

# City of Bonita Springs 25th Anniversary

## About The 25th Year

---

The City of Bonita Springs is celebrating the city's 25th anniversary throughout 2024! Bonita Springs incorporated for the second time on December 31st, 1999. All year long, the city will be sharing short videos highlighting Bonita Springs history, hosting contests, and encouraging citizens to join the celebrations. The city events will be even more spectacular to celebrate the 25th anniversary.

## Ways to stay connected

- Follow us on Social Media
- Download our City App
- Visit our Website

***Check back often, as more information will be added as we move through 2024 in celebration of the city's twenty fifth anniversary.***



## 25th Year Webpage

---

<https://www.cityofbonitasprings.org/cms/Online.aspx?portalId=11726542&pageId=19783374>



## Events

---

- Holiday Stroll at Riverside Park – 10450 Reynolds St, Bonita Springs, FL 34135. The park will sparkle even more spectacularly this year, the free holiday stroll begins on December 1, 2023 – January 1, 2024. In addition to the enhanced holiday lights, there will be holiday-themed photo opportunities and holiday music playing throughout the park. The music will be scheduled from dusk–9pm nightly unless there is an event scheduled.
- The city will host its annual Holiday in the Park event on Tuesday, December 5th from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This event is free for the community.
- The City of Bonita Springs will be hosting a holiday-themed free Movies in the Park event on Friday, December 8th. The animated holiday movie, A Christmas Carol (2009) [PG], will be shown.

## Photo Contest

---

Contest Opens: April 2024

Contest Closes: November 2024

Send your photo, name, category, and phone number to [photocontest@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:photocontest@cityofbonitasprings.org)

Categories include:

- Natural Beauty
- Community Connections
- Architectural Wonders
- Waterfront Views
- Pets
- Bonita history
- Under 18–Showcasing Bonita

## Community Engagement

---



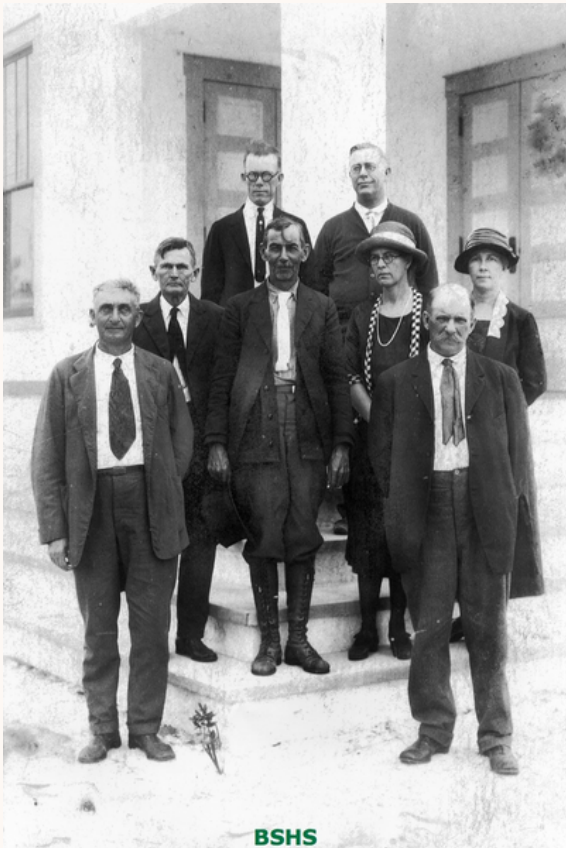
Local businesses are invited to use this 25th anniversary logo on their promotional signage, restaurant menus, retail specials and more to attract consumer interest.

**25th Anniversary Commemorative Logo Usage Policy:** The City of Bonita Springs 25th anniversary commemorative logo is owned by the City of Bonita Springs. In general, the use of the logo should be limited to Bonita Springs businesses and organizations and is recommended to be used for promotional and marketing purposes directly related to the local Bonita Springs businesses and community organizations.

The City of Bonita Springs strives to maintain the integrity of the logo and therefore restricts the use of the logo to promotion of supporting local businesses and community organizations in Bonita Springs. However, the City of Bonita Springs reserves the right to approve any alternative uses or variations of the logo. Any request to use the logo or a variation of such should be submitted to the Bonita Springs Communications Department via email at [communicationsdepartment@cityofbonitasprings.org](mailto:communicationsdepartment@cityofbonitasprings.org).

# Brief History of Bonita

Bonita Springs has long been inhabited. Archaeological discoveries place people here about 8,000 years ago and mound building was well underway by 4,000 years ago. By the time Ponce de Leon sailed along our beaches and first made contact with the Calusa Indians in 1513, this area was home to thousands. Native American village remains and mounds attest to their centuries of prosperity. However, within a couple of centuries, the once mighty Calusa Chiefdom was decimated by European diseases and slave trading.



In the 1870s, Army Corps of Engineers' surveyors mapped remote Southwest Florida and pitched camp along the upper Imperial River. After the crew left, the area and later, community, became known and recorded on maps as "Survey". The river became known as "Surveyor's Creek".

Over the years, Survey developed from a scattering of homesteaders into a village. In 1901, a Post Office was opened, and in 1910 the two-story, Eagle Hotel was in business catering to visitors attracted to the unspoiled area's bounty of hunting and fishing.



Later, developers decided that the name, "Survey", lacked sales appeal, so the town was renamed "Bonita Springs"; Indian Spring Branch became the "Oak River"; and Surveyor's Creek was renamed the "Imperial River".

