



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



BOCA'S FABULOUS FOURTH

Ines Amengual awoke July 4 not realizing how Fabulous her Fourth would be.

In planning her family's Independence Day activities that morning she found news of an afternoon Independence Day Block Party at Sugar Sand Park.

Not long afterward Amengual, her husband, and three boys joined hundreds of other families celebrating Independence Day at Sugar Sand.

"It's really good for families – especially families with little kids," said Amengual, a frequent Sugar Sand visitor.

The Block Party constituted one of four City of Boca Raton Fabulous Fourth events. The day started with an early morning 5K run at FAU. Mid-morning action shifted to the Patch Reef Park Tennis Center, site of the first Liberty Cup pickleball and tennis tournaments.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



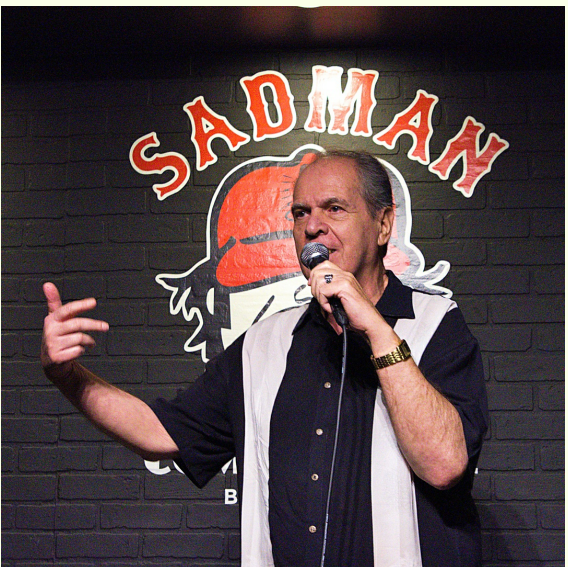
Little Places To Play

When District Commissioners created parks containing athletic fields geared toward use by teenagers and adults, they didn't forget about the little people.

Commissioners prioritized the inclusion of state-of-the-art playgrounds where the youngest members of the Boca Raton community could swing, slide, climb and crawl – often while their older siblings played organized youth sports on nearby top-notch District fields.

“I think those playgrounds are terribly important,” Commissioner Bob Rollins said. “That's where young children learn to play with others. That's where they learn to recreate. That's where they meet new kids their age. That's where the parents can go and relax and watch their kids play. It's just healthy for these kids to be able to have some place to go besides a rectangular field or a ball diamond.”

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Boca Raton's Got Talent

District Commissioner Steve Engel wants the Boca Raton community to laugh at him – at least for one night. On Monday, Aug. 12, Engel will be among approximately one dozen performers taking the Crazy Uncle Mike's stage as part of Boca's Got Talent. A stand-up comedian for more than half a decade, Engel hasn't performed as frequently as he would have liked since the pandemic. He's spending the months leading up to the event refining his act at local open mics like the one held on Tuesdays at the Sadman Comedy Cafe



Aces All Around at SRC

The purchase represented a challenge – and an opportunity – never before faced by the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District.

Late in the 1990s the Dason Corporation decided it wanted to sell the Racquet Club of Boca Raton.

In the two decades leading up to the turn of the century, the District had successfully built Patch Reef and Sugar Sand Parks, but those parks were created, essentially, from a blank canvas – undeveloped land.

By purchasing the Racquet Club of Boca Raton, District commissioners tasked themselves with converting what had been a private club into a public facility.

In 2000 the \$3.75 million purchase of the 14 acres located on St. Andrews Blvd between Glades and Palmetto Park became official.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Year of the Month: 1994

The District took another huge step in preserving Boca Raton green space by purchasing the Ocean Strand property in 1994, one of the most important years in the District's 50-year history. At the time zoned residential, and at one point the site of several houses, Ocean Strand covers 15 acres north of Palmetto Park Rd., stretching from the beach to the Intracoastal Waterway. Ocean Strand marked the first District purchase of residential land for conversion to green space. In 2023 the District opened Phase I of Ocean Strand as

(pictured). Boca's Got Talent is part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. Proceeds from the event benefit Myla's Beleaf, which provides essential financial aid to families navigating a childhood cancer diagnosis.

