



BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

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Special Pickleball Victories At Patch Reef

Despite never having picked up a paddle, Donna Morgan figured the first year Special Olympic pickleball program at Patch Reef Park could be perfect for her and her son John, who is on the Autism spectrum.

“I’m brand new,” Donna said. “He’s brand new. I’ve been wanting to learn. And, you know, this gives me the opportunity to work with wonderful, beautiful people.”

Every Wednesday for the past couple months Donna and John joined a dozen adults with special needs at the Patch Reef Park Tennis Center. First item on their to-do list: learn the sport.

Turns out, they are quick learners.

[READ MORE ABOUT BOCA'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS PICKLEBALL TEAM](#)



At 50, It's All About Upgrades

Building some of Florida's best parks and recreational facilities has always been a source of pride for Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Commissioners.

Maintaining and upgrading those parks is a close second.

"It seems like we're always considering new proposals to upgrade our parks – which is great," District Commissioner Suzi Vogelgesang said. "Ensuring our parks remain facilities the Boca Raton community can be proud of continues to be a top priority of this board. We're always looking for ways to improve our parks."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Sugar Sand Getting Animated

The Boca Raton community can release and explore its creative side by visiting the new Animationland exhibit at Sugar Sand Park's Science Explorium. Children can join Tracey the pencil dog and her friends as they guide visitors through a magical world of hands-on interactive exhibits that reveal the secrets behind the art of animation. Animationland empowers visitors of all ages to experiment, learn, and tell their own stories through animation. Animationland's interactive features include a sketching studio, a sound effects booth and the opportunity to plan and star in a stop-motion production. Developed and produced by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Animationland will entertain visitors through December.



Being Cool To The Schools

Almost from its inception, the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District eagerly partnered with educational entities to enhance Boca Raton community life.

Created in 1974 to help the City of Boca Raton retire the debt incurred from the purchase of the Schine Tract, District Commissioner Gordon Gilbert pushed to ensure part of that land would become what is now the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

Gumbo Limbo opened in 1984, offering the Boca Raton community an opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna that occupy the hammock east of the Intracoastal.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Year Of The Month: 2021

Riding a tidal wave of public momentum, District Commissioners fully embraced pickleball in 2021. While pickleball could be played at certain times inside the Sugar Sand Park field house, in 2021 Commissioners provided full time, dedicated courts by converting two Patch Reef Park tennis courts into six pickleball courts. Commissioners added another half dozen pickleball courts earlier this year. A few weeks ago the District committed to pickleball even further by beginning construction on an 18-court, covered pickleball facility at Patch Reef. And Boca Paddle is currently in the process of building an indoor facility at North Park. Pickleball in Boca Raton is here to stay – a welcoming that took hold in 2021.



StoryWalk's Butterfly Magic

Would you rather be a flower or a butterfly? That's one of the