



The City of Bonita Springs will celebrate Independence Day with the annual Star Spangled Bonita event on Tuesday, July 4th at Riverside Park in Bonita Springs. The Party in the Park will begin at 4 p.m. and includes a kids' amusement area, the annual old-fashioned bed race, eating contests and live entertainment from local bands. The City of Bonita Springs will light up the night sky with a spectacular fireworks display and laser light show after dark.



Watermelon and ice cream eating contests will take place throughout the afternoon. The Liles Hotel and the Artists' Cottages will be open to the public.

The children's amusement area includes giant water slides, amusement rides, a slip-n-slide, train rides and more!

The old-fashioned bed race is sponsored by the Bonita Springs YMCA. For more information, call 239-221-7560.

The Bonita Springs 59th Annual July 4th Parade theme is Pride in our Past, Faith in our Future and will take place at **9:00am**. For more information please visit [www.local3444.org](http://www.local3444.org). The parade is sponsored by Bonita Springs Professional Firefighters Local 3444.

Admission to Star Spangled Bonita is free to the entire community. Food and beverages will be available for purchase with proceeds from the beverage sales going to the Bonita Springs Rotary. Please do not bring coolers or pets to the park.



## Inside this issue

BTV.....	2
Advisory Boards.....	3
Calendar .....	4
Watering .....	7
Schedule	
Hurricane .....	8
Awareness	
Parks & Rec .....	11
Council on the .....	13
Move	
Mayor's State of the City.....	14-16



BTV98 offers programming designed to inform and educate the citizens and visitors of Bonita Springs. Broadcasts of City meetings are scheduled to play throughout the week. Check [www.bonitativ.org](http://www.bonitativ.org) for up to date listings.



Lee County Mosquito Control District (LCMCD) is committed to improving the quality of life, facilitating outdoor activities and protecting the public health in our community by implementing environmentally sound practices that control mosquitoes throughout Lee County. To check for areas tentatively scheduled for adult mosquito treatment, please go to [www.lcmcd.com/services-programs/treatment-schedule/](http://www.lcmcd.com/services-programs/treatment-schedule/) or if you are experiencing issues with mosquitoes that you would like to report, please fill out the service request at [www.LCMCD.com](http://www.LCMCD.com). To contact LCMCD directly call (239) 694-2174 .

Visit their website to learn how you can take steps to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and community to protect your family from Zika and other mosquito-viral infections this summer.



## ***The City of Bonita Springs is seeking Volunteers to Serve on Various Advisory Boards and Committees***

The City of Bonita Springs is currently seeking applications from persons interested in volunteering on the Outreach Advisory Committee. The Outreach Committee will provide input to the City Council with a view towards fostering broad and inclusive participation by members of the Bonita Springs Community in civic affairs. Without limitation, such input by the Outreach Committee may include, at its discretion, suggestions concerning City programs, events and advisory committee participation.

The City of Bonita Springs also currently has openings on the following Advisory Boards: the Technology Advisory Board, the Street Light Advisory Board, the Special Events Committee and the Tree Advisory Board. 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 Special Events Committee helps promote and support the city events. The four major events they assist with are Celebrate Bonita, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, RiverFest and Holiday in the Park. They also provide recommendations to City Council on any changes to the special events ordinance. The committee is also called upon from time to time to advise Council for events.

The Street Light Advisory Board reviews citizens' requests for new lighting. The board also studies the city lighting map to investigate areas that need additional lighting, as well as street lights that are out.

The Tree Advisory Board realizes the importance of trees to 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 Technology Advisory Board researches various topics that relate to new technologies and their impact on the City of Bonita Springs. The committee is made up of volunteers with diverse and extensive real works experience a willingness to share ideas objectively and long term view of the functions of local government.

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, Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee, Local Planning Agency, Veterans Advisory Committee, and the Art in Public Places Board.

If you are interested in volunteering, please submit an application to: Debra Filipek, City Clerk, City of Bonita Springs, 9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135; Telephone: 239-949-6262, or visit our website at [www.cityofbonitasprings.org](http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org) for an application or further information.

