

## Update: Downtown Bonita Springs, Florida

Many residents and visitors who are new to southwest Florida, may not realize that the downtown area from Bonita Beach Rd. north to about Rosemary Drive had, at one time, fallen into a state of urban decay. A great deal of vision and a lot of positive changes have taken place in the last few decades. Years ago, Mayor Ben Nelson was a catalyst with a vision to have the Bonita Springs downtown area revitalized. It was a massive undertaking and proven to be well worth the investment. To paraphrase from an event that Chris remembers him speaking at, a city is only as strong as its weakest neighborhood.

One of the most noticeable components of the revitalization started with the city's acquisition of Bamboo Village, a blighted mobile home community on the Imperial River. The city purchased the land, but the land has sat idle since the housing crisis. It's currently going through channels of being developed with the Barron Collier Corporation. There have been community workshops regarding the development. The next workshop will be in March 2022 at a date and time to be determined. The last workshop was held at the new downtown public library.

The downtown redevelopment has paved the way for anchor destinations such as the public library, Everglades Wonder Gardens and Riverside Park system to flourish. With time, small businesses started sprouting up around them. There are now a variety of coffee shops, restaurants, ice cream shops, a brewery, cocktail lounge, bike shop, bait shop, kayak outfitter and a new food truck park coming soon. Downtown Bonita has become a destination for fun-things-to-do and great dining options. It also has great walkability and is bustling with people.

Riverside Park is one of the crown jewels of downtown Bonita Springs. It is decorated like a story book for Christmas and through the winter season it is the location of many concerts, art festivals and various ceremonies. It is flanked by the little-known Depot Park tucked away on the other side of the railroad tracks and Island Park which is accessible by foot or bike with an entrance from Depot Park and from South Riverside Drive. Few people know, but there is a recently acquired, city-owned parcel on S. Riverside Drive at the foot path entrance to Island Park which will provide another node park or grand entrance to Island Park when developed.

For those who would like to know more about what is happening in the downtown area we encourage you to join the community forum on Facebook. We also invite you to get involved with the Downtown Alliance by subscribing to their newsletter at [www.BonitaDowntownAlliance.com](http://www.BonitaDowntownAlliance.com) or by attending their monthly meetings at the Shangri-La Hotel. The City of Bonita Springs also has a newsletter you can sign up for at [www.CityOfBonitaSprings.org](http://www.CityOfBonitaSprings.org). City council meetings are live streamed on YouTube so residents can keep up with the latest events and developments in and around the city.



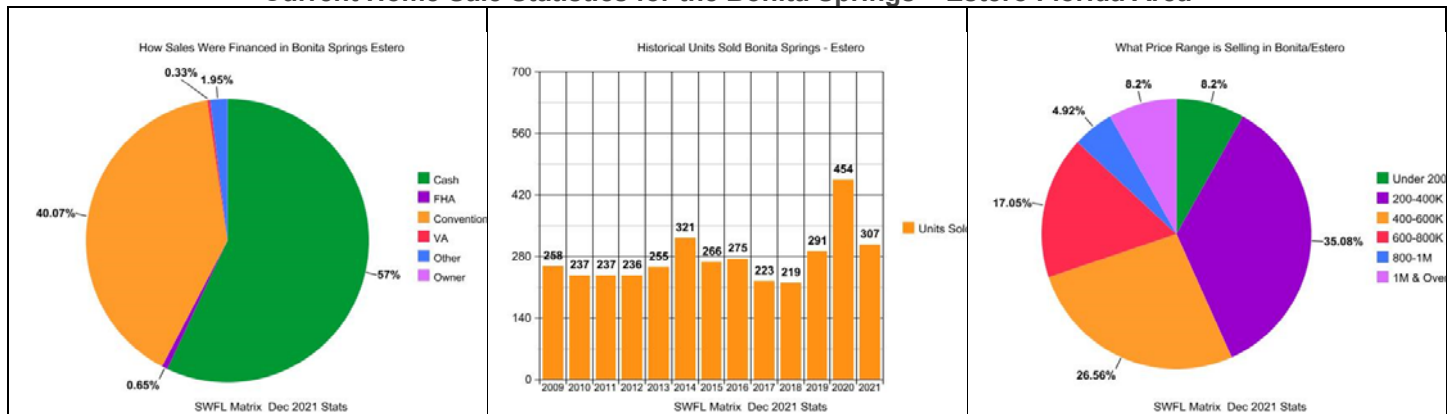
Simply put, we love the city of Bonita Springs, Florida. We're local Realtors† and community cheerleaders who have called Bonita Springs home since the mid 1980's. Everything we do as residents and as The Griffith Group revolves around the ever-changing Downtown Bonita Springs, Florida area. We also live in downtown Bonita Springs. Our website and blog is located at [www.LifelnBonitaSprings.com](http://www.LifelnBonitaSprings.com). We curate a neighborly-neighborhood group called Bonita Springs Estero Community Forum at [www.facebook.com/groups/BonitaEsteroForum](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BonitaEsteroForum) or enter [www.iLoveBonitaSprings.com](http://www.iLoveBonitaSprings.com) into your browser and it will redirect you to that Facebook group.

