

City News



HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

Tuesday, December 6th / 4:30 - 8:30 pm
Riverside Park, Bonita Springs

Enjoy the sounds of the season!
A blizzard in the Park with a giant snow slide, snow pile,
train rides, free cookies and cider!
Artist cottages and Historical Society will be open.

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Don't miss Santa and
Mrs. Claus arrive by horse
and carriage!



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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 for up to date listings.

- Beautiful Imperial River -





Council on the Move

Estero Councilman Ribble, Bonita Springs Councilman Fred Forbes, Mayor Simmons, Councilwoman Quaremba and Commissioner Kiker attended a Save Our Water Summit with hundreds of leaders and clean water advocates from around the state of Florida.



Council joined Representative Heather Fitzenhagen to show support for the Now or Neverglades Declaration.



Now or Neverglades Tour Bus stop at City Hall.



Mayor Simmons was proud to sign the Lake Okeechobee Regional Compact with Mayor Kevin Ruane, Mayor Randy Henderson, Mayor Marni Sawicki and others from around the state.

- **Bonita Spring Job Cash Incentive Program for Targeted Industries:**
\$1,500.00 per job created above the Lee County Average Wage.*
\$1,000.00 per job at 90%-100% of the Lee County Average Wage.*

*Wage based on the Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA (Lee) Wage.
2014 Average Annual Wage: \$37,550 Hourly: \$18.05

The program would be a reimbursement based on job creation within a time limit and requires a minimum of five (5) new jobs within the first three (3) years. Cash incentive not to exceed the first 20 jobs.

- **Bonita Springs Commercial Rent Subsidy Program:**
City may offer up to 25% rent subsidy for one year for targeted businesses citywide, and any new business located in Downtown Bonita (i.e., restaurant or boutique). Program requires a minimum two (2) year lease with subsidy beginning in the second year. Rent subsidy will not exceed \$5,000.00 per business with a required minimum of five (5) new jobs.
- **Bonita Springs Municipal Rebates for Allowable Fees:**
City may rebate allowable municipal fees collected for a targeted industry with the creation of a minimum of five (5) new jobs at the Lee County Average Annual Wage. Allowable fees may include impact fees, planning and zoning fees, and others deemed permissible by the City Attorney. Rebate not to exceed \$2,000.00 per year per business or to exceed three (3) years.
- **Bonita Springs Beautification and Landscaping Matching Grant:**
Qualifying applicants are existing, expanding and relocating businesses within the City limits. City will fund 80% of the project with a match of 20% by the owner in Downtown Bonita. Projects located outside of the downtown may be funded at 50% along designated corridors. (Bonita Beach Road, US 41 Road, Old 41 Road, Imperial Parkway, and Terry Street). Grant not to exceed \$5,000.00 in matching funds per project.
- **Downtown Bonita Springs Façade Matching Grant:**
Qualifying applicants are existing, expanding and relocating businesses within Downtown Bonita. City will fund 80% of the project with a match of 20% by the owner. Not to exceed \$10,000.00 in City matching funds per project. Work must comply with the architectural guidelines and color palette established for downtown.



Councilman Forbes, Mayor Simmons and Governor Scott attended the Governor's Job Announcement at Herc.

Since the Governor last visited Bonita Springs near the end of Fiscal Year 2014:

All Businesses (New, Expansion, Relocation)

- **+927,046 Sq. Ft. (132% increase since FY14)**
- **+1,560 Employees (107% increase since FY14)**

New Businesses Only

- **+653,640 Sq. Ft. (142% increase since FY14)**
- **+1,145 Employees (122% increase since FY14)**

Targeted Industries:
Internet Technology and Related Services
Life Sciences
Aviation
Corporate Headquarters
Back Office and Shared Services
Clean Manufacturing and Green Technologies
Attractions
Eco Tourism