**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.**



# **VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

*ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE?*



**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**

# Flag Day Event

June 14th  
5:00 PM

American Legion Post 303  
27678 Imperial Shores Blvd  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134  
Info: 992-2422

## Calendar

Wed.	6/7/2017	4:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Workshop - Budget Guidance to Staff
Wed.	6/7/2017	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	6/8/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Local Planning Agency Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	6/8/2017	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Veterans Committee Meeting
Mon.	6/12/2017	4:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	6/13/2017	5:15 P.M.	Rm # 118	Art in Public Places
Thur.	6/15/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Street Light Committee Meeting
Mon.	6/19/2017	4:00 P.M.	Liles Hotel	Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board
Mon.	6/19/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Technology Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	6/20/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Zoning Board Meeting - TELEvised LIVE
Wed.	6/21/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	6/29/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Historical Preservation Board Meeting
Wed.	7/5/2017	4:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council "Business Mix & Mingle"
Wed.	7/5/2017	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Fri.	7/7/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Budget Meeting
Mon.	7/10/2017	4:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	7/11/2017	5:15 P.M.	Rm # 118	Art in Public Places
Thur.	7/13/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Local Planning Agency Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	7/13/2017	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Veterans Committee Meeting
Mon.	7/17/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Zoning Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Mon.	7/17/2017	4:00 P.M.	Liles Hotel	Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board
Mon.	7/17/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Technology Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	7/18/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Zoning Board Meeting - TELEvised LIVE
Wed.	7/19/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	7/20/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Street Light Committee Meeting
Thur.	7/27/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Historical Preservation Board Meeting
Wed.	8/2/2017	4:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council "Business Mix & Mingle"
Wed.	8/2/2017	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	8/3/2017	1:00 PM	City Council Chambers	Code Enforcement Hearing
Tues.	8/8/2017	5:15 P.M.	Rm # 118	Art in Public Places
Thur.	8/10/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Local Planning Agency Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	8/10/2017	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Veterans Committee Meeting
Mon.	8/14/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Zoning Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Mon.	8/14/2017	4:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	8/15/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Zoning Board Meeting - TELEvised LIVE

# WE'VE CREATED A MONSTER ON OUR SHORES, BAYS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

Improper application of fertilizers such as using more than recommended amounts or applying the wrong formulas at certain times of the year, has come back to bite us. When combined with rains and run-off, these nutrients are redirected from our lawns and gardens and feed harmful aquatic algae that threatens our quality of life and our economy. We all need to do our part and ask you to do yours by using the resources provided. Please don't feed the monster! Fertilize Smart!



## Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins on May 1st

Artificial light on the beach can disorient both adult and hatchling sea turtles. The City of Bonita Springs sea turtle protection ordinance requires that sea turtle nesting habitat not be directly or indirectly illuminated by artificial lighting during the nesting season.

The sea turtle ordinance is in effect:  
May 1 through October 31 - from 9:00pm to 7:00am





The Bicycle Pedestrian Committee standing near a fish inspired bike rack that has been installed near the Liles Hotel in downtown Bonita Springs

## City of Bonita Springs to Participate in the Lake Okeechobee Regional Compact

Municipal officials from across a 19-county region encompassing the Northern Everglades Estuaries and the Lake Okeechobee Watershed voted unanimously to support the creation of the Lake Okeechobee Regional Compact.

Specifically, the compact is a commitment by local government leaders to work together across jurisdictional boundaries to create a comprehensive plan addressing a myriad of environmental and economic challenges associated with discharges from Lake Okeechobee. The compact also includes commitments to create a joint policy position with funding recommendations to the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature, as well as specific policy recommendations related to land management, storm water runoff, and septic to sewer programs.

Supported by the Florida League of Cities' Regional Compact Initiative, a meeting was held which focused on cities and counties sharing their individual challenges and local solutions, as well as learning from the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify opportunities where joint action would benefit the entire region. Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane has been engaged in the effort since the beginning.

Next steps for the officials who signed on to the Lake Okeechobee Regional Compact include taking the agreed upon compact to their individual cities for ratification and then identifying staff resources and expertise to serve on a regional planning team tasked with the creation of a joint strategic plan.

