

Bonita Springs  
Quarterly  
Autumn 2021

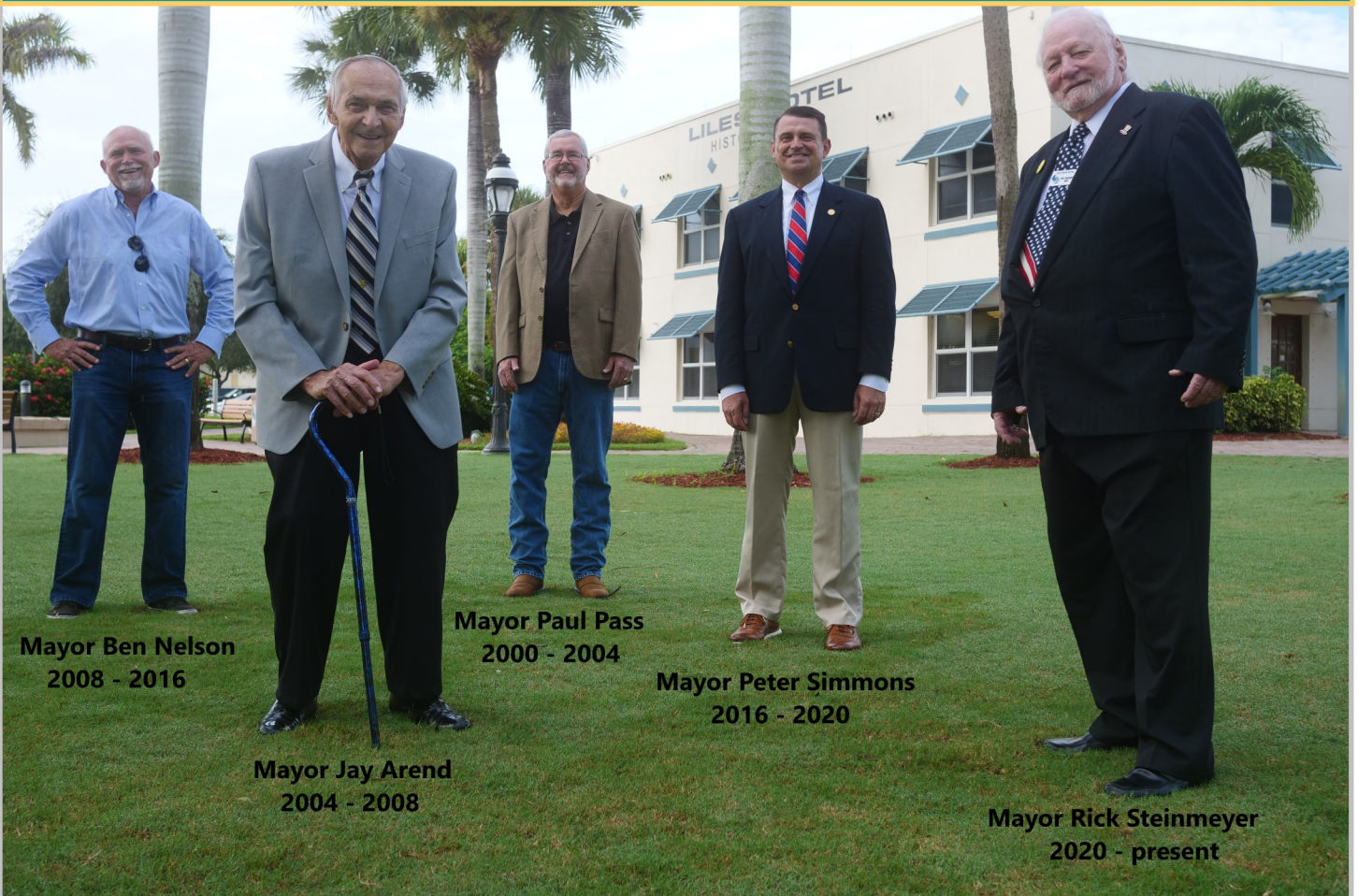


# City News

*Small Town Charm. Big Bright Future.*



Below: Current Mayor Rick Steinmeyer is joined by the four past mayors to serve Bonita Springs in a photo taken in front of the historic Liles Hotel in downtown Bonita Springs.