- **Bonita Springs Historic Preservation Grant:**
Qualifying properties must be designated within the Bonita Springs Register of Historic Places. City will fund 80% of the project with a match of 20% by the owner. Not to exceed \$10,000.00 in City matching funds per project. Work must comply with the architectural guidelines and color palette established for downtown and required historic preservation guidelines (i.e. certificate of appropriateness).
- **Bonita Springs Code Enforcement Lien Mitigation Program:**
City can mitigate code enforcement liens on commercial properties when the nuisance has been abated and the property is changing in ownership, and there is a change from vacant to occupied for commercial use.
- **Bonita Springs Priority Permitting Process:**
Applications for targeted businesses will be placed at the "front of the line" for local permits and receive expedited processing. City will dedicate specific resources to proactively mitigate impediments to assist in meeting specific project deadlines. This includes full access to the Business Advocate.
- **Incentive Award Program:**
Individuals who provide a substantial lead to the City and/or EDC that directly results in the location of a targeted business within the City limits or a business within Downtown Bonita may be recognized in an award program which could include a cash incentive. The targeted business must create a minimum of five (5) new jobs within the first year. Total cash incentive not to exceed \$1,500.00 per project. Individuals may receive 50% of the incentive when the business opens and the remaining when the five (5) jobs are created or one year, whichever occurs first. City may prorate the incentive after one year if not all five (5) jobs are created.
- **Community Partners Incentives:**
City will work with the EDC, Chamber, local media, Bonita Springs Fire and Rescue and Lee County Sheriff's Office to help customize incentives with other agencies into one package for the customer.
- **Bonita Springs Utilities Aid in New Construction (ANC) Fee Credits for Economic Development:**
The City has partnered with Bonita Springs Utilities (BSU) to provide an Aid in New Construction (ANC) fee credits program. The program permits identified economic development projects to receive a reduction in their connection costs to BSU. This would be a credit to a one-time charge for plant capacity (including water storage) utilization by developers or landowners for plant capacity who receive water, wastewater or irrigation water service from the utility.



The First Responders Warriors Cup was held Friday, November 11, 2016 in Bonita Springs at 26740 Pine Avenue on the Veterans Field. They played against teams from the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District and the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

The Louisville Slugger Warriors Softball Team, represents some of our nation's bravest and most determined heroes, soldiers and veterans. These young extremely athletic men sustained severe injuries resulting in amputation while serving in the military/war. Through extensive rehabilitation, they have become competitive athletes again. Their armor now includes prosthetic legs and arms, along with extreme perseverance and attitude.



Bonita Springs Veterans Advisory Committee Brick Program for the Veterans Memorial Walkway at Riverside Park

Bricks are \$80 each and are available to active duty service members, living or deceased veterans, or veterans organizations (VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, etc.).

Discharge papers or proof of active duty status must accompany the check.

For more information, please call (239) 949-6262



This Veterans Day service included very special guest speaker, Curt Watson, an 11-1/2 year veteran of the US Navy. He retired from active duty in 1987 as a Lieutenant Commander. His last duty station prior to discharge was Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida.

He entered the Navy in 1975 and earned his wings as a Naval Aviator in 1977. During his time with the Navy, Commander Watson acquired over 4,400 hours of flight time, made over 320 carrier landings of which over 100 were in night conditions, during deployments in the West Pacific and Indian Ocean aboard both the USS Lexington and the USS Constellation.

A 1982 graduate of the Navy's TOPGUN fighter pilot school, Commander Watson was selected to join the Navy's world renowned precision flying team, the Blue Angels in 1983 where he flew in numerous flight formations including Lead Solo. He spent four years with the unit performing in over 70 shows annually behind the controls of the Angel's blue and gold A-4 Skyhawks.



The service also included remarks from other veterans and officials, musical tributes, Posting of the Colors, a fly-over, and release of the doves, 21-gun salute, and other traditional commemorations. The service was organized by the all-volunteer City of Bonita Springs Veterans Advisory Committee.

"Veteran's Day is the time for Americans to reconnect with their history and core values by honoring those who gave their lives, those who are disabled and those who are still serving our great country. Veteran's Day is when we honor the ideals and values our soldiers stood for and died defending," said Steven Slachta.

PARKS & RECREATION

CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS

Step outside and enjoy the natural beauty Bonita Springs offers.



Visit Bonita Springs Parks and Recreation today!
www.BonitaSpringsParks.org / (239) 992-2556