A few municipalities who also adopted Resolutions to participate include the City of Sanibel, the City of Stuart, the City of Okeechobee, and the Town of Fort Myers Beach.



# 3 Day A Week Watering Schedule

IF YOUR ADDRESS ENDS IN...

1,3,5,7,9

0,2,4,6,8

		1,3,5,7,9	0,2,4,6,8
<b>Monday</b>	Midnight until 9 a.m.		
	5 p.m. until Midnight		
<b>Tuesday</b>	Midnight until 9 a.m.		
	5 p.m. until Midnight		
<b>Wednesday</b>	Midnight until 9 a.m.		
	5 p.m. until Midnight		
<b>Thursday</b>	Midnight until 9 a.m.		
	5 p.m. until Midnight		
<b>Friday</b>	No watering		
	No watering		
<b>Saturday</b>	Midnight until 9 a.m.		
	5 p.m. until Midnight		
<b>Sunday</b>	Midnight until 9 a.m.		
	5 p.m. until Midnight		

## City of Bonita Springs Neighborhood Services

27300 Old 41 Rd., Bonita Springs FL 34135

Phone: 239-949-6257 Fax: 239-947-5145

[www.cityofbonitasprings.org](http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org)



# HURRICANE SEASON 2017

Bonita Springs is a tropical paradise, but along with Florida's year-round sunshine comes the risk of hurricanes. If you haven't created your family emergency plan for hurricanes, now is the time to get started.

Lee County Emergency Operations  
Go to [www.leeec.com](http://www.leeec.com) to prepare you and your family and get up to date watches, warnings and information.

**Hurricane preparedness can save lives. Be prepared!**

**FLOODS HAPPEN**  
are you ready?

Visit the link below for more information on flood protection:

[http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org/flood\\_protection\\_information/](http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org/flood_protection_information/)



# Hurricane Preparedness



The Bonita Springs Recreation Center held a Hurricane Preparedness Seminar on May 18, 2017.

Guest speakers included Assistant Chief Greg DeWitt and Natalie Hughes from Bonita Springs Fire Department, Jim Bjostad, Lee County Emergency Management, as well as NBC 2 News Meteorologist Kristen Kirchhaine.

The City of Bonita Springs Historic Preservation Board held a Historic Designation Ceremony on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. During the ceremony, the Historic Preservation Board and the Everglades Wonder Gardens unveiled the historic plaque that represents that the property is officially recognized as a designated historical resource of the City of Bonita Springs. The City currently has 23 designated properties.

The Everglades Wonder Gardens features local and exotic animals, plants, and related historical and educational exhibits. The site encompasses roughly 3½ acres of land adjacent to Old 41 Road. It was established in 1936 and was originally named the Bonita Springs Reptile Garden. Tourist attractions such as this were common throughout Florida in the 1930's and 1940's.





The City of Bonita Springs teamed up with the YMCA to build 8 new pickle ball courts. The ribbon cutting ceremony was May 15, 2017. The city helped pay for the courts with the requirement that everyone can use the courts, not just YMCA members. It will cost non-members \$4 to use. Courts also can be reserved.



## TAKE THE PLUNGE

The City of Bonita Springs has entered into an agreement creating a program with SKY Family YMCA for non-member utilization and operation of it's pool from May 27th to September 3rd 2017.

**Guest Fee:**

**\$4 per person**

**\$12 for adults with up to 4 children**

**2 adults & 4 children ages 17 & under max.**

**additional adults (18 & older) & children \$4 each**

For for information, Please  
call (239) 221-7560



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

### Celebrate National Park and Recreation Month by Exploring New Activities Together

July is the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Some may be surprised to discover that the City of Bonita Springs has twenty parks! A descriptive list of these parks can be found through the user-friendly 'Parks link' at [www.BonitaSpringsRecreation.org](http://www.BonitaSpringsRecreation.org). The Parks and Recreation link is also accessible on the City website at [www.cityofbonitasprings.org](http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org).

