



Bonita Springs  
Quarterly  
Winter 2020

# City News

*Small town Charm. Big Bright Future.*



## **City of Bonita Springs Releases Request for Proposals for Mixed-Use Development of Imperial Crossing**

While Bonita Springs is known for its world-class beaches, one of the City's hidden gems is our historic downtown. The downtown is lined with quaint shops, the meandering Imperial River, Old 41 Road and vibrant "Old Florida" aesthetics. The collection of these attributes offers a unique sense of place and a charming location that draws a bustling crowd.

The City has retained commercial real estate firm CBRE to issue a Request for Proposals to solicit interested parties for a mixed-use development opportunity on ±5.97 acres of land including river frontage, in downtown Bonita Springs, off of historic "Old 41 Road". Known as the [Imperial Crossing Sites](#), the primary parcel is located at 10580 Goodwin Street (the Bamboo parcel) and is divided by the Imperial River, offering frontage on both the North and South sides of the river. In addition to the Bamboo parcel, two additional lots are being offered as part of the overall development potential, the Levin lot and the Lemon Tree lot. These parcels can be bid all together or each can be bid on individually.

Development of the Imperial Crossing Sites will provide an opportunity to expound on our Small Town Charm with an eye toward our Big Bright Future!

The deadline to submit bids is April 14, 2020 and the City looks forward to reviewing submissions. If you would like additional information, please visit [www.bonitaspringsimperialcrossing.com](http://www.bonitaspringsimperialcrossing.com).



*Right: rendering of an "Old Florida" style design*

## 2020 Approved Special Events

Date	Event	Venue	Time
1/18/20	Wing Fest – Buffalo Chips/Lion’s Club	Riverside Park	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
1/24/20 – 1/26/20	Lovers Key Boat Show	Carl E Johnson State Park Event Field	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
<a href="#">1/25/20</a>	Businesses Supporting Communities Tribute Band Event	Riverside Park	11:00 am – 6 pm
1/26/20	Blessing of the Bikes	American Legion Post 303	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
1/26/20	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
1/28/20	Stardust Memories Big Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
1/30/20	Chamber of Commerce Community Expo	The Promenade	3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
2/1/20	Movies in the Park showing Finding Dory	Riverside Park	Movies begin at dusk
2/8 – 2/9/20	Art Festival	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
2/11/20	Stardust Memories Big Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2/16/20	Veg Fest	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
2/22/20	SW Florida Brew Crafters Beer Tasting Event	Riverside Park	3:00 pm – 7:30 pm
2/22/20	City Wide Clean Up (across from river side Park)	10520 Reynolds Street	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
2/23/20	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2/24/20	Naples Big Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2/29/19	CREW Land and Water Trust Concert	Riverside Park	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
3/3/20	Stardust Memories Big Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
3/5 – 3/8/20	Bonita Springs Boat Show	Naples/Fort Myers Race Track	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
3/7 – 3/8/20	Art Festival	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
3/13 -3/14/20	Bonita Blues Festival	Riverside Park	Friday 1:30 – 9:00 pm Saturday 11:30 – 9:00 pm
3/16/20	Naples Big Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
3/21/20	Movies in the Park – movie TBD	Riverside Park	Movies begin at dusk
3/22/20	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
3/24/20	Stardust Memories Big Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
3/28/20	Celebrate Bonita	Riverside Park	4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
4/4/20	Farm City BBQ Cookoff	Riverside Park	11:00 am – 2:30 pm
4/7/20	Stardust Memories Big Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
4/11/20	Crohn’s Charity Service Foundation Event	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
4/18/20	Fiesta Bonita Event	Riverside Park	4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
4/19/20	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
7/4/20	Star Spangled Bonita	Riverside Park	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Farmer’s Market at The Promenade - 8am- noon**

**Farmers Market at the Lemon Tree Lot**

**Saturdays, October 2019-April 2020**

**Wednesdays, October 2019- May 2020**



Riverside Park lit up for Holiday in the Park on December 3, 2019



### Movies in the Park

RIVERSIDE PARK

Grab a blanket or your favorite low back lawn chair for a free family movie under the stars at Riverside Park. All movies will start at dusk.