2016 December						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			01 8-9P Open Gym 3-5P Sports Club 5:45-7P Sports Club Basketball 6:30-7:30P Yogalates (1 of 4) 7-8P Open Gym	02 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-12P Senior Basketball 11-12p Women on Weights (1 of 4) 12-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 3-5P Sports Club 5-7P Pickleball 7-8P Open Gym	03 8-12P Sports Club Basketball 1-3P Pickleball 3-8P Open Gym	04 CLOSED
05 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-11:30A Line Dancing 11:30-1P Open Gym 1-3P Pickleball 3-5P Sports Club 5-6P Youth Karate (8 of 8) 6-7P Adult Karate (8 of 8) 7-8P Open Gym	06 8-9P Open Gym 10-11A Women on Weights (2 of 4) 10-11A Gentle Hatha Yoga (104) 3-5P Sports Club 4-6P Youth Tennis (1 of 4) 6-6:45P Calorie Crusher 7-8P Open Gym	07 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 1-3P Mah-Jong 3-5P Sports Club 5-6P Youth Karate (1 of 8) 6-7P Adult Karate (1 of 8) 7-8P Open Gym	08 8-9P Open Gym 9-10A Adult Tennis (1 of 4) 3-5P Sports Club 5:45-7P Sports Club Basketball 6:30-7:30P Yogalates (2 of 4) 7-8P Open Gym	09 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-12P Senior Basketball 11-12p Women on Weights (2 of 4) 12-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 3-5P Sports Club 5-7P Pickleball 7-8P Open Gym	10 8-12P Sports Club Basketball 1-3P Pickleball 3-8P Open Gym	11 CLOSED
12 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-11:30A Line Dancing 11:30-1P Open Gym 1-3P Pickleball 1-2P Chair Yoga/Arthritis (1 of 2) 3-5P Sports Club 5-6P Youth Karate (2 of 8) 6-7P Adult Karate (2 of 8) 7-8P Open Gym	13 8-9P Open Gym 10-11A Women on Weights (4 of 4) 10-11A Gentle Hatha Yoga (204) 3-5P Sports Club 4-6P Youth Tennis (2 of 4) 6-6:45P Calorie Crusher 7-8P Open Gym	14 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 1-3P Mah-Jong 3-5P Sports Club 5-6P Youth Karate (3 of 8) 6-7P Adult Karate (3 of 8) 7-8P Open Gym	15 8-9P Open Gym 9-10A Adult Tennis (2 of 4) 3-5P Sports Club 5:45-7P Sports Club Basketball 6:30-7:30P Yogalates (3 of 4) 7-8P Open Gym	16 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-12P Senior Basketball 12-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 3-5P Sports Club 5-7P Pickleball 7-8P Open Gym	17 8-12P Sports Club Basketball 1-3P Pickleball 3-8P Open Gym	18 CLOSED
19 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-11:30A Line Dancing 11:30-1P Open Gym 1-3P Pickleball 1-2P Chair Yoga/Arthritis (2 of 2) 3-5P Sports Club 5-6P Youth Karate (4 of 8) 6-7P Adult Karate (4 of 8) 7-8P Open Gym	20 EARLY RELEASE DAY 12-630P Sports Club 8-9P Open Gym 10-11A Gentle Hatha Yoga (204) 4-6P Youth Tennis (3 of 4) 6-6:45P Calorie Crusher 6:30-7:30P Yogalates (4 of 4) 7-8P Open Gym	21 EARLY RELEASE DAY 12-630P Sports Club 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 1-3P Mah-Jong 7-8P Open Gym	22 EARLY RELEASE DAY 12-630P Sports Club 8-9P Open Gym 9-10A Adult Tennis (3 of 4) 5:45-7P Sports Club Basketball 7-8P Open Gym	23 NO SCHOOL DAY 7-630P Sports Club 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-12P Senior Basketball 12-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 5-7P Pickleball 7-8P Open Gym	24 NO SCHOOL DAY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	25 Merry Christmas Happy New Year!
26 NO SCHOOL DAY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	27 NO SCHOOL DAY 7-630P Sports Club 8-10A Open Gym 10-11A Gentle Hatha Yoga (404) 11-8P Open Gym 4-6P Youth Tennis (4 of 4)	28 NO SCHOOL DAY 7-630P Sports Club 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 1-3P Mah-Jong 7-8P Open Gym SKATE NIGHT EVENT 5pm - 10pm	29 NO SCHOOL DAY 7-630P Sports Club 8-9P Open Gym 9-10A Adult Tennis (4 of 4) 7-8P Open Gym	30 NO SCHOOL DAY 7-630P Sports Club 8-9A Stretch & Tone 10-12P Senior Basketball 12-1P Open Gym 1-3P Table Tennis 5-7P Pickleball 7-8P Open Gym	31 NO SCHOOL DAY 8-12P Sports Club Basketball 1-3P Pickleball 3-8P Open Gym RECREATION CENTER CLOSES @ 4pm	
		Notes: NEW PICKLEBALL HOURS on SATURDAYS!! Special Event for the Month- SKATE NIGHT Dec. 28th! Open Gym Times in RED Visit our Bulletin Board or ask the Front Desk with any questions.				