### Five Fun, Inexpensive Ways to Get Active Together This Summer:

#### Nature Treasure Hunt

If hiking in Florida seems strange, make it a treasure hunt. Create a 'key,' a list of things for your children to find with photocopies of trees, leaves, bird species, or animals. In the past year Bonita Springs added Cullum's Bonita Trail. It makes a perfect scenic walk spanning a little more than a mile into pristine nature. The Imperial River crosses it at several points. There is a kayak launch, several benches and plenty of beautiful spots to lay a blanket down for a picnic. Segments of the trail has natural shading allowing a pleasant experience for morning and afternoon walks even during summer months. Bug spray may be a good idea. The Bonita Trail starts at the Nature Place at 27601 Kent Road. Pick up a free copy of the Go WILD Coloring Book at City Hall, located 9101 Bonita Beach Rd. It has pictures of some of the native wildlife and plants you can find on the Bonita Trail. Children can color the pictures first, then see what they can find. Document their finds with a digital camera and give prizes!

#### Water Sports Downtown

One of the most unique features of downtown Bonita Springs is that it offers many outdoor recreational opportunities on the river. With the Imperial River running right through it, there are gorgeous scenic routes for kayaking, paddleboarding or canoeing. The Artist cottages are open to the public every Sunday. One of the Cottages offers kayak rentals. Spend a day on the water then dine in a lovely restaurant, all within walking distance!



#### Take your Furry Family Along

Taking the dog makes any outing seem more like an adventure. Depot Park is over the railroads tracks next to Riverside Park and bandshell. Located at 10375 Pennsylvania Ave., it is a beautiful tree canopied park that sits on the Imperial River. Depot Park is dog friendly and also has a natural playground for children. A tree climbing dog often visits Depot Park and lucky visitors will witness the dog thirty feet up in a tree!

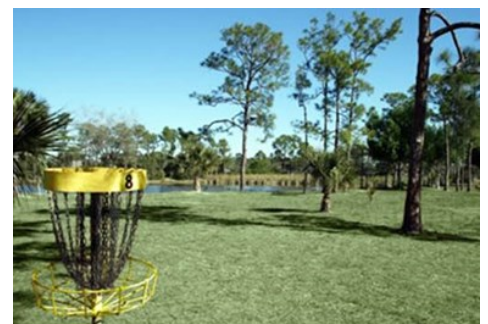
Those with a furry family will be excited to know about the Bonita Dog Park. The Dog Park has three fenced areas for large, medium and small dogs, a dog wash station, picnic pavilion, and an asphalt walking path. It is located on East Terry St. at the light of East Terry and Matheson Ave.

#### Get Healthy Together

Gym memberships for a whole family can be expensive, but a membership to the Recreational Center is an affordable way to work out. A year membership for Bonita residents is less than \$5 a month! This includes access to the Community Pool, where water aerobics classes and swim lessons are offered. The Recreation Center has fitness classes like stretch and tone and line dancing that are included in membership. The recreation center also offers inexpensive personal training. The new website has a calendar on the homepage that shows all the classes for that day and the upcoming week. The recreation center also hosts free events. There are free seminars, charity events and other activities. The popular annual Charity Fashion Show is coming up on August 17th at noon. These events can be found on the scrolling portion of the upgraded website's homepage.

#### Play Disc Golf Together

To play disc golf you just need to know how to throw a Frisbee. It uses the same rules as traditional golf. Bonita's scenic 18-hole course wraps around our 7 acre lake. This is an exciting game for the whole family and a great workout. The disc golf course has amateur tee pads for the beginner and pro pads for the more advanced player. There is no charge to play! Those wishing to play can go to the Recreation Center, located at 26740 Pine Avenue off of West Terry Street. The Recreation Center will provide a map and score card. People usually bring their own equipment, though discs are available for purchase.



For more information call the Bonita Springs Recreation Center at 239-992-2556 or visit the new website at [www.BonitaSpringsRecreation.org](http://www.BonitaSpringsRecreation.org).



# SPORTS CLUB SUMMER CAMP

Sports CLUB isn't just about sports. It's the number one choice of kids and parents! Your child will have 4-5 activities to choose from every 45 minutes. No prior skills required!

At the Bonita Springs Recreation Center  
For camp information please call (239) 784-7630



The Bonita Springs Community Pool is changing the pool hours for the summer of 2017. Starting May 30th until August 4th, open/lap swim pool hours are Monday through Friday 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Bonita Springs Community Pool is also offering summer swim lessons, with lessons for \$45 per child, per session. All sessions are scheduled Monday through Thursday with Fridays reserved as makeup days.



