race

First Place — \$300

Aniello Callari

Second Place — \$200

Kelly Castro

Third Place — \$100

Carolyn Lubecker

Vote For BERT August 18th

Trails That Tie Us Together **DOWNTOWN** SUPPORTS

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



SUPPORTS 

[Click Here For More Information](#)

FGCU Part-Time Job Fair

Tuesday August, 25th 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Held at the start of the academic year, this fair **connects you with FGCU's incoming and returning students** right when they are motivated, available, and actively looking — before schedules get busy and opportunities fill up.

Whether you need retail, hospitality, tutoring, administrative, or internship talent, you will meet hundreds of motivated students. Employers who recruit here consistently report faster hiring cycles and stronger applicant pools for the semester ahead.

Ideal for: Part-time staffing, seasonal hiring, and internship pipelines.

Registration Fee: \$195. Includes: Two representatives, one table, two chairs, two lunches, morning coffee service, and parking.

There are only 10 tables left

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Discover All That Downtown Has
to Offer This Month**

(Click the Flyer for More Info)



BONITA ESTERO RAIL TRAIL ELECTION WATCH

HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF BERT
& TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

PARTY



DATE: **AUGUST 18TH**

TIME: **6PM-8PM**

LOCATION: **ROOFTOP AT RIVERSIDE**

ADDRESS: **27333 OLD 41 RD, BONITA SPRINGS**

RSVP: **BY AUGUST 13TH**

THE FUTURE STARTS HERE.

Join us for food & drinks on election night as we watch the results of a defining vote for Bonita Springs to fund the acquisition and construction of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) corridor!



SUPPORT LITERACY!

IMAGINE
YOUR LOGO
RIGHT HERE!



Tee Up for Literacy **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Saturday, October 3rd

Become a **Hole Sponsor**
for **\$300** and support
literacy on the course.



Contact us to learn more -->  (239) 676-5202  Hello@literacygulfcoast.org

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 August reminder is August 15th.

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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