10 & Under Tennis Lessons

\$20.00 for 4 Weeks

Tuesdays

December 6—27



Ages 5-6 4 pm—4:45 pm

Ages 7-10 5 pm—6 pm

City of Bonita Springs Tennis Courts

- Bring water to class each week
- Wear a cap and sunscreen
- Register at:
City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center
- For more information, please call
239-992-2556



Adult Tennis Lessons

Beginner—Intermediate

Fee: \$40.00 for 4 Weeks

Thursdays

9 am—10 am

December 8—29

Tune up your tennis game this winter! The fundamentals of the game will be emphasized in a fun and upbeat tempo. Classes will be held at the City of Bonita Springs - Tennis Courts.

For more information and to register, please contact:

City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center

26740 Pine Avenue

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Telephone: 239-992-2556

Karate

Mondays & Wednesdays

Youth 5 pm—6pm Adult 6 pm—7 pm



Class Fee: \$45

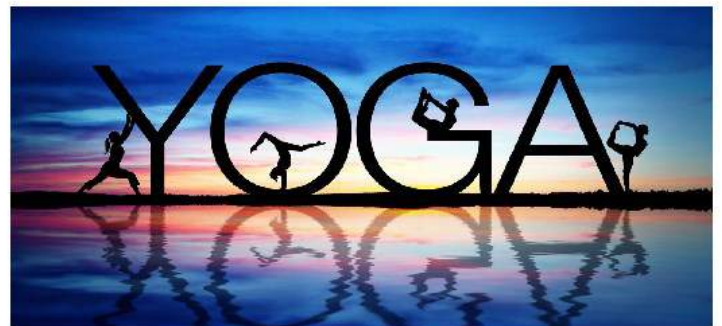
Eight Classes: December 7, 12, 14, 19 January 4, 9, 11, 18

No Karate on Monday, January 16, 2017

Instructor: Dave Kelley

Classes held at the City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center

For more information and to register, please call 239-992-2556



Gentle style Hatha Yoga led by Ann Marina, class includes basic yoga poses, breathing and relaxation, and stretching.

Deeply engage your breath, build strength, body awareness, and flexibility.

All levels welcome.

\$28.00 for 4 weeks

Tuesdays

10 am—11 am

December 6—27, 2016

Classes held at the City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center.

For more information and to register,

City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center

Telephone: 239-992-2556

City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center

**Tuesdays and Thursdays
January 3 – 26, 8 AM – 9 AM**

ZUMBA

Join Leigh Longstreth on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for Zumba! Eight classes for \$48.

Where: City of Bonita Springs Recreation Center

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 3 – 26, 8 AM – 9 AM

Fee: **\$48**



Community Outreach

The Mayor attended the grand opening at Univision-D'Latinos to welcome them to Bonita Springs. Mayor Simmons continues to further outreach to our Hispanic Community. One of Council's priorities is Government Transparency, to increase outreach and accessibility to citizens.



The Mayor interviewed with Telemundo Reporter Marilyn Ponce who covered Veterans Day. Telemundo also promoted Bonita Springs Recreation Center's upcoming classes.



Calendar

Wed.	12/7/2016	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	12/8/2016	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Local Planning Agency Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Mon.	12/12/2016	4:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	12/13/2016	5:15 P.M.	Rm # 118	Art in Public Places
Thur.	12/15/2016	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Street Light Committee Meeting
Mon.	12/19/2016	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Zoning Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Mon.	12/19/2016	4:00 P.M.	Liles Hotel	Bicycle Pedestrian Meeting
Wed.	12/21/2016	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Workshop - Bike Mobility TELEvised LIVE
Mon.	12/26/2016	ALL DAY	City Hall Closed	City Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas Day
Thur.	12/29/2016	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Historical Preservation Board Meeting
Mon.	1/2/2017	ALL DAY	City Hall Closed	City Hall Closed in Observance of New Years Day
Wed.	1/4/2017	4:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Workshop TELEvised LIVE
Wed.	1/4/2017	5:30 P.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	1/5/2017	1:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers	Code Enforcement Hearing
Mon.	1/9/2017	4:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Tree Advisory Board Meeting
Tues.	1/10/2017	5:15 P.M.	Rm # 118	Art in Public Places
Thur.	1/12/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Local Planning Agency Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Mon.	1/16/2017	ALL DAY	City Hall Closed	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tues.	1/17/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	Zoning Board Meeting - TELEvised LIVE
Wed.	1/18/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Thur.	1/19/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Street Light Committee Meeting
Mon.	1/23/2017	9:00 A.M.	City Council Chambers	City Council Zoning Meeting TELEvised LIVE
Mon.	1/23/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Technology Advisory Board Meeting
Thur.	1/26/2017	5:30 P.M.	Rm # 118	Historical Preservation Board Meeting

Keeping Your Pets Safe Around Cane Toads



Invasive cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) are a nonnative species that can be deadly to curious pets.

