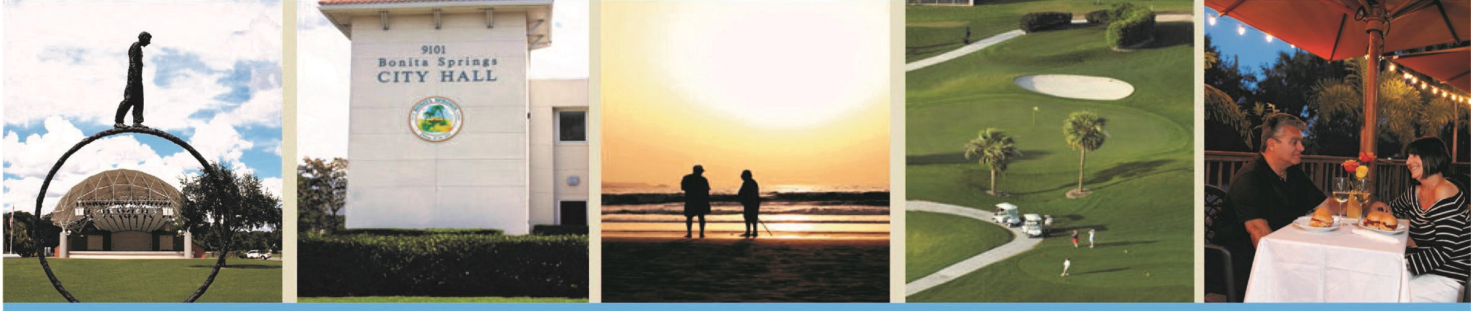




# City News



## The City of Bonita Springs Celebrates its Accomplishments as 2015 Comes to an End

The City of Bonita Springs has a lot to celebrate as 2015 comes to an end. This year brought the City both state and national recognition for some of the efforts that were accomplished. We invite you to join us as we take a look back at some of the work that Bonita Springs accomplished in 2015!

“We could not have reached these successes without the support of our Mayor and City Council who serve all of our great residents and are realizing the dreams of some of those residents in terms of the projects and efforts that we had in the City. The volunteers and dedicated City staff are also to be thanked for their hard work in making 2015 a success!”-Carl Schwing, City Manager.

### 2015 Accomplishments in the City of Bonita Springs:

- Issued three economic development grants for façade renovations in the downtown, including Seattle Upholstery.
- Welcomed the North American headquarters of Special Coating to Bonita Springs and provided commercial building permits in under 24 hours
- Updated to regulations to enhance general architectural standards
- Redevelopment to the Center of Bonita – meeting architectural standards
- Groundbreaking of Diamond Oaks
- Hyatt expansion
- Adopted large scale retail regulations which was recognized by the Florida Planning and Zoning Association 2015 Innovation Award
- Installed three new art sculptures and completed two murals.
- Demolition of Church Property and Community Hall
- Dog Park featured in the Florida Parks and Recreation Association Facility Showcase magazine
- Community Pool received the Platinum Award from Jeff Ellis and Associates
- Artist Cottages at Liles Hotel Plaza renovated
- Community Pool locker room and office area renovations complete
- Marni fields, Bonita Soccer Complex, Pool and Beach Park North received the Florida Friendly Landscaping Silver Level Certification
- Community Park, River Park, Dog Park, Leitner Neighborhood Park and Riverside Park received the Florida Friendly Landscaping Gold Level certification

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## The City of Bonita Springs Celebrates its Accomplishments as 2015 Comes to an End

