



Bonita Springs  
Quarterly  
Winter 2023

# City News

*Small Town Charm. Big Bright Future.*

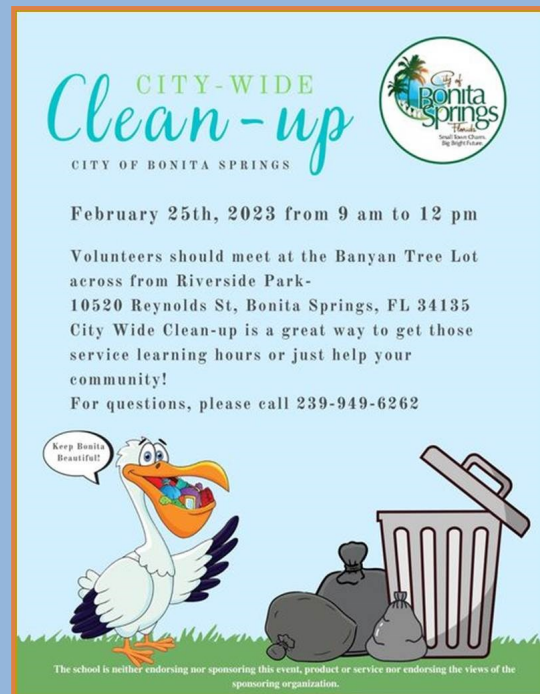


**Photo of a magnificent Royal Poinciana Tree which can be found on the grounds of the Pelican Landing Community Center at 24501 Walden Center Drive in Bonita Springs. This tree was awarded the most recent Tree of the Season Award by the City of Bonita Springs Tree Advisory Board. For more information regarding the contest, see page six.**



# 2023 Approved Special Events

Date	Event	Venue	Time
1/21/23	Movies in the Park – Lady and the Tramp	Riverside Park	Movie begins at dusk
1/22/23	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
1/24/23	Stardust Memories Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
1/29/23	Florida Lions Eye Clinic Car Show Fundraiser	10322 Pennsylvania Ave	11:00 am – 3:00 pm
2/7/23	Stardust Memories Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2/11/23 and 2/12/23	Center for the Arts Fine Art Festival	Riverside Park and surrounding area	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
2/16/23	Wonder Gardens Fundraiser	Wonder Gardens	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2/18/23	SW Florida Brew Crafters Event	Riverside Park	3:00 pm – 7:30 pm
2/19/23	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
2/21/23	Stardust Memories Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2/23/23	SWFL Inc. Community Expo	The Promenade	3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
2/25/23	GOATS of Bonita Local Business Showcase	Riverside Park	10:00 am – 3:00 pm
2/25/23	City Wide Clean Up	Banyan Tree Lot across from Riverside Park	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
3/4/23 and 3/5/23	Center for the Arts Fine Art Festival	Riverside Park and surrounding area	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
3/7/23	Stardust Memories Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
3/19/23	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
3/21/23	Stardust Memories Band	Riverside Park	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
4/23/23	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
5/14/23	Bonita Springs Concert Band	Riverside Park	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm





**A jolly good time was had by all attending the Holiday in the Park Event held on December 6th in Riverside Park.**

At the December 7, 2022 City Council meeting, a swearing-in ceremony was held for new and re-elected Councilors Jamie Bogacz, District 1; Laura Carr, District 3; and Nigel P. Fullick, District 5.



Above: Nigel P. Fullick, District 5, is sworn in by Honorable Judge Shannon McKee, Judicial Court Judge.



Above: Jamie Bogacz, District 1, is sworn in by Judge Shannon McKee.

Above: Laura Carr, District 3, is sworn in as re-elected Councilor of District 3.

Right: The newest City Council is pictured at their first City Council meeting together on December 7th.





# Community Spotlight



**Above and Left:** A FEMA Town Hall Meeting was held at the Presbyterian Church on November 15th. Speakers shared post hurricane resource information and answered attendee's questions.

**Below** Riverside Park was a spooky place to be on October 29th during the City of Bonita Springs Halloween Event. Children decorated pumpkins, a contortionist performed and the movie Hocus Pocus was shown during a Halloween Movies in the Park event.



## **COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT:** **TREE ADVISORY BOARD**

The Tree Advisory Board was founded by former Mayor Ben Nelson. The Tree Advisory Board realizes the importance of trees in our community, our world and our lives. The Board works to keep the City of Bonita Springs a Tree City USA. The Board also protects heritage trees such as live oak, banyan trees, and slash pines not only for history and longevity, but how they positively impact eco-systems. The Board reviews land development and zoning sites prior to redevelopment to ensure heritage trees are protected and preserved. They also work to inform the public about native plants that are healthy for our community and invasive exotics that should be avoided, as well as good pruning practices. The Board promotes Arbor Day and works with local schools to include it as part of their annual curriculum, so students are aware of the great value of trees. The Board recently added the Tree of the Season Award to help promote awareness of beautiful trees in our community.

The Tree Advisory Committee reminds us that, at this time of year, stores are full of Norfolk Island Pine trees as a holiday tree option. These trees are grown in a container and reasonably priced so many are sold. The committee wants you to know that while these trees are very nice in the container, planting them in your yard is not a good idea. The Norfolk Island Pine tree has very shallow roots and can become a dangerous projectile during wind storms and hurricanes. They are also a lightning magnet and costly to remove when they grow into a gangly larger tree. For more information, you can watch the Tree Advisory Committee's video [here](#).