A Poisonous Problem

If your pet bites or swallows a cane toad, they can become sick and die in as little as 15 minutes without proper treatment. These toads release a milky toxin that sticks in your pet's mouth. Symptoms may include frantic or disoriented behavior, brick red gums, seizures, and foaming at the mouth.

Treatment

1. Wash toxins forward out of mouth using a hose for 10 minutes being careful not to direct water down the throat.
2. Wipe gums/tongue with dish towel to remove toxins.
3. Get your pet to the vet!

Prevention: Better than Treatment

Most encounters happen in backyards. These practices can help keep your pet safer.

Mow & Trim: Keep grass short so you can spot cane toads. Bring underside of shrubs off the ground to eliminate hiding places for these toxic toads.

Clean: Mess attracts pests. Outdoor food and water bowls for pets, brush piles, and other clutter can attract toads – and their prey, which in turn attracts toads.

Watch: Since cane toads are nocturnal, watch your pets while outside at night when most encounters happen. Don't allow your pets to nose around in bushes while on walks.

www.floridainvasives.org/southwest

Tallahassee Only. Contact: Community Justice 569/7621989





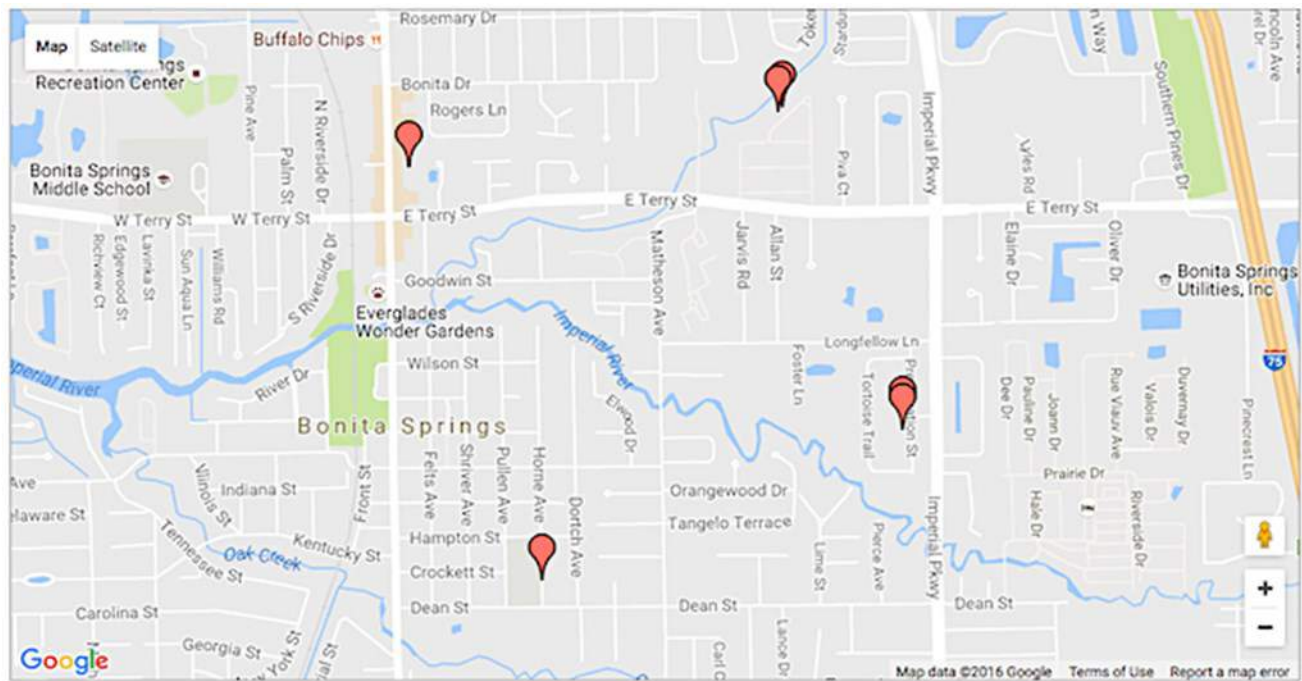
The City of Bonita Springs Community Development Department now offers the ability to search for new projects coming to your community.

