

Upcoming Programs:

- **Feb. 26: February Speaker Chair Jim Fitzpatrick** will introduce David Shanks, Retired CEO, Penguin Group (Publishing), Farmer, and Viticulturist

Upcoming March Programs (Steve Sims, Speaker Chair)

- March 5: Bonita Springs and Estero HS Interact Clubs (Dr. Steve McIntosh)
- March 12: Lee County Schools K9 Program (Chris Riesen)
- March 19: FGCU President – Dr. Aysegul Timur (Dr. Steve McIntosh)
- March 26: Wheelchair Foundation - Regional Director (Chris Riesen)

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: TBD

First Thursday Social Calendar:

- **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

Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Chickee Dedication at the Wonder Gardens

Nearly 60 Rotarians and guests attended the Feb. 19 dedication and celebration of the recently completed **Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Chickee at the Wonder Gardens**. The celebration was hosted by Wonder Gardens President & CEO, Neil Anderson, and Wonder Gardens Board Chair, Wendy Arsenault; both are members of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs. Guests included members of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, elected officials of the City of Bonita Springs, and Wonder Gardens Board Members and Staff. The dedication ceremony was led by Jimmy Wayne Holdiness, a Seminole Tribe member who has a 40-year career as a chickee builder. Other attendees included Bonita Springs Mayor Mike Gibson and City of Bonita Springs Council Members – and Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Members – Chris Corrie and Jim Fitzpatrick.

Led by Chair Chris Riesen, the Trustees of The Foundation of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs approved a **\$30,000 grant** last summer to cover the costs of a Chickee Hut to be designed and constructed by the Seminole Tribe at the Wonder Gardens. The chickee provides a **SAFE, dry place** for students and teachers for **education programs** and for guests of all ages to seek protection, especially during our area's summer thunderstorms. The Rotary Club Chickee was completed in time for the Wonder Gardens 90th anniversary gala on Jan. 31, 2026.



Fundraisers – We Need Support From Every Club Member

Everblades Hockey Game: Invite friends to join you for the next game **Wednesday, March 25**, with the Everblades vs. Savannah. Game starts at 7:30 pm. Use this link to buy tickets to the Rotary/Blades fundraiser games.

[Florida Everblades - Powered by Spinzio](#)

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

- Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. South Carolina

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. Return tickets and payments to Jim Horein and let him know who will be attending the dinner. Please 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 our veteran organizer who will be working closely with member Lisa Rozanski as event assistant. Volunteers will 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) or Alyona Ushe (561.245.0180; 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 District Events:

The Rotary Club of Bonita Naples: Recently launched their second annual Pints With a Purpose fundraiser, which aims to support local businesses, give back to the community, and encourages socializing. Each year focuses on a different Area of Focus, with beneficiaries being organizations that work in that year’s focus. Last year’s theme was the Environment, and this year’s theme is Maternal & Child Health. With the purchase of one “Pints With a Purpose” glass, supporters receive one free pint of beer at each of the 6 participating breweries (exclusions may apply) and can be redeemed throughout 2026. Upcoming events run from 6:00-8:00 pm:

- 2/25 - Bone Hook Brewing Co. in Naples
- 3/11 - Brass Tap in Bonita Springs
- 3/25 - Palm City Brewing Co. in Fort Myers Event

Details can be found at <https://www.bonitanaplesrotary.com/>

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