

Upcoming Programs:

- **Feb. 12: February Speaker Chair Jim Fitzpatrick** will introduce Paulette Walters, Community Cats of Bonita Springs
- **Upcoming February Programs:**
 - Feb. 19 - Steven C. Hennigan, C.M., A.C.E., Executive Director & CEO, Lee County Port Authority
 - Feb. 26 - David Shanks, Retired CEO, Penguin Group (Publishing), Farmer, and Viticulturist

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: To be announced. **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 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:

URGENT NEED FOR BLANKETS: Café of Life needs more blankets to distribute to migrant workers in the area during cold weather spells. 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)

Club Service:

2026 Invocation and Greeter Schedule: Thank you to everyone who has signed up to do an invocation or serve as a greeter. Reach out to me with preferred roles and dates. Julie: 414.861.3077.

Upcoming Events:

District 6960 Rotary Leadership Institute – Feb. 21

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

All Rotarians – especially relatively new members – are invited to attend. RLI offers in-depth knowledge of Rotary, along with valued leadership skills that will prove beneficial to you in your future professional or voluntary leadership roles. ***RLI isn't just for Rotarians interested in leadership within their Rotary Club; RLI is a fantastic tool for personal growth.*** It's also a great place to meet Rotarians from other clubs and

share ideas. As an added bonus, a **District Grant Writing Master Class** is also being offered. No pre-requisite RLI course is required, so anyone can attend. The \$100 registration fee will be reimbursed once a member completes the session. *Register on DACdb today.*

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