**Mayor Ben Nelson**  
2008 - 2016

**Mayor Paul Pass**  
2000 - 2004

**Mayor Peter Simmons**  
2016 - 2020

**Mayor Jay Arend**  
2004 - 2008

**Mayor Rick Steinmeyer**  
2020 - present



### Patriot Day Honored by Bonita Springs

A ceremony was held for the annual Patriot Day event on September 11th at the Bonita Springs Fire Station #1, 27490 Old 41 Road. Participants paid tribute to all the valiant firefighters, police officers, emergency personnel, and citizens who were involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks. Thank you to all. We will never forget!!

## RECENT BONITA SPRINGS EVENTS



A young volunteer enjoys some well deserved ice cream provided by sponsor Royal Scoop.



### COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY!!

The City of Bonita Springs was proud to partner with Keep Lee County Beautiful for Coastal Clean-up Day on Saturday, September 18th.



FGCU volunteers lend a hand to clean up Lover's Key Beach area.



## The City of Bonita Springs Event Season is Coming!!

### City Approved Special Events

10/23/21	Taco Fest	Riverside Park	11:00 am – 5:00 pm
10/30/21	Highland Woods Oktoberfest Event	Highland Woods	4:00 pm – 10:00 pm
11/6/21	Bonita Springs Charter School Fund Raiser	Liles Hotel	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
11/11/21	Veterans Day Ceremony	Riverside Park	11:00 am
11/20/21	BonitaFest	Riverside Park	3:00 pm – 9:00 pm
12/7/21	Holiday in the Park	Riverside Park	4:30 pm – 8:30 pm
<a href="#">12/8/21</a>	Stardust Memories Concert Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
<a href="#">12/10/21</a>	Movies in the Park	Riverside Park	Begins at dusk
1/8/22	Movies in the Park	Riverside Park	Begins at dusk
1/15/22 – 1/16/22	Art Festival	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
1/25/22	Stardust Memories Concert Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2/5/22	Movies in the Park	Riverside Park	Begins at dusk
2/12/22 – 2/13/22	Art Festival	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
2/15/22	Stardust Memories Concert Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2/19/22	Southwest Florida Brew Crafters Beer Tasting Event	Riverside Park	3:00 pm – 7:30 pm
2/22/22	Stardust Memories Concert Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
3/5/22 – 3/6/22	Art Festival	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
3/22/22	Stardust Memories Concert Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
4/5/22	Stardust Memories Concert Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Farmer's Market – Lemon Tree Lot**

**Wednesdays, October 2021- September 2022**

# VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Thursday, November 11th, 2021

11:00 a.m.

Riverside Park  
10450 Reynolds Street

Guest Speaker

Specialist Five (ret) James McCloughan



For the freedoms that we all enjoy,  
Thank You to the men and women who  
have and continue to serve in all branches  
of our U.S. Armed Forces.

For more information, please call  
Bonita Springs City Hall at (239) 949-6262

Save The  
Dates For  
These  
Upcoming  
City of  
Bonita  
Springs  
Events!

The City of Bonita Springs  
Presents an Old Fashioned

*Holiday in the Park*  
& Annual Tree Lighting

Tuesday December 7th  
Riverside Park, Bonita Springs

(10450 Reynolds St. Bonita Springs, FL 34135)

4:30-8:30pm

Enjoy the sounds of the season!

Showcasing some of the best musical talent in the area.

With snow flurries in the park!

And a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Artist Cottages &  
the Historical Society  
will be open!

For more information please call (239) 949-6262 or visit the city website at CITYOFBONITASPRINGS.ORG

THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS PRESENTS:

*Movies in the Park*

FRIDAY DECEMBER, 10 TH 2021

Bonita Springs Riverside Park

(10450 Reynolds St, Bonita Springs, FL 34135)

SAVE THE DATE!

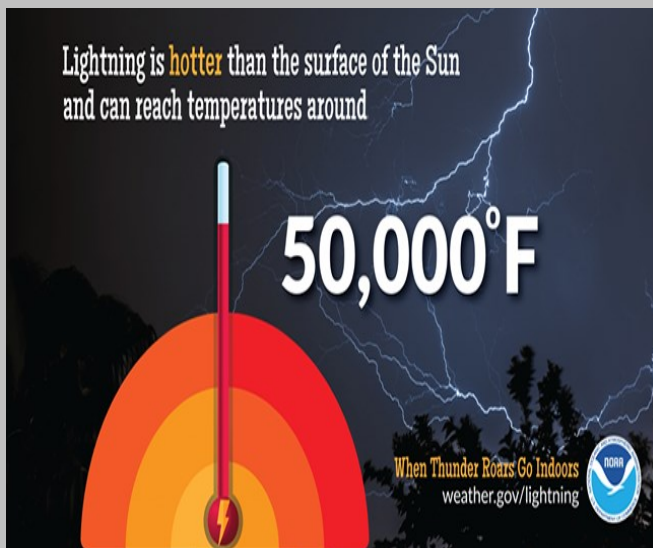


"The Grinch"  
(2018) [PG]

Begins at Dusk!