Features include the following:

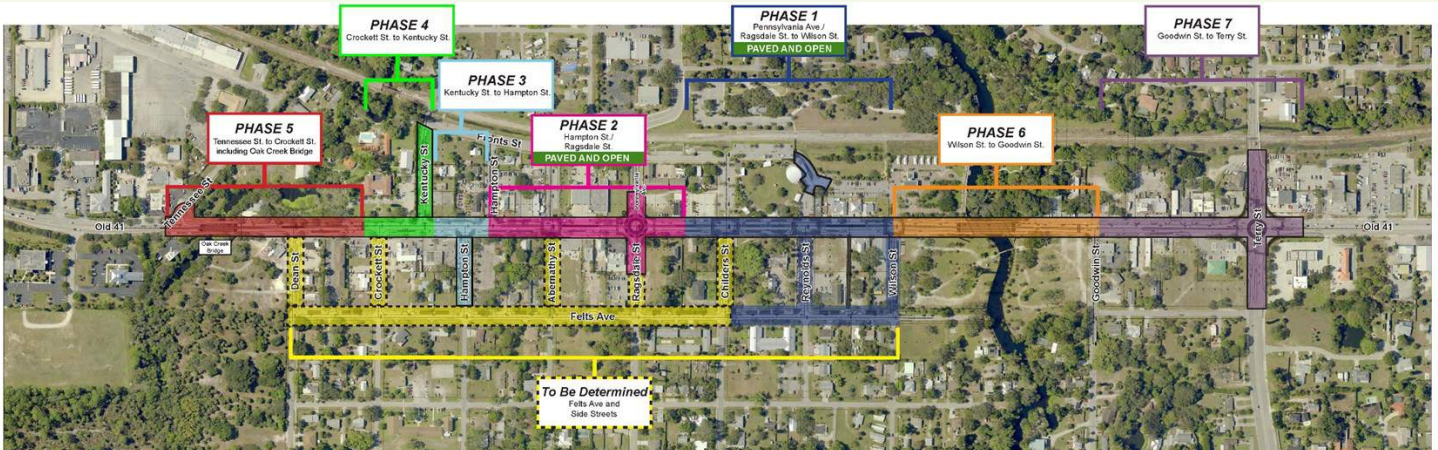
- Search by district and/or case type
- View full description of project and current status
- View location map of proposed project
- View files submitted, and more ...

Visit
www.cityofbonitaspringscd.org
 to learn more!

Sample Screenshot of Projects Report



District	Case Type	Status - Click for Details	Description
District 2	Administrative Decision	Pending Applicant Documentation	STIRNS RESIDENCE: This application is submitted for an administrative review of the applicant's shed encroaching into an easement.
District 2	Administrative Decision	Pending Applicant Documentation	MORT RESIDENCE: This is an application for an Administrative easement encroachment to allow the applicant's shed to encroach into an easement.
District 2	Administrative Decision	Review in Progress	26812 SPANISH GARDENS DRIVE: This Administrative Action Request application is submitted with Supplement D for a Minimum Use Determination (M.U.D.); for the proposed construction of a single family home at this site.



07/18/2016

*Subject to Change

Project Update

Old 41 Road and Felts Avenue are nearly complete from Wilson Street to Crockett Street. Wilson, Reynolds, Childers, Ragsdale, Abernathy, Hampton, and Crockett Streets are complete.

Old 41 Road is open from Tennessee Street to Terry Street. From Tennessee Street to Dean Street, the roadway is one lane of traffic controlled by temporary signals while crews work on the east side of the road. Dean Street is currently under construction from Old 41 Road to Felts Avenue. This work is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The reconstruction of the Imperial River Bridge continues. The bridge has one lane of traffic controlled by temporary traffic signals at Wilson Street and the Wonder Gardens. This work is expected to be complete in mid-February.

Works begins January 2017 on Old 41 Road from the Imperial River Bridge to south of Terry Street.

Drivers should be aware of construction vehicles and equipment entering and exiting all roadways in the project area. The \$18.6 million project is expected to be complete in fall 2017.



Pennsylvania Avenue/Ragsdale Street Roundabout - Before



Pennsylvania Avenue/Ragsdale Street Roundabout - After

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

Visit the project website at

www.BonitaSpringsDowntownImprovements.com