



# BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

January 2024 | *Official Newsletter of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District*



## Packing Patch Reef with Pickleball

District Commissioners continue to expand pickleball opportunities within the Boca Raton community, providing more ways to enjoy America's fastest growing sport.

The initial weeks of the new year include the opening of new courts, progress toward a covered pickleball center, and a District-owed park hosting one of Florida's biggest professional pickleball tournaments.

Earlier this week the District completed the conversion of two additional Patch Reef Park tennis courts into six new pickleball courts, doubling the park's lighted public courts.

The opening of those courts coincided with Patch Reef becoming the center of the pickleball world – at least for a week.

[MORE ABOUT PATCH REEF PICKLEBALL](#)



## Arctic Blast At Sugar Sand

Winter in Florida, normally fairly tame, will get a little wilder when the Under the Arctic: Digging in Permafrost exhibit opens at Sugar Sand Park's Science Explorium.

The interactive exhibit, which opens on January 27, will give an arctic feel to one of Boca Raton's hottest parks.

Arctic permafrost exhibits and videos teach visitors about the earth's past, present, and future - while hinting at solutions to current problems.

Permafrost covers nearly a quarter of the northern hemisphere's land mass.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



## Commissioners' Corner

District Commissioners would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year!

January is traditionally a month where people examine their lives and consider changes and improvements they'd like to make.

With that in mind, we posed a simple question to each commissioner: What are your goals for 2024?

Some provided answers about personal goals. Others offered goals that pertain to their role as Commissioner. And some answers that contained both.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



## Extended Spins

The Sugar Sand carousel, a jewel of the Boca Raton Parks, now has extended its operating hours to allow for after school and evening rides. The merry-go-round at night is quite a sight! New operational hours are:

- **Wed.-Fri., 3-7 p.m.**
- **Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**



## Familiar Look

The first order of business during 2024's initial District Commissioners' public meeting? Choosing the leadership board. On Jan. 2, District Commissioners decided not to attempt to fix what isn't broken. Commissioners re-elected Erin Wright to Chair the Board. Bob Rollins will reprise his roll as vice-chair, with Craig Ehrnst remaining the treasurer. All board members were elected unanimously.

## Walk With A Skink

Little Skink's Tail is the latest tale to of adventure on Patch Reef Park's StoryWalk. The book by Janet Halfman highlights a skink's main defense mechanism – its tail. Young readers will move from station to station learning about the skink and the defense mechanisms of other animals. It's a great way to spend an hour in fresh air!



## Worth A 1,000 Words

District owned and supported parks recently made the holidays a little jollier.

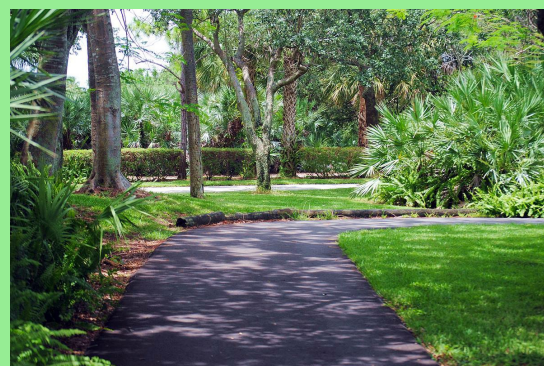
Here are links to photo galleries from some holiday events:

- [Gumbo Limbo Aglow!](#)
- [Do You Want To Paint A Snowman?](#)
- [Build An Edible House](#)
- [Noon Year's Eve](#)

## Ode To Open Space

“Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and winds long to play with your hair.”

– Kahlil Gibran, author



# UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MONDAY FEB. 5**

**Commissioners' General  
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

**TUESDAY FEB. 20**

**Commissioners' General  
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

**MONDAY MAR. 4**

**Commissioners' General  
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

**Meetings at Boca Raton Swim & Racquet Center  
21618 St. Andrews Boulevard Boca Raton, FL**



## LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

The Sugar Sand Park community center is constantly the site for new and interesting children's educational entertainment. From camps to workshops to special events, programs are always changing. Visit the Sugar Sand "Events" page to see which events are coming soon. There are some excellent upcoming programs!

[View Events](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON  
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
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[Send Us A Message](#)

Keep in Touch!



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