Please call 239-947-1948  
for more information.



# Council on the Move



Council attended Governor Scott's jobs announcement at HERC Rentals



Mayor Peter Simmons continued his outreach efforts with an interview with Telemundo at the Everglades Wonder Gardens historic designation ceremony



County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Estero Mayor Jim Boesch and Mayor Peter Simmons



Mayor Simmons and Council attended the Fiesta Event at Riverside Park

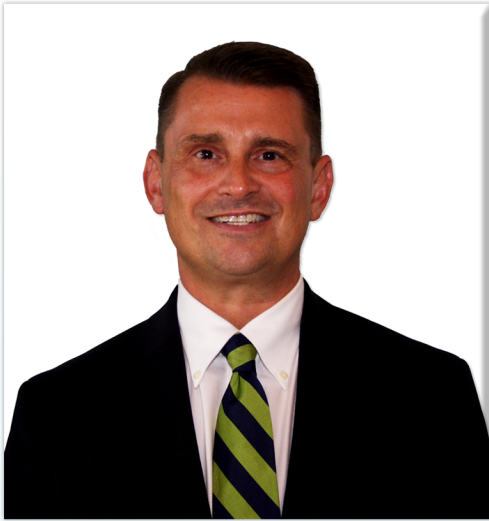


Councilman Steven Slachta, Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn and Mayor Peter Simmons attend the high school groundbreaking



City Council members meeting with Representative Matt Caldwell in Tallahassee for the Legislative Session.

## Mayor Simmons' State of the City Address



Pursuant to Section 18 of our City charter, I would like to address the State of our City.

First, I feel the need to let you know what an honor it is to serve this City. It is humbling to work with each and every one of these fine people. I'm honored to serve alongside my city colleagues and community partners. As you may know, I have served this City for over five years. Four years as your District Four Councilmember and over a year, as your Mayor.

Serving on Council is a privilege. And it demands a level of sacrifice. The reason we are able to do what we do on behalf of our residents, is because of our understanding families who support us. Any of my fellow Council members will tell you that we could not do this job without them. We thank you.

Along with the seven of us here on City Council, there is a team that makes it possible for Bonita Springs to be the City with a "Big Bright Future". We are pleased to recognize our Volunteer Advisory Boards, the members of the business community, our professional staff, and of course the citizens of Bonita Springs. Along with the seven of us on City Council, there is a team that makes it possible for Bonita Springs to provide the services and quality of life our residents deserve.

It is no surprise that our Great City is recognized nationally. Bonita Springs was listed as number two on the twenty Healthiest Small Towns in America list from the Health Science Degree Guide. Bonita Springs was also spotlighted in the Florida League of Cities, Quality Cities Magazine regarding its partnerships. Trip Advisor featured Bonita Springs as one of the twelve best places to travel for big savings - noting Bonita's unique community "vibe".

I've often said Bonita Springs is very beautiful and community based. The City's small town charm makes Bonita Springs a top contender when visitors are searching for a place to visit in South West Florida. Bonita Springs is a destination where visitors can feel at home while enjoying dining opportunities, shops, beautiful parks along the river and our beautiful beaches.

This Council has now been in office a little over a year. Soon after assuming office, Council developed a strategic plan for the City, identifying transportation as its top priority. Focus has been brought to bear on a wide-range of transportation related needs throughout Bonita Springs – from alleviating congestion at the Bonita Beach Rd/ US 41 intersection, to adoption of a city-wide bicycle/pedestrian plan to improve safety and encourage connectivity.

The Quadrant Plan, which calls for a network of new streets around the intersection of Beach Rd and US 41 to alleviate intersection congestion, has been adopted and is in the early stages of implementation. City Council has budgeted \$5 million for the implementation of the Quadrant Plan this fiscal year, to ensure that solutions to the congestion at this intersection can be initiated in the near future.

The Council also adopted the Bonita Beach Road Visioning Study. This study, designed to create a future Bonita Beach Road corridor that we can all be proud of for its enhanced beauty, connectivity and functionality, is a focus of our efforts as well.

