

Julie's Weekly Rotary E-Newsletter – Special New Year's Edition - Mini-Spoke,
December 30, 2025

I hope you are having a wonderful Holiday Season. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming breakfast meeting at Spring Run and first “First Thursday” (which will be the Second Thursday) of 2026: **January 8.**

First (Second) Thursday: Our host Steve Sims will welcome us at 6 p.m. Thursday, January 8, at Fernandez the Bull, Cuban Restaurant, 3250 Bonita Beach Road, SW, Unit 207 (NW corner of Bonita Beach Road and Hwy 41, just east of Synovus Bank, southeast of Publix.)

Community Service Project Help Needed for Arts Bonita Art Festival – Join the Rotary Club Team Jan. 10: Seeking five (5) additional Rotary Club members (and spouses) to staff the gate for the upcoming Arts Bonita Arts Festival. Volunteers should wear their “Rotarians at Work” shirt. Please reach out to Angela Swanepoel (203.915.4275; aswanepoel@gmail.com) or Alyona Ushe (561.245.0180; ushe@artsbonita.org) to sign up to greet guests, wearing your “Rotarian at Work” shirt.

DATE: Saturday, January 10

TIME: 8am-12pm

ROLE: Gate Attendant and Greeter (together with your Rotary colleagues)

Upcoming Programs:

- **No Meeting on Jan. 1: Happy New Year!**
- **Upcoming: Jan. 8:** Club Assembly, featuring Chris Riesen providing an update about our Rotary Club Foundation, Jim Fitzpatrick sharing our mid-year financial picture, and a facilitated open discussion about Club fundraising, including ideas for potential ways to raise funds in upcoming years. In addition, new member Lisa Rozanski will talk about her new school for children with special needs – a life skills training center for neurodivergent adolescents in South Fort Myers. **BONUS:** We will be installing two new members (Jules Inman, Baywater Boat Club, and Tom Snyder, Contractor) and awarding a Blue Badge to Joshua Gutierrez. And **SUPER BONUS:** Joe Murgalo will lead the EZ-Cash drawing for January. Who wants to win \$100 or \$250 or \$500?!?
- **Upcoming: January Speaker Chair Gary Price** has lined up these programs: **Jan. 15:** Frank Kinsey to talk about the Storm Surge Threat and how we can protect our community. **Jan. 22:** Jacob Winge will present a history of 250 years in Southwest Florida. **Jan. 29:** Caily Martin, Director of Operations, will provide an update about the Bonita Springs Assistance Office.

Our Rotary Club's Signature Project – Chickee Update: Just before Christmas, the Seminole Tribe constructed the Chickee facility at the Wonder Gardens, thanks to a generous \$30,000 gift from the Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs. The chickee will be used to provide a safe and comfortable space for the expanding Wonder Gardens' education programs and events. Recent publicity about our Club's support of

the Wonder Gardens which came as a result of a Bonita Springs City Council Meeting:
https://www.gulfshorebusiness.com/lee/bonita-springs-wonder-gardens-experiences-visitor-boom/article_f4df4059-85c6-46b2-adf7-0682a08e92f6.html



Fundraisers – We Need Support From Every Club Member

Everblades Hockey Game: Now that the strike issue appears to have been resolved, order your tickets today for the **Wednesday, January 14** game with the Everblades (1st Place in South Division) vs. Jacksonville. Game starts at 7:30 pm. **Buy Your Tickets Now:** Use this link to buy tickets to the Rotary/Blades fundraiser games. Hope to see you Jan. 14 at Hertz Arena!

[Florida Everblades - Powered by Spinzo](#)

Only \$35/ticket for premium seats. Some games offer special beer & hot dog prices. Invite family, friends and neighbors. Go Blades and Go Rotary! Upcoming Games:

- Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. vs. Maine
- Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. vs. Savannah
- Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. South Carolina

Rotary Raffle With a Twist – Saturday, March 21, 2026, at St. Leo’s Church: Reach out to Mike Poff and Wendy Arsenault if you are able to assist in securing silent auction items, including gift certificates to restaurants, hotels, golf courses and retail stores. They are especially interested in “experiences,” such as weekends or a week at your summer | second home, or the “Sicilian Dinner for Four” which Bob Lombardo will be offering at his beautiful Bonita Bay home. Even helping to secure two or three items/experiences will make a big difference in the funds we are able to raise to support our community. Mike: 989.330.1524; Wendy: 239.287.4545.

Club Service:

2026 Invocation, Greeter and Registration Desk: Please sign up to provide an invocation, serve as a greeter or staff the registration desk. See attached sign-up sheet and reach out to me with preferred roles and dates. Julie: 414.861.3077.

In case you missed last week's edition of Mini Spoke - Updates on Your Rotary

Friends: If you have a moment, consider reaching out to your Rotary colleagues to let them know you are thinking of them.

John Flammang: John underwent a serious surgery earlier this month, is out of ICU and recovering. Awaiting additional updates. Contact: flammang@gmail.com, 236.224.0372; Address: 23301 Sanabria Loop, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

Nanci Reid-Landy and Bob Landy: Nanci was hit hard by Type A Flu a few weeks ago. On the same day, Nanci and Bob had to put their 12-year-old+ dog to sleep, after a short but difficult illness. Contact: nergreen5@yahoo.com or okdoc7@aol.com; 239.207.0202 or 239.676.9642. Address: 28040 Eagle Ray Court, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

Carl Nickel: Carl is still fighting a serious infection but improving. His daughter is watching over him in Traverse City, where he is temporarily living in a rehab facility. He misses seeing all of you at the Rotary registration table each Thursday morning. Contact: nickelcpa@aol.com, 239.273.5078. Address: Carl Nickel, *In Care of Terra Manor*, 1420 Terra Road, French Manor – Terra A2, Traverse City, MI 49686

Jerry Pelak: Jerry is recovering from a fall but looks forward to seeing all of us at the Rotary registration table on Jan. 8. Contact: Jerrypelak@hotmail.com, 616.540.1555. Address: 10220 Cobble Hill Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

Mike Poff: Mike continues to recover from knee surgery. MikeFoss1951@gmail.com, 989.330.1524. Address: 8367 Lagoon Road, Fort Myers, FL 33931

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. "Our projects bring together people of all races, religions, genders, ideologies and economic backgrounds, uniting us in a shared purpose to **do good in the world**. Let's build a Rotary that **unites for good** and ensures a brighter future for all."

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Julie

Julie Pedretti, President, Rotary Club of Bonita Springs