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- River Park Phase III boardwalks completed
  - Bonita Springs was ranked 6 on the Top 20 small cities in Florida List by USA.COM
  - The Coastal Clean-Up Event had approximately 1,000 volunteers and they were able to collect approximately 2200 pounds of trash.
  - The attendance to City events continued to increase, Star Spangled Bonita- 4<sup>th</sup> of July event had approximately 10,000 attendees for the laser light/firework show.
  - Approved Budget for FY15-16 –again, with no millage increase
  - Received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Governmental Finance Officers Association for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014.
  - Former Code Enforcement Department--- began to rebrand as Neighborhood Services based on actual services to the community.
  - Completed three sidewalk expansion projects. Leitner Creek Neighborhood Sidewalk, Shangri-La Sidewalk Expansion, and Paradise Road Sidewalk Expansion
  - Received Complete Street Champion by Bike Lee
  - Completed City-wide traffic study to determine future infrastructure needs.
- 
- Imperial Parkway Bicycle Markings: Installed thermoplastic bicycle pavement markings and requisite bike lane signage along the one mile portion of Imperial Parkway that is City maintained. This provides a contiguously signed bike route along Imperial Parkway throughout its 6 mile course within the City's limits
  - Shangri La Wall Extension: Constructed 2,600 linear feet of buffer wall along the south side of Shangri La Road from Old 41 Road East to Windley Key Terrace.
  - Oak Creek Dredging Phase II: Dredged Oak Creek from Marco Lane west to the Rail Road Track removing 2,500 cubic yards of material and restoring the flow-way back to a natural condition.
  - Installed additional landscaping and irrigation. East Terry Street Landscaping, US 41 Landscaping, and Shangri-La Road Landscaping.

### Ongoing Projects:

Old 41 Down Town Improvement Project: Started construction on the Downtown Improvements Project. Project components include drainage improvements, undergrounding of overhead utilities, construction of additional on-street parking, installation of landscaped medians, construction of shared use bike lanes, the expansion of sidewalks to an average 10ft width, and the construction of two roundabouts along the Old 41 Road corridor from Terry St south to Tennessee St (Approximately .8 miles in length).

Felts Ave Bio-Reactor: Currently designing a cutting edge water quality treatment technology, a bio-reactor, to be installed at the City's lot on the corner of Abernathy Street and Felts Avenue. The project will include above ground parking, and will be constructed in concurrently with the ongoing Downtown Improvement project.

Shangri La & Imperial Stop Light: Designed signalization plans for the intersection of Shangri La Road and Imperial Parkway, subsequently contracted the signal installation work for installation in the spring of 2016.

Continue to work with county officials on efforts to bring a high school and new library to Bonita Springs

"If you think 2015 was a great year for the City of Bonita Springs, just wait until you see 2016! We've got a lot of great things coming. We hope you are proud to be residents of the City of Bonita Springs. We're proud to serve you!"- Carl Schwing, City Manager.

### **Notice of Possible Grant Funding for Historic Structures in the City of Bonita Springs**

Owners of older properties in Bonita Springs have a chance to obtain funds to fix up their old, historic structures under the City of Bonita Springs Historic Preservation Grant Assistance Program. This year \$80,000 is available in rehabilitation grant funds. The average grant amount is expected to be between \$5,000 and \$25,000. To qualify, the structure must be on the City's list of Designated Historic Structures or must be eligible for such designation. All interested property owners are encouraged to contact the City's Historic Preservation Board, or Assistant City Manager John Gucciardo at 239-949-6262 for further information.

Grant applications will be accepted by the Historic Preservation Board until August 31, 2016, but can be submitted at any time. All interested applicants are invited to meet with the Historic Preservation Board with information about their proposed project, prior to submitting an application.

### **The City of Bonita Springs Currently Has Openings on Advisory Boards**

Volunteers allow the City of Bonita Springs to practice government light. In order to have this fast, efficient local government, Bonita relies heavily on the input, time, and expertise of volunteers that make its various committees.

The City of Bonita Springs is always seeking volunteers to serve on various advisory boards and committees when vacancies occur. Other committees include the Historic Preservation Board, Special Events Committee, Zoning Board, Local Planning Agency, Library Task Force, Veterans Advisory Committee, Tree Advisory Board, Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee and the Art in Public Places Board.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please download an application from the website at [www.CityofBonitaSprings.org](http://www.CityofBonitaSprings.org) or pick one up from City Hall, 9101 Bonita Beach Road. Return the completed application to the City Clerk at City Hall. Call 949-6262 for more information.