The winning photo shown on the cover of this newsletter was submitted by past Councilperson Amy Quaremba, for the most recent Tree of the Season contest.

Amy's description read "The Royal Poinciana Tree pictured can be found on the grounds of the Pelican Landing Community Center at 24501 Walden Center Drive in Bonita Springs". It has been verified that the tree survived and is in good condition after Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole – just not blooming right now.



### **'Tree of the Season' award**

If you are as proud of our beautiful trees as we are and have a great idea for a specific tree in Bonita Springs to be recognized, please send in your nomination.

Bonita Springs is recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City.



### **The City of Bonita Springs encourages you to nominate**

- your tree
- your neighbor's tree
- a local business' tree
- or any beautiful tree for that matter



### **Please email a photo**

The tree, it's address, and your contact info to:

[clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org)



## Did You Know.....

On Wednesday, November 16th, the Outreach Advisory Committee presented a Certificate of Recognition to Deanine Singh for her health assistance to residents. Deanine is a nurse practitioner that recognized a need for health care for people without health care in Bonita Springs, Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres so she made it happen! She visits the Café of Life Center and provides health care for those in need of it. Deanine has been doing this for four years and she loves it.

**Left to Right in photo on right:** Mel Briceno, Juan Romero, Deanine Singh, Committee Chairman Altony Lee, Michael Robinson and Andres Paz.

There is a lot going on at the city's recreational facilities. Two major projects are underway.

Stantec Consulting Services, Action Sports Division, was retained to design a Skatepark and Pump track in the former Skate Park location in Community Park. Preliminary designs were completed and presented at two public workshops for public input.

Phase 2 of this project includes renovations of fields 1, 2 and 4 to meet Little League standards with complete turf replacement, grading and drainage improvements, modified and expanded for a new irrigation design, relocated bases, base lines, and pitcher's mounds, as well as upgraded scoreboards. Renovations will be done to all 4 fields and include new fencing and gate layouts, new backstops and safety netting, and the design and furnishing of dugout and scorekeeper areas.



**Above:** Riverside Park is lit up for a Holiday Movies in the Park showing of The Polar Express.



# 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 .

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**5:30-7:00pm**

**Feb 7 thru March 2**

**\$45 /8 classes**



Parents are welcome to register, and take class with their children.

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

For more information contact the front desk at the Bonita Springs Rec Center,  
26740 Pine Ave, Bonita Springs FL 34135  
239-992-2556

# KARATE

## City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center

Recreation Center hours

Monday—Thursday 6:00 am - 8:00 pm

Friday 6:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am—4:00 pm

Closed Sundays

The Recreation Center offers a variety of classes throughout the year. Membership is not required for pay classes. All pay classes are sessions of classes, payable at the time of registration. Please call 239-992-2556 for more information and fees.

More information can be found at [City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center](#).

For information regarding pool lap swim/class/lesson times call 239-947-1948 of see [Bonita Springs Community Pool](#).



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

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

**4classes /  
\$32**

**Tuesdays \* Feb 7-28 \***

**9:15-10:15**

Do you need Tai Chi?

Issues with Balance and Flexibility ?

Joint or back pain?

Trouble sleeping?

High Cholesterol or Blood Pressure?

Tight Shoulders ?

Lack of Coordination, Strength and Stability of lower limbs.?

Memory Problems?

Cold feet and hands ?

Do you feel relaxed and peaceful?



Please pre-register at the front desk

*A Minimum of 8 people must be pre-registered for class to start.*

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



# GENTLE Yoga



**Thursdays \* February 2-23**  
**9:45-10:45 am**

**\$28**  
**4/classes**

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

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, slower paced, well-supported and relaxing practice . Bring your mat.

Please Pre-register at the front desk.



With Carmen

**Wednesdays Feb 1-22**  
**9:15-10:00 am**

**\$28 /4 classes**



**Minimum of 6 People Pre-registered for class to start**  
**Please Pre-register a the front desk.**

# FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

## Fitness for Every Body

**Tuesdays' 8-9 am**  
**Beginning January 10, 2023**

The human body is made to move. ...

Train your body for activities performed in daily life.  
 Reduce risk of injury and increase your quality of life,  
 with exercises to promote:

- Balance
- Endurance
- Flexibility



Included with  
 membership  
 \$5 non-members

# ZUMBA

## FUSION

**Thursdays Feb 2 -23**  
**8:30-9:30 am**

Zumba a fun fitness class that  
 combines Latin & international  
 music with easy dance  
 moves. A great fun cardio  
 workout.



**\$30 /**  
**4 Classes**

Zumba Fusion combines a  
 Zumba workout class with a  
 cool down combining core  
 work, Toning & Stretching. No  
 equipment needed.

Instructor  
 Leigh Longstreth

# Council on the Move

**Left:** Mayor Steinmeyer speaks at the September 11th Patriot Day Ceremony at Riverside Park.



**Below:** Former Councilwoman Amy Quaremba and Council woman Laura Carr express support at the Patriot Day Service.



**Below:** Lee County Sheriff's Office detail in front of Patriot Day mural at Patriot Day Service.



**Above:** Mayor Steinmeyer speaks with President Biden at Fishermen's Wharf on October 5th. The President surveyed damage to Southwest Florida from a helicopter before meeting with local officials and residents in Punta Gorda.

**Right:** Mayor Steinmeyer participates in the Jaws vs. Claws football game at the Bonita Springs High School on Friday, November 4th.