February 1st - Finding Dory (2016)

**PG**



## Keep The Beautiful in Bonita!

CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP

Saturday, February 22nd from 9:00am to 12:00pm  
10520 Reynolds Street - Across from Riverside Park

Join the City of Bonita Springs for the annual community clean-up. Meet under the Banyan tree for coffee, donuts and registration. Free Hot Dogs and drinks will be provided following the clean-up.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! FOR INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CALL (239) 949-6262



Pete the Pelican



## Celebrate Bonita 2020

SATURDAY MARCH 28TH 5PM-9PM

@RIVERSIDE PARK  
10540 REYNOLDS STREET



Proceeds benefit the Bonita Springs Assistance Office

Save the Date!

Entry is FREE!

## SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING CITY of BONITA SPRINGS EVENTS

The City of Bonita Springs is currently seeking sponsorships for City Events. If interested, please call City Hall at 239-949-6262 and we will provide you with a sponsorship packet.

# Celebrate Arbor Day

At the Bonita Springs YMCA  
Saturday, April 25, 2020  
10 am to 1 pm



**The City of Bonita Springs invites you  
to join us for a tree planting ceremony,  
free trees, and Tree City USA flag raising**

The theme of the poster contest is "Bonita Trees" (ages K to 8<sup>th</sup>)

*This event will run in concurrence with the YMCA's "Healthy Kids Day" open house*

*For more information call the City of Bonita Springs: (239) 949-6262*



## Pool Closures

Dr. Martin Luther King Day Jan. 20th

President's Day Feb. 18th

## Storm Policy

The pool will close anytime lightning is within 6 miles or the bottom isn't clearly visible.

## Cold Weather Policy

Pool will not open until the air temperature

reaches 60 degrees.

## Admission

Children –17: \$2.00

Adults 18-54: \$3.00

Seniors 55+: \$2:50

## Open Swim Pool Hours

Monday: 11:00 am-6:30 pm

Tuesday: 11:00 am-6:30 pm

Wednesday: 11:00 am-6:30 pm

Thursday: 11:00 am-6:30 pm

Friday: 11:00 am-6:30 pm

Saturday: 11:00 am-6:00 pm

## Lap Swim

Monday– Friday

8:00 am- 9:45 am

11:00 am-6:30 pm

Saturday

11:00 am-6:00 pm

Subject to change for swim lessons. Please call for current times.

# City of Bonita Springs Community Pool November 2019—March 2020



Private Swim Lessons are available for children and adults until June, 2020. Our Swim Instructors can help anyone ages 3 and up with their aquatic goals.

Cost is \$20 per student, per half-hour. Classes can be scheduled by calling the pool and speaking with the Pool Manager at 239-947-1948.

All abilities are welcome! From Beginners to Advanced stroke technique, our instructors can help improve your swimming.

## Water Aerobics

Monday: Shallow Water 10:00 am -10:45 am

Tuesday: Deep Water 10:00 am -10:45 am

Wednesday: Shallow Water 10:00 am -10:45 am

Thursday: Deep Water 10:00 am -10:45 am

Friday: Shallow Water 10:00 am -10:45 am

Saturday: Shallow Water 10:00 am -10:45 am

Closing times subject to change throughout year—call for latest schedule.

## City of Bonita Springs Community Pool

26890 Pine Avenue

Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

Phone: 239-947-1948

Fax: 239-992-1205

E-mail: [jesse.felger@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:jesse.felger@cityofbonitasprings.org)

# ZUMBA

## FUSION

**Jan 2 - 30**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**8:30—9:30 am**

Instructor  
 Leigh Longstreth

**\$68/9Classes**

# Chair Yoga

**Tuesdays**  
**Jan 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
**9-10am**

**4 Classes**  
**\$28**

*Chair Yoga is a Gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair, or standing using a chair for support.*

*Please pre-register at the Rec Center front desk.  
 Call 239-992-2556 for more information.*

**CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES—FOR INFO CALL 239-992-2556**

# Gentle Yoga

**\$35**  
**5/classes**

**Thursdays**  
**Jan 2-30<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:35-10:35 am**

INSTRUCTOR LEIGH LONGSTRETH

- Increase flexibility and strength.
- Reduce stress and pain in joints, neck and back.
- Energize your day.