To all of you,  
**Happy Holidays  
and Best Wishes**

From: The City of Bonita Springs

**Bonita Springs Veterans Advisory Committee  
Brick Program for the Veterans Memorial Walkway  
at Riverside Park**

Bricks are \$80 each and are available to active duty service members, living or deceased veterans, or veterans organizations (VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, etc.).

Discharge papers or proof of active duty status must accompany the check.

For more information, please call (239) 949-6262

## NORFOLK ISLAND PINE

Please use caution  
when deciding if and where to plant your living Christmas Tree.



Can grow to be over  
100 feet tall very quickly!

Drop heavy cones & branches  
during storm events.

Can be prone to lightning  
strikes & breakage.

Are non-native to the U.S.

Can cause \$\$\$ damage to utility lines & homes.

*A public service announcement from the  
Bonita Springs Tree Advisory Board.*

# CALENDAR

Thurs.	12/24/2015	12:00 P.M.	City Hall	Christmas Eve- City Hall Closes Early
Fri.	12/25/2015	ALL DAY	HOLIDAY	Christmas Day- City Hall Closed
Thurs.	12/31/2015	12:00 P.M.	HOLIDAY	New Years Eve - City Hall Closed at Noon
Fri.	1/01/2016	ALL DAY	HOLIDAY	New Years Day - City Hall Closed
Wed.	1/06/2016	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting <b>TELEVISED LIVE</b>
Thurs.	1/07/2016	1:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Code Enforcement Hearing
Mon.	1/11/2016	4:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	1/12/2016	12:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Public Works Native Plant Workshop
Tues.	1/12/2016	5:15 P.M.	Rm # 118	Art in Public Places
Thurs.	1/14/2016	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Local Planning Agency Meeting <b>TELEVISED</b>
Thurs.	1/14/2016	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Veterans Committee Meeting
Mon.	1/18/2016	4:00 PM	Liles Hotel	Bicycle Pedestrian Committee Meeting
Mon.	1/18/2016	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Technology Advisory Board
Tues.	1/19/2016	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Zoning Board Meeting - <b>TELEVISED</b>
Wed.	1/20/2016	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting <b>TELEVISED LIVE</b>
Thurs.	1/21/2016	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Street Light Committee Meeting
Mon.	1/25/2016	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Zoning Meeting <b>TELEVISED LIVE</b>
Thurs.	1/28/2016	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Historic Preservation Board Meeting
Wed.	2/03/2016	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting <b>TELEVISED LIVE</b>
Thurs.	2/04/2016	1:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Code Enforcement Hearing
Mon.	2/08/2016	4:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Tree Advisory Board Meeting



## Cat Food Donations Needed



In partnership with Lee County Domestic Animal Services, the City of Bonita Springs offers free spay/neuter surgery for community and feral cats trapped within the city limits. Volunteers trap, transport and provide aftercare. The surgery, rabies vaccination and microchip is performed by Linda Kitchen DVM of Animal Hospital of Bonita & Boarding, located at 8830 Emerald Isle, Bonita Springs, 34135. This process of sterilizing free roaming cats is known as TNR, or, Trap/ Neuter/Return.



The City of Bonita Springs is providing a bin for cat food donations at the Liles Hotel in Riverside Park. The food will be distributed to people in Bonita who are feeding cats in the TNR program. Dry or canned cat food can be left in the bin any time Monday through Friday, from 8 am till 5 pm. The Liles Hotel is located at 27300 Old US 41 in downtown Bonita Springs, behind the fountain in Riverside Park. Please use the doors located on the south side; the bin is located just inside that door.

# Bonita Springs National Art Festival Riverside Park, Old 41 Rd



# January 9-10, 2016

[www.artsbonita.org/artfest](http://www.artsbonita.org/artfest)



**THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS  
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTS  
WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL GAMES  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH**



**The national Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST), represents some of our nation's bravest and most determined heroes, soldiers and veterans. These young extremely athletic men have sustained severe injuries resulting in amputation while serving in the military/war, and through extensive rehabilitation, they have become competitive athletes again.**

**Their armor now includes prosthetic legs and arms, along with extreme perseverance and attitude. Together they comprise the national WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM**



**6pm - Wounded Warriors Vs. Bonita Springs Fire and Rescue - Game 1**

**8pm - Wounded Warriors Vs. Lee County Sheriffs Office - Game 2**

**Dedication of Veterans Memorial Field will take place between games. The public is encouraged to bring chairs. There will be limited seating available.**

**Veterans Memorial Field (Field #4) at Bonita Springs Community Park  
26740 Pine Avenue**

**For more information, Please call (239) 949-6262**

# PARKS & RECREATION

CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS

Step outside and enjoy the natural beauty Bonita Springs offers.



Visit Bonita Springs Parks and Recreation today!  
[www.BonitaSpringsParks.org](http://www.BonitaSpringsParks.org) / (239) 992-2556



The City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center sits on 41.9 acres of land which is located at 26740 Pine Avenue off of West Terry Street and has something for everyone. Our facility includes a full-sized gymnasium, a cardiovascular/fitness room, skate park, community pool, softball fields, 2 public tennis courts, 9 hole disc golf course, picnic areas and a playground. We also offer daily activities and registered classes to teach and enlighten everyone of all ages. The Bonita Springs Recreation Center offers an annual membership fee or daily fee for all of these activities and more! Below you will find detailed information on how to utilize the wonderful facility. Membership/Daily Rates:

Option	Property Owners	Non-Property Owners
Individual Annual Pass	\$55.00	\$70.00
Individual Senior (55+) Annual Pass	\$50.00	\$70.00
One Time Daily Fee	\$5.00	\$5.00

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday – Friday 6:30 am – 8:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm, Sunday CLOSED

**Annual Membership or Daily Fee Includes:** Fitness Room, Open Gym, Locker Room/Showers, Community Pool Activities



# The City of Bonita Springs Gives Back!



## Turkey Shoot 2015

With the help and caring of our generous clients, City of Bonita Springs staff and the Sports Club we were able to donate twelve complete meals and eighteen additional turkeys. That's a total of thirty turkeys! In addition to the Thanksgiving fare, we donated over eight giant boxes of food to be distributed by the Bonita Springs Assistance Office.

Public Works sponsored a family in need this Christmas. Leticia Santos of the Bonita Springs Assistance Office matched them with a single mom with two young boys. This young mom is also battling cancer.



# The New Neighborhood Services Department- Rebranding and Refocusing on Service to the Community



The Department participated in a property clean up on Dortch Ave-helping a family with clean up and landscaping. The four hour project left the property owner so thankful it brought her to tears. With the help of Lee County Solid Waste all debris was removed from the property the same day. This is part of a monthly program for the department as part of their Building Blocks initiative-helping clean up an area each second Tuesday of every month.

## MISSION STATEMENT

- To deliver exceptional, community oriented government service;
- To establish positive relationships with the community; building a stronger sense of community in every neighborhood;
- To engage in extensive outreach programs to ensure we are an active part of the community;
- To uphold and enforce Codes and Ordinances established to protect the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare of all residents, business owners, and visitors;
- To provide an environment to empower neighborhoods to recognize challenges and find solutions;
- To provide an environment where people will enjoy living, working, playing and investing.

## VISION STATEMENT

- To educate the public about the codes and ordinances and to obtain voluntary compliance through extensive outreach and building a better sense of community one block at a time. Strive to perform our duties in a fair, professional and courteous manner;
- Develop, establish and build effective, positive relationships throughout our community to solve problems and find lasting solutions;
- Develop and establish standards and ordinances that ensure positive effects on property value, community appearance, and neighborhood pride;
- Develop and implement a neighborhood resource program through community involvement and outreach;
- Partner with other departments and agencies to reach our common goal;
- Partner with community organizations and associations and assist them in reaching common goals;
- Establish and maintain a proactive environment to help solve community problems and stay at the forefront of creative and effective Neighborhood Services programs.

## Neighborhood Services Operating Principle: The “ACE” Principle:

**ACTION**– We are proactive in serving the community;

**COMMUNICATION**– Professional, engaging public education is essential;

**EFFECTIVENESS**– A safe, healthy, clean environment and a well-informed community is the end result of our program.

**Please help us “Keep the Beautiful in Bonita”**