Council also employed zero based budgeting techniques to generate a transparent Fiscal Year 2016/17 Budget that provides funding for the City's strategic priorities. The City ended fiscal year 2016 in a strong financial position, adding \$1.8 million to our available fund balance, bringing that total to \$4.7 million. This is in addition to the \$5.1 million maintained for disaster and city charter required operating reserves.

An historic joint meeting was held with the Estero and Bonita Springs elected officials to discuss the possibility of advancing the state-wide Bike/Pedestrian trail network, known as SunTrail, between our two cities. Consideration is being given to path alignments within Bonita, Estero and the Town of Ft. Myers Beach to provide for a North/South Regional Trail Network. Bonita Springs and Estero have also partnered to advocate for the purchase of conservation land known as Edison Farms by Lee County. This land is contiguous with conservation space east of the city's eastern border and north of Bonita's D.R.G.R area.



An initial multi-modal (Bike/Ped) project along West Terry Street has been approved and the request for qualifications have been received by prospective design firms. This project will serve to establish a “signature” look for future Bonita Springs pathways.

Bonita is seeing strong interest in new business locations, as well as expansion of existing businesses. The City has seen hundreds of business locations, expansions and relocations within the last year alone. Herc Rentals located their corporate headquarters to Bonita Springs along with its plans to provide an additional 122 well-paying new jobs. Bonita also welcomed numerous commercial entities including Culver’s, Caliber Collision and Siltech Manufacturing. Expansions include the water feature amenity at the Hyatt, Bourne 2 Dance, and Bonita Title. We are proud that we are a desirable location where businesses want to be!

A sample of residential projects includes two new residential towers under construction, Seaglass in Bonita Bay and Altaira in The Colony, significant housing developments elsewhere in Bonita include Bonita National, Bonita Beach Road Estates and Bonita Landings, and senior housing complexes: American House and Diamond Oaks.

To increase transparency, the city implemented a new web page that identifies the location of new development projects proposed in the City. This new tool keeps neighbors, and residents in general, better informed on proposed development activity throughout the City.

Bonita Springs is active with its own development activities including the downtown improvement project. The Imperial River bridge work is largely complete and visual access to the river enhances this strategic asset for the downtown. The final major phase will be the Terry Street roundabout. The entire project is still on track for early fall completion.

The City is also working proactively on “anchors” for the downtown. These include not only the attractive Riverside Park, but also the Everglades Wonder Gardens and Shangri La Resort and Spa. In addition, the Bonita Springs Lee County Library project is also in full swing with transfer of city property complete and initial plans presented for feedback. The library, just off Old 41, will be a major anchor and will enhance the vision contemplated by the Downtown Improvement Project. Ground breaking is scheduled for 2018.

The City has begun to formalize state-mandated changes to its comprehensive plan utilizing the services of FGCU. There have been multiple public workshops. The staff is also in the process of clarifying and simplifying land development codes and ensuring the codes’ compatibility with the comprehensive plan.

Water quality is extremely important to Bonita Springs, and a key statewide priority. Since taking office, the Bonita Springs City Council has shown its support of this important initiative. Council met with Representative Fitzenhagen and welcomed the Now or Neverglades Tour Bus Stop right here at City Hall. We attended a Save our Water Summit with hundreds of leaders and clean water advocates from across the State of Florida. I also proudly signed the Lake Okeechobee Regional Compact in partnership with Mayors from around the state.

Council chose preservation as a high priority funding request for the upcoming legislative session. The preservation focus is represented through the City’s Pine Lake Preserve Project. This project is to construct and operate Water Quantity and Quality Projects on Pine Lake Preserve, a Lee County Conservation 20/20 property. The City executed an agreement with Lee County that affords the City a unique and cost effective opportunity to treat storm water and meet its Imperial River total maximum daily load requirements, while at the same time allowing Lee County to meet its need to rehydrate the conservation lands. This project’s design is complete and it is currently in for State and Federal permitting.