Admission is Free!

Call (239) 992-6262  
for more information



**Lightning Safety is a major concern in Southwest Florida.** In 2020, Florida and Texas had the most lightning deaths. Florida is considered the “lightning capital” of the country. This is why it is important to learn how to stay safe in a thunderstorm. The National Weather Service emphasizes some do’s and don’ts regarding lightning safety:

- Plan ahead including knowing where you’ll go for safety.
- Listen to the forecast. Being outside when lightning is present is not something to take lightly - ever.
- Cancel or postpone activities if thunderstorms are in the forecast.
- Take action early so you have time to get to a safe place.
- Get inside a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle before threatening weather arrives.
- **Don’t forget the 30-30 rule.** After you see lightning, start counting to 30. If you hear thunder before you reach 30, go indoors. Suspend activities for at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.
- Remember: **When thunder roars, go indoors.**

For information, please visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**

**STOP all activities.**

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after storm to resume activities.

NOAA logo and [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov)

## Strike Back Against Lightning

Did you know?

- ⚡ Lightning travels at 90,000 miles/sec
- ⚡ Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from area of rainfall
- ⚡ A single strike of lightning can pack up to 1 billion volts of electricity
- ⚡ Each year the U.S. experiences 25 million flashes of lightning
- ⚡ Costing nearly \$1 billion in insured losses in 2012
- ⚡ Causing average 55 - 60 fatalities each year

For your safety during a storm, avoid touching items

- 🚪 conducting electricity
- 🚽 connected to plumbing system
- 🔌 serviced by gas lines



Here in Southwest Florida, we are in Hurricane Season (June-November) and need to be prepared for rain and possible flooding.

### [LEARN ABOUT FLOOD ZONES](#)

Click on this link to learn about flood zones and why they are important [Flood Zones](#). For questions or assistance about what flood zone you are in, please call Community Development at (239) 444-6150.

### [INSURANCE INFORMATION](#)

FloodSmart Official Site – [FloodSmart Link](#)  
Frequently Asked Questions – [FloodSmart Link](#)  
How Do I Buy Flood Insurance – [FloodSmart Link](#)  
Why do you Need Flood Insurance – [FloodSmart Link](#)  
Understand Your Risks – [FloodSmart Link](#)  
Find My Flood Zone – [FloodSmart Link](#)

### [FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS](#)

The City of Bonita Springs is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), to ensure compliant floodplain management measures to provide protection for the residents. By agreeing to adhere to floodplain regulations, flood insurance becomes available to residents and property owners and helps mitigate flood effects. For more information, please refer to [Ordinance 18-12](#).

[FEMA's NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM \(NFIP\)](#) – [FEMA Link](#)

### [OTHER HELPFUL LINKS](#)

Lee County Public Shelters – [Lee County Link](#)  
Why Elevation is Important – [YouTube](#)  
Storm Surge Resources – [NOAA Hurricane Center](#)  
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program – [FEMA](#)  
Flood Preparation Safety Brochure – [FloodSmart Link](#)



Visit the link below for more information on Flood preparation and protection.  
[click here.](#)



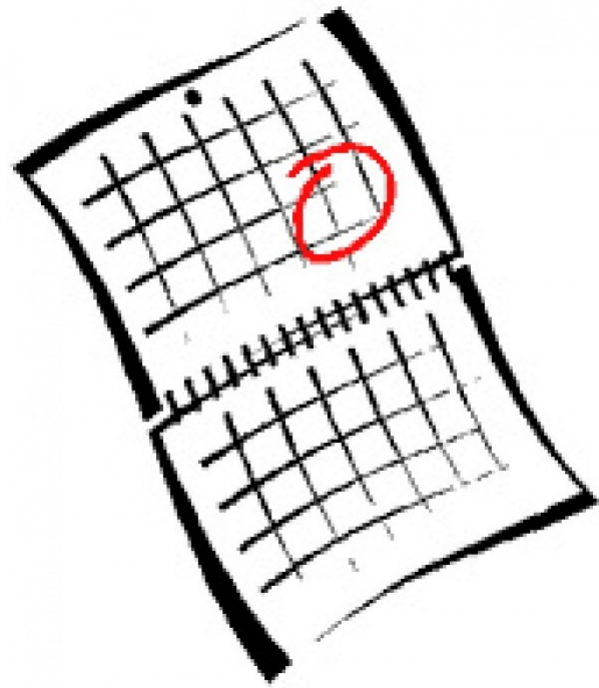
## Lee County COVID-19 Community Impact Survey