Bring your mat .Gentle Yoga class provides a safe, effective, compassionate, non-competitive environment that is welcoming to all. Gentle yoga classes are appropriate for those who want a softer, nurturing, slow-paced, well-supported and relaxing practice .

# Light & Lively

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**Jan 2-30**  
**7:30-8:30 am**

**Please Pre-Register at the Front Desk.**  
**A minimum of 10 people must be registered for class to begin!**

**\$63 / 9 classes**

**YOGA**

**Wednesdays Jan 8 - 29**  
**9:20-10:20 am**  
**4 classes**  
**\$28**

Join instructor Linda Duncan in this class that designed to increase flexibility and strength, reduce stress and pain in your joints, neck and back, and energize

**Please pre-register at the front desk**

# KARATE

**\$45 / 8 Classes**

**Tues & Thurs 5:30-7 pm**  
**Jan 7 - 30**

*Instructor Vincent Cannarsa Learned the Art of Karate on the Island of Okinawa, and has over 35 years of teaching experience.*

*Please pre-register at the Recreation Center front desk*  
 26740 Pine Ave. Bonita Springs, FL  
 239-992-2556

**CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES—FOR INFO CALL 239-992-2556**



A recent visitor to Bonita Springs, Victoria Ziesenitz from Grünstadt, Germany, shared this photo noting their sister city partnerships with the City of Bonita Springs, as well as other cities. Grünstadt has been a sister city to Bonita Springs since 2002.

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce was initially involved in the development of this relationship, starting back in 1990. The arrangement was effectively cultivated through relationships between a German family that had relocated to Bonita Springs from Grünstadt and representatives of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. The City was happy to expand the relationship once they became officially incorporated in 2002.

This month, we would like to take the opportunity to thank some of our most important partners and contributors to the success of Bonita Springs: the volunteers who serve on our city committees. The work they do to bring the community together through the Special Events and Outreach Committees; the work they do to improve and beautify our city through the Local Planning Agency, Zoning Board, Tree Advisory and Art in Public Places committees; the safety focus of our Street Light Advisory and Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Advisory Councils; and the commitment to honor and celebrate our servicemen and woman by our Veterans Advisory Committee, and the commitment to preserve the past exhibited by our Historic Preservation Board allows us to deal with city issues and growth with a multilateral and open approach. Their work is critical in helping us understand what it is that you, the residents, consider to be important and we could not manage without the valuable contributions of these volunteers.

The city is currently seeking additional volunteers to serve on select advisory boards and committees. Candidates are encouraged to apply if they have interest in serving on the following boards or committees:

**Art in Public Places Advisory Board** – devoted to developing a public art selection by selecting, locating, placing and maintaining art in public places, exposing the community to the arts, fostering education programs and advancing economic growth. This board acquires art for the city utilizing private and public sponsorships.

**Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee** – this committee strives for enhancement of bicycle and pedestrian paths for the safety of residents and visitors, while promoting bicycling and walking as a safe means of transportation.

**Historic Preservation Board** – this board identifies, evaluates, preserves and protects historical and archaeological sites and districts within the city. Determines the historical significance of resources with the aim of fostering a better understanding of the community’s heritage, while stabilizing and improving property values through revitalization of older residential and commercial neighborhoods.

**Local Planning Agency** - the LPA reviews rezoning and comprehensive plan amendments for the city and makes recommendations to council regarding development and changes in support of the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

**Technology Advisory Board** – researches various topics relating to new technology and its impact on the city. Formulates recommendations to council based upon a long-term view of the functions of local government, integration needs, and existing technologies.

