

Julie's Weekly Rotary E-Newsletter – Mini-Spoke, February 17, 2026

### Upcoming Programs:

- **Feb. 19: February Speaker Chair Jim Fitzpatrick** will introduce Steven C. Hennigan, C.M., A.C.E., Executive Director & CEO, Lee County Port Authority
- **Upcoming February Programs:**
  - Feb. 26 - David Shanks, Retired CEO, Penguin Group (Publishing), Farmer, and Viticulturist

### March Programs (Steve Sims, Speaker Chair)

- TBA

### April Programs (Stefan Gehrold, Speaker Chair)

- April 2: Michael C. Maibach, Trustee & Managing Director, James Wilson Institute
- April 9: Dr. John Colman, Professor of Politics, Political Science Department, Ave Maria University
- April 16: Hon. Kyle S. Cohen, Judge, Unified Family Court in Collier County
- April 23: Club Assembly
- April 30: Education Day: Interact Clubs of Bonita Springs and Estero High Schools

### First Thursday Social Calendar:

- **February 19, 5:30 p.m.:** Dedication Ceremony and Celebration for the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Chickee at the Wonder Gardens. A special dedication ceremony will be held, led by Seminole Tribe members who constructed the Chickee. Hosts: Rotarians Neil Anderson, CEO of the Wonder Gardens, and Wendy Arsenault, Chair of the Wonder Gardens Board of Directors. City officials have also been invited to attend.
- **March 5:** Location: Naples Print Source, 1404 Rail Head Blvd., Naples (just off Old 41, south of Bonita Beach Road). **Host:** Ruth Condit
- **April 2:** Location: Good Days Adolescent Development Center, 17640 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 309, Ft. Myers, FL 33908. **Host:** Lisa Rozanski.
- **May 7:** Location: Vichino's, 25987 S. Tamiami Trl, Bonita Springs. **Host:** Bob Lombardo
- **June 4:** Location: Ceremony Brewing, 10441 Packinghouse Ln. Bonita Springs. Hosts: GT & Eileen Tasso

### Fundraisers – We Need Support From Every Club Member

**Everblades Hockey Game:** Invite friends to join you for the game **TONIGHT Wednesday, February 11**, with the Everblades vs. Maine. Game starts at 7:30 pm. Use this link to buy tickets to the Rotary/Blades fundraiser games.

[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, March 25, 7:30 p.m. vs. Savannah
- Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. South Carolina

**Bonita BrewFest at Riverside Park – Saturday, Feb. 21 (3 – 7:30 p.m.):** Volunteers are needed for two shifts on Saturday, Feb. 21 - 3 – 7:30 p.m. (event begins at 4 pm). Our Club also will have a Rotary information table at the event.

<https://bonitabrewfest.com/> To volunteer, please contact Angela Swanepoel at [aswanepoel@gmail.com](mailto:aswanepoel@gmail.com) or 203.915.4275.

**Rotary Raffle With a Twist – Saturday, March 21, 2026, at St. Leo’s Church:** Sell your allotment of tickets and reach out to Mike Poff if you need more. Use attached flyer to create excitement for the event. Return tickets and payments to Jim Horein and let him know who will be attending the dinner. Also talk to Mike or Wendy Arsenault if you are able to assist in securing silent auction items, including “experiences,” gift certificates to restaurants, hotels, golf courses and retail stores. Also, bring in bottles of wine and booze to help create the popular party baskets or to pair with other items in the silent auction. Questions: Mike: 989.330.1524; Wendy: 239.287.4545.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Celebrate Bonita, Saturday, March 28, at Riverside Park. Our Club has again been invited to serve beer at the event. Wendy Arsenault is a veteran organizer who is looking for someone to partner with her in planning and leading this event. Volunteers will also be needed to check ID, sell tickets and pour beer.

#### **Community Service/Outreach:**

**NEED for old/used backpacks, reusable grocery bags and other bags:** Bags are needed for those who bicycle or walk to the Meals of Hope distribution at St. Mary’s on Monday afternoons. Please give to Angela.

**NEED FOR BLANKETS:** Café of Life needs more blankets to distribute to migrant workers in the area with another cold weather spell predicted for early next week. You may drop off blankets at our Thursday morning meeting. If you have questions, please call Angela Swanepoel at 230.915.4275.

**NEED VOLUNTEERS - Arts Bonita Art Festival on March 14:** Seeking a few more Rotary Club members (and spouses) to join the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Team to staff the gate on Saturday, March 14, for the Arts Bonita **Arts Festival**. Volunteers should wear their “Rotarians at Work” shirt. Please reach out to Angela Swanepoel (203.915.4275; [aswanepoel@gmail.com](mailto:aswanepoel@gmail.com)) or Alyona Ushe (561.245.0180; [ushe@artsbonita.org](mailto:ushe@artsbonita.org)) to sign up.

**DATE:** Saturday, March 14

**TIME:** 9:15 am-12: 30 pm

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

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**District 6960 Rotary Leadership Institute – Feb. 21:** President Kelli Groom, incoming President-Elect Lynda Waterhouse and Service Chair Angela Swanepoel are attending the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) on **Saturday, February 21, 2026**, at Woodland Middle School in North Port.

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.”

Julie

Julie Pedretti, President, Rotary Club of Bonita Springs