The Lee County Economic Development Office would like to make you aware of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Lee County has been allocated over \$149 million dollars through ARPA to combat the public health and economic severities of COVID-19. In order to sufficiently assist the public with funds, the county has created a Community Impact Survey which will collect data to effectively distribute funds to the areas in which people have suffered most. The feedback received will allow for the county to assess which issues need highest priority.

Information about ARPA and the decisions Lee County plans to make can be found at <https://www.lee.gov/ARPA>

**Impacts of COVID-19 on Households, Businesses and Non-profit Agencies**  
Complete the survey below to share your pandemic impacts and feedback for ARPA recovery and resilience planning. <https://survey123.arcgis.com/>

FEMA asks local governments to update the Local Mitigation Strategy planning document every five years to develop ways to mitigate the threats and risks that the community may face in the event of an emergency. Take a few minutes to share your thoughts on a short survey [here](#).



### November 2, 2021 Bonita Downtown – Imperial Crossing Public Meeting

The public is invited to attend a meeting to discuss the downtown Imperial Crossing redevelopment project. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Bonita Springs Public Library, located at 10560 Reynolds Street, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, an opportunity to participate virtually will be available. To register for virtual participation, please contact the individual below.

Jessica Harrelson, AICP

Planning Manager

Peninsula Engineering

Email: [jharrelson@pen-eng.com](mailto:jharrelson@pen-eng.com)

Phone: (239)403.6751



## **COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT:** **TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD**

In July of 2012, City Council determined that a Technology Advisory Board could assist Bonita Springs government by evaluating different fields of technological interest including Environmental Technology, Transportation Technology, Communications Technology, and the originally identified area of Information Technology. The Technology Advisory Board is a standing committee of the City Council, supporting advisory needs of the City Manager and city departments as required.

The Technology Advisory Board assists the City by recommending and evaluating the technologies that City Council deems to be of potential benefit to the City, it's residents, businesses and visitors. From time to time, the committee formulates recommendations to improve the City of Bonita Springs operations both internally for its workforce, and externally for its residents.

A primary objective of the Technology Advisory Board includes interacting on behalf of the City with various other agencies and groups in order to make recommendations as to the most effective uses of all available technologies for the benefit of internal government operations, as well as for the benefit of the community at large. When it became apparent that COVID-19 would be a longer-term challenge than anticipated, the committee devoted itself to researching resources to help residents with internet discounts, electrical and utilities assistance, and computer/technology solutions for children and students.



We are seeking volunteers to serve on various advisory boards and committees that have been established to assist the City Council on number of civic issues.

**GET INVOLVED**

# VOLUNTEER TODAY!

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE?

**WE WANT YOU**

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please submit your application to the City Clerk. For more information, please call (239)949-6262

More recently, the committee has been exploring the growing electric vehicle industry by researching the benefits of these vehicles and the logistics and requirements of charging stations. They are hoping to identify any incentives and/or barriers that may exist as part of their evaluation in the event our city is a good candidate for this technology.

## **VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD**

City Council has agreed to allow for the dedication of one of the city's bridges. At the September 2021 Veteran's Advisory Board meeting, the Committee discussed the dedication of one of the city's bridges to honor the men and women that have served in the United States Armed Forces. The committee proposed to dedicate the bridge located in downtown Bonita Springs on Old 41 Road as the "Veterans Memorial Bridge" with two road signs, placed at the north and south end of the bridge. Two metal plaques will be affixed to the north and south end of the bridge for pedestrians view.

The official announcement of the newly named bridge will take place at the Veterans Day event on November 11th at Riverside Park.





## Did You Know.....

**The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is a federally funded program that helps assist income-qualified families with home heating and cooling costs. The program manages costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs. LIHEAP can help families stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer through programs that reduce the risk of health and safety problems that arise from unsafe heating and cooling practices.

Lee County residents who are income qualified may apply for assistance from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) online or by calling 239-533-7900 to request a mailed application. For more information on the LIHEAP program, visit [leegov.com/dhs](http://leegov.com/dhs)



### Councilman Forbes Recognized as a Citizen Architect, Class of 2020

Mr. Forbes was one of seven people selected to receive this recognition. As a Citizen Architect, he engages local, state and federal issues, making time beyond self for meaningful contribution to the community and the human condition; and advocates for broader purposes of architecture through civic participation, writing and publishing by gaining appointment to boards and commissions, and through elective officials at all levels of government.