Another creative water quality project is currently under construction in the City at the corner of Felts Avenue and Ragsdale Street. The Felts Ave Bio-Reactor, as the project is known, utilizes a bio-retention process for nitrogen removal from stormwater runoff. The pilot project is a first of its kind in the State of Florida. It is a low impact development technique that requires very little “above ground” disturbance, and allows for an alternate use of land above the project. In the case of the Felts Ave project, a 100 stall parking lot is being constructed. This obviously will help with needed parking in our downtown.

A Beach Access study is underway for increased beach access opportunities, including parking at Big Hickory Island. In other recreation improvements, the Mayhood and Community parks will soon have updated children’s playground equipment while the Skate Park’s wood structures are scheduled for replacement with a concrete facility.



A private/public partnership with the Bonita Springs YMCA was initiated to provide additional recreation opportunities including use by city residents at the YMCA's fitness center during season and resident access to pickleball courts under construction with city assisted funding. We also entered into an agreement to allow usage of the YMCA's pool. These are all economical means to both alleviate seasonal peak usage pressures and provide new recreation offerings.

Because history is important to our City, the Council approved the relocation of the historic Dixie Moon structure to an Old 41 city owned property adjacent to Riverside Park. We also approved a resolution for a 90-day demolition delay for properties considered "recognized historic resources" with appropriate protection for property owners. We renovated the historic water tower near the Liles Hotel and continue to work with the Historical Society on the renovation of the McSwain property on Old 41.

The City continues working with the Arts in Public Places Board for beautification of the U.S. 41 Imperial Bridge and to provide signature pieces on I-75 to beautify and create more significant features in our City.

We are extremely proud and excited to have been a part in finally getting a new high school! The Bonita Springs High School ground breaking occurred on March 14th and is on track for completion in 2018 for a state of the art education facility and academic model. There are plans to partner with Florida Gulf Coast University for dual enrollment opportunities and offering an advanced placement international diploma program. A partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will enable students to earn college credit in flying drones, becoming a private pilot or adding vocational skills. The first Air Force JROTC in Southwest Florida will be part of Bonita Springs high school's programming. Go Bull Sharks!

The City worked with approximately sixty-five organizations to host special events in Bonita Springs. Events like the Bonita Blues Festival and the Taste of Bonita benefit local civic organizations that give back to our community. Council attended a variety of City events including Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Patriots Day, Holiday in the Park, Celebrate Bonita, and the Fourth of July event. These events help to brand Bonita Springs as a vibrant city with small town charm. As these events are scheduled, the City welcomes added participation from all neighborhoods.

Towards the end of adding participation from all our residents, the Council established an outreach committee to more fully address the integration of all neighborhoods into the fabric of our city. I personally have led this initiative to further develop partnerships with our Hispanic community. Working with Telemundo and Media Vista, we continue to expand outreach. I am proud to announce that the City was a co-sponsor of the inaugural Fiesta Event which continues to further celebrate the Hispanic heritage of our community.

In closing, I am proud to proclaim that the State of the City of Bonita Springs is strong. We continue to move steadily forward towards OUR BIG BRIGHT FUTURE. Thank you to each and every one of you, who have had a hand in this positive growth. I can't wait to see what we can do together in the coming years!

**Mayor Peter Simmons**  
**City of Bonita Springs**



## ***Project Update***

Construction on the Bonita Springs Downtown Improvements Project is complete from the Imperial River Bridge to Tennessee Street. Currently crews are working on constructing the roundabout at Old 41 Road and Terry Street. The signal was removed and the intersection is set up in a roundabout configuration. This work will be complete this fall and the project will be finished!

For additional information about the project contact the project's Public Information Officer, Kris Cella, Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc. by phone 239-337-1071 or email [kcella@cella.cc](mailto:kcella@cella.cc) or visit the project website [www.BonitaSpringsDowntownImprovements.com](http://www.BonitaSpringsDowntownImprovements.com).



If you have any questions or concerns during construction, please contact the project public information consultant

**Kris Cella, Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc.**

**1631 Hendry Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901**

**(239) 337-1071, [kcella@cella.cc](mailto:kcella@cella.cc)**

**Visit the project website at**

**[www.BonitaSpringsDowntownImprovements.com](http://www.BonitaSpringsDowntownImprovements.com)**