**Tree Advisory Board** – recognizes the importance of heritage trees for their historical longevity and their impact to eco-systems. The board reviews land development and zoning sites to ensure heritage trees are protected and preserved. Provides education to the public on native and invasive plants and good pruning practices.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – reviews applications of property owners wishing to change the use/zoning of their property. The board evaluates cases and makes recommendations to city council based upon their findings.

If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, applications are being accepted. Terms of service on these committees vary and through the application process we strive to ensure a good fit between you and each committee. Applications can be found online at this link:

### **[Application for Committees](#)**

You can also request an application by calling 239-949-6262. Please submit your completed application to City Clerk Debbie Filipek at the address below:

Office of the City Clerk

9101 Bonita Beach Road

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

[Debbie.Filipek@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:Debbie.Filipek@cityofbonitasprings.org)

For more information regarding serving on any of the advisory boards and committees, please contact the City Clerk at 239-949-6262.



# Council on the Move



Above: At the December 2, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting, Assistant Chief Greg Dewitt was unanimously selected to succeed Chief Joseph Daigle, upon Chief Daigle's retirement. Although Greg's contributions to City Council will be missed, we wish him the best!



Above: Mayor Simmons thanks Dallas Revord for his ten years of service on the Historic Preservation Board.



Above: Councilman Fred Forbes (district 6) and former Councilman Greg DeWitt (district 2) discuss the 1st Annual Jaws vs. Claws Bonita Springs vs. Estero Football game. Below: Councilman Forbes and Assistant City Manager Matt Feeny show their support at the game.



Above: Mayor Simmons and Amy Quaremba attend the December 29th Chanukah Festival at the Chabad Jewish Center in Bonita Springs.



## COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

### The Historic Preservation Board

The Historic Preservation Board serves the City of Bonita Springs in a range of capacities, working primarily to support and enhance the historic values of our area. The board also actively seeks opportunities to educate the public about our beautiful city, and the iconic people, places and events in our City's history. One such recent endeavor included working closely with one of the area's leading photographers.

Mr. Brian Tietz is a professional photographer of high renown, specializing in portrait and lifestyle images. He has photographed celebrities, athletes, local business people and personalities from all over the nation. He regularly volunteers for organizations and agencies right here in Southwest Florida in order to contribute significant projects for the public, and the Historic Preservation Board was pleased to enlist his talents for a recent collaboration.

The idea was born at a cultural event featuring a photo exhibition called "Faces of Philanthropy" for the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. Bonita Springs Historic Preservation Board Member Mr. Welsch, a philanthropist himself, met Mr. Tietz at this event and reached out to him introducing the idea to create something similar for the City of Bonita Springs.

Thus, a remarkable series of impressive, large sized photographs was created, showing "Icons of Bonita Springs." This series includes selected Bonita Springs historic properties, landmarks, nature and noted individuals who have or had a significant impact in the development of Bonita Springs. These "Icons" are currently displayed in the Bonita Springs City Hall and accompanied by short narratives outlining their special significance to our community.

The project was designed to serve as a traveling exhibition featuring the art work of Mr. Tietz. The images can be presented at certain events and fundraisers, and are intended to introduce the citizens and visitors in our area to our rich background. All proceeds will go to the City of Bonita Springs. Parties interested in an exhibition are welcome to reach out to the City for more information.

If you are interested in viewing these photographs you may make an appointment by calling 239-949-6262.

Mr. Tietz created and delivered this enormous contribution without any compensation. Bonita Springs Mayor Peter Simmons and the members of the Historic Preservation Board have expressed their sincere appreciation for this remarkable support.

**One of the photographs Mr. Tietz has taken features former District 2 Representative and train enthusiast Alex Grantt standing in the middle of a track on the Seminole Gulf Rail.**

**Mr. Grantt has been working diligently toward a goal that he has been passionate about since childhood - passenger rail service for Southwest Florida.**



## Did You Know.....

### **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Bonita Springs for its comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. This was the tenth consecutive year that the City has received this prestigious award.