BOCA'S GOT TALENT

When: Monday, Aug. 12

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Tickets: [\\$35 \(includes drink\)](#)



Tree-mendous Celebration

The Boca Raton community became a little greener on July 13 when the District teamed with the City of Boca Raton and Community Greening to give away free trees to District residents. Community members arrived at Patch Reef Park more than an hour early, lining up to choose from Paradise Trees, Florida Keys Blackbeads, White Guavas and Mulberrys. Community Greening provided the trees. The event was part of the District's 50th Anniversary Celebration and also commemorated National Park and Recreation Month. "We love it," District resident Stefanie Hewitt said. "We're so happy to have the free trees available. We plant them at our house and we're grateful for it."

[Photo Gallery](#)



Millage Stability Assured

District Commissioners voted in July not to raise the proposed millage rate for next year. Commissioners voted unanimously for a proposed rate of 1.08 mills – the same as this year. By law Commissioners must wait at least 30 days before proposing a formal resolution to adopt the rate. That meeting is scheduled for Sept.

a natural walking park. The 1994 election also provided another milestone: the election of Bob Rollins as a District Commissioner. Rollins defeated incumbent Bill Kerensky and Timothy Huxhold to claim Seat 2 on the Commission. In the years that followed Rollins, who is still a Commissioner, provided a steady voice to the board while tirelessly advocating for athletic venues.



Boca Paddles Forward

Indoor pickleball in Boca Raton cleared another milestone earlier this month when District Commissioners approved a contractual agreement with Boca Paddle. The concession agreement authorizes Boca Paddle to create an indoor/outdoor pickleball facility within North Park, formerly Ocean Breeze golf course. The facility will include 14 indoor pickleball courts, four padel courts, and a food and beverage area. Eight additional outdoor pickleball courts and two padel courts are also planned. Adhering to an RFP process, District Commissioners selected Boca Paddle's proposal from among five others. Before Boca Paddle can break ground, it must receive final approval from the City of Boca Raton's Planning and Zoning Board, which could come as early as August.



Play Ball Comes to de Hoernle

Major League Baseball and Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer want to see Boca Raton children Play Ball! On Saturday, Aug. 17, C.O.B.R.A coaches, Mayor Singer and MLB will hold a free Play Ball clinic at the District-funded Spanish River Athletic Facility aimed at teaching youngsters the fundamentals of baseball.

3 at 6 p.m. Commissioners could still vote to lower the rate, but the rate can not be raised. The millage rate will officially be adopted at a dedicated meeting on Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. The millage rate is used to determine property taxes paid to the District. Under the proposed rate, homeowners would pay \$1.08 for every \$1,000 of their home's value as assessed by the Palm Beach County tax collector.

The clinic is intended for children aged 4-7. The first 60 children to register receive a free T-shirt, bat and ball. Play Ball is baseball's global effort to encourage young people and communities to engage in baseball or softball-related activities. Follow the link below to reserve a spot.

[Play Ball Info](#)



UPCOMING MEETINGS

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| MONDAY AUG. 5 Commissioners' General Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m. | MONDAY AUG. 19 Commissioners' General Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m. | TUESDAY SEPT. 3 Commissioners' General Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m. |
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**Meetings at Boca Raton Swim & Racquet Center
21618 St. Andrews Boulevard Boca Raton, FL**

Ode To Open Space

“Parks and recreation are critically important to the economic and environmental well-being of communities, and the physical and mental health of individuals,” - Barbara Tulipane, former National Recreation and Park CEO



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

The City of Boca Raton recently launched a new website designed to make it easier for the Boca Raton community to learn all things park and recreation related. Visitors to the new BocaRecreation.org learn about permits, reserving fields, upcoming events and more.

BocaRecreation.org

**GREATER BOCA RATON
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**
Phone: (561) 417-4599

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Keep in Touch!



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