*This information is provided as part of an awareness campaign about the downtown Bonita Springs, Florida area. Business owners and community leaders in Southwest Florida are quietly investing in your community. We invite you to remember and support downtown attractions and businesses when you are choosing to spend your time and shared interests with friends and family.*

## Bonita Springs Real Estate Statistics

The current absorption rate for Bonita Springs homes/condos priced under \$500,000 is 1.5 months. Six months is considered a balanced real estate market. This "seller's market" is extreme, and we are in our prime winter season with a large supply of buyers. Relief for the average home buyer, especially a financing buyer, is not projected at this time. Home sellers are seeing multiple offers and creative terms used to help buyers stand out from the crowd. If you'd like to learn more about selling your home or purchasing in this swift real estate market contact Chris or Angela.

### Current Home Sale Statistics for the Bonita Springs – Estero Florida Area



**Chris Griffith & Angela Griffith - The Griffith Group at Downing Frye Realty, Inc.**

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Monitor additions to the downtown events calendar by joining the Bonita Springs-Estero Community Forum on Facebook.

# Downtown Calendar of Events 2021-2022

11/2/21 Public Workshop at Library Regarding Bamboo Development 5:30pm  
 11/6/21 Bonita Springs Charter School Fund Raiser Liles Hotel 6pm – 9pm  
 11/11/21 Veterans Day Ceremony Riverside Park 11 am  
 11/20/21 BonitaFest Riverside Park 3 pm – 9 pm  
 12/7/21 Holiday in the Park w/ Snow & Santa 4:30pm  
 12/8/21 Stardust Memories Concert Band Riverside Park 7 pm – 9pm  
 12/10/21 Movies in the Park Riverside Park at Dusk  
 12/24/21 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 6pm Springs of Bonita Church  
 01/08/2022 Movies in the Park Riverside Park at Dusk  
 1/15&16/21 Bonita Springs National Art Show Riverside Park 10am – 5pm  
 1/25/22 Stardust Memories Concert Band Riverside Park 7 pm – 9 pm  
 02/05/21 Movies in the Park Riverside Park at Dusk  
 2/12&13/21 Bonita Springs National Art Show Riverside Park 10am – 5pm  
 2/15/22 Stardust Memories Concert Band Riverside Park 7 pm – 9 pm  
 2/19/22 SW Florida Brew Crafters Beer Tasting Riverside Park 3 pm – 7:30  
 2/22/22 Stardust Memories Concert Band Riverside Park 7 pm – 9 pm  
 3/5&6/21 Bonita Springs National Art Show Riverside Park 10am – 5pm  
 3/11&12/21 Bonita Blues Festival Riverside Park  
 3/22/22 Stardust Memories Concert Band Riverside Park 7 pm – 9 pm  
 4/5/22 Stardust Memories Concert Band Riverside Park 7 pm – 9 pm

Every Sunday at 9:30 am  
Non-Denominational Church Service



The Griffith Group  
Downing Frye Realty, Inc.  
[www.LifelnBonitaSprings.com](http://www.LifelnBonitaSprings.com)

Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance 4th  
Tuesday of every month 5:30 PM at Shangri La