The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects commends Mr. Forbes and all Citizen Architects for their dedication and service to their community, the profession and our country with the hope that their good work will inspire others to serve in the civic realm.

**Pictured right: Councilman Forbes is recognized as Citizen Architect**



## Did You Know....continued



The Council has approved adopting a resolution to continue a bike route system created by the U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRS) through the Bonita Springs area. The USBRS is a developing national network of bicycle routes to facilitate bicycle travel on appropriate roads, paths, and highways and to provide connectivity between rural and urban communities. The USBRS currently encompasses 14,000 miles in 31 states and will be over 50,000 miles upon completion.

Adventure Cycling Association is currently proposing to extend U.S. Bike Route 15 by 496 miles from Madison, Florida through Southwest Florida (Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier Counties) and continuing into Miami. The section of the proposed alignment that is under the City's jurisdiction consists of a one-mile segment of Imperial Parkway from East Terry Street to Bonita Beach Road.

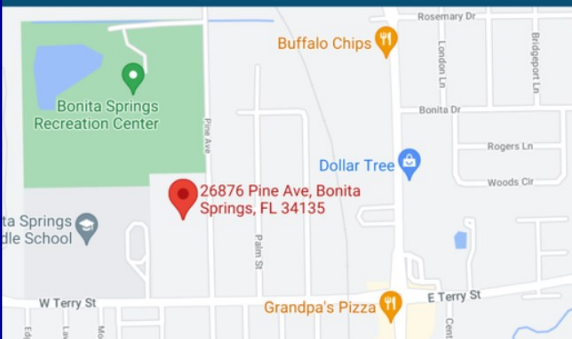
The proposed alignment of U.S. Bike Route 15 has received local input from City staff, the City of Bonita Springs Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee, and the Lee County MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC), all of whom agree that the proposed alignment is safest and allows visiting cyclists a means of existing access to and through the city. The proposed route to extend U.S. Bike Route 15 through Bonita Springs will provide a benefit to the City's residents and businesses with no associated costs to the city.

### Old Bonita Springs Library offering Monoclonal Antibody Treatments for COVID Patients

Monoclonal antibody treatments for the COVID-19 virus are being offered free of charge at the Old Bonita Springs Library. The site is located at 26876 Pine Avenue in Bonita Springs and is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To make an appointment, visit this [website](#) or call 239-533-4860. You can also call the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Support Line at 850-344-9637.

#### MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT (MAB) CLINIC

OLD Bonita Springs Public Library - 26876 Pine Ave,  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135



For more information about this treatment, visit [leegov.com/covid-19](http://leegov.com/covid-19).



# Chair YOGA



Wednesdays \*  
Nov 3-17  
9:15-10:15am

**\$21/3 Classes**

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 By October 25 at the Rec Center front desk.  
Call 239-992-2556 for more information.

**A Minimum of 8 people must be preregistered for class to start**



# Tai Chi & Qigong



Relax your body, Quiet your Mind, Smooth out your energy



<https://www.danlitaichi.com/>

Classes will be held at the  
Liles Hotel Plaza  
27300 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

Monday's \* Nov 1-29  
8:45-9:45

**5 classes /  
\$40**

### Do you need Tai Chi?

- Issues with Balance and Flexibility?
- Joint or back pain?
- Trouble sleeping?
- High Cholesterol and Blood Pressure?
- Tight Shoulders?
- Lack of Coordination, Strength and Stability of lower limbs?
- Memory Problems?



**Must pre-register at the Rec by Oct 29**

A Minimum of 8 people must be registered for class to begin.  
A maximum of 18 people per class.

For more information call the Bonita Rec Center 239-992-2556

**Classes at the Parks and Recreation Department—Call 239-992-2556 with any questions.**

# Yoga

**\$28**

Mondays \* November 1 thru 29

NO CLASS Nov 22

9:15-10:15am

**4 Classes**

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 your day.



Please pre-register by Oct . 25

**A MINIMUM of 6 people must be registered for class to start**

# STRETCH AND TONE

Mon, Wed & Fri  
8:00-9am am

Included with membership.  
\$6 for non members

Come join instructor Carmen Holt in Stretch and Tone class to have fun while challenging your body to improve and maintain muscle strength, cardio endurance, improved flexibility and balance .