**US Census 2020** - The 2020 census is much more than a head count. It provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals, and businesses; how federal funding is distributed; and how congressional seats are appointed. It also helps us see how our communities have changed over time. This is why an accurate count is so important.

In 2020, for the first time the U.S. Census will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer. Beginning in mid-March, people will receive a notice in the mail to complete the census. In May, the Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that haven't responded to the census. For more information visit: [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

**Hurricane Irma Reimbursements** - As of October 31, 2019, the City has collected \$7.5 million in grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the state of Florida, as reimbursement of costs related to Hurricane Irma.

**Voluntary Home Buyout** – The City of Bonita Springs has been awarded \$5 million from the state to buy homes in flood-prone neighborhoods. More than 70 people applied for the buyout program funds as part of an application process that ended October 1, 2019. When making offers to homeowners the program will prioritize households with low to moderate income that did not have flood insurance at the time of Hurricane Irma. Homes with people over age 62, children under the age of 18, or residents who are disabled, handicapped or have special needs also receive priority.

### **Landscaping and completion of Logan Boulevard linking Naples and Bonita Springs**

Foregoing any unforeseen challenges, expectations are that this road connection will officially open in early 2020. See photos below.



View of Logan Boulevard during construction.



View of roundabout at the Bonita Beach Road end of Logan Boulevard.



## Did You Know (cont.).....

### **West Terry multi-Use Pathway is Now Under Construction**

The West Terry Street Multi-Use Path Project includes the construction of a 12' wide pathway along the north side, from just east of US 41 to Pine Avenue. To accommodate the new pathway, the City will be converting the north side swale drainage to a closed drainage system. The existing roadway pavement section will be reconstructed to allow for regrading the travel surface, along with some widening to facilitate the addition of 7' buffered bike lanes on the north and south sides. The project includes the landscaping and beautification of the pathway corridor, along with the installation of an irrigation system. Also, benches and trash receptacles will be installed as an amenity throughout the project area.

### **March, 2020 Special Election**

As a result of two recent City Council resignations in Districts 2 and 4, there will be a special election scheduled for March 17, 2020 to elect two new district council representatives. This special election will coincide with the previously scheduled presidential primary election. Qualified candidates for District 2 include Adam Hughes, Shelley D. Anderson, and Jesse Purdon. Qualified candidates for District 4 include Benjamin "Ben" Hershenson and Chris E. Corrie.

### **Florida Power and Light's HPS to LED Pilot Program**

City Council recently reviewed a presentation regarding Florida Power and Light's HPS to LED Pilot Program. The FPL program was created to help Florida cities convert their current high-pressure sodium streetlights to modern light efficiency diode lamps. FPL has offered the City of Bonita Springs the opportunity to join the program and to upgrade the city's street lights to LED, free of charge. With the help of the Public Works Department, FPL plans to modernize 1,115 high-pressure sodium streetlights located along the city's local and side streets to new LED lighting. The more efficient LED lighting would provide higher acuity lighting hues to city streets and walkways while also having a direct impact on the reduction of light pollution on the city's sky. The new lighting also provides the city with a wide range of lighting fixtures to accommodate a wide range of aesthetic tastes. The proposed upgrade to LED lighting would create annual savings to the city of approximately \$10,404.36.

Council members unanimously decided to approve moving forward to join the pilot program.

### **Money Magazine has named Bonita Springs one of the 8 Best Places to Retire in America!**

What makes Bonita Springs such a great place to retire? Money Magazine took into consideration population, percentage of age of population 50 years and above, the number of days of sunshine each year and median home pricing. The publication noted that Bonita Springs boasts beautiful nature spots like Lovers Key State Park, beaches, a downtown hub of community activities like farmer's markets, local concerts and seasonal festivals throughout the year. Residents of Bonita Springs care about giving back and philanthropy is a huge part of the community atmosphere. Best of all, we average 249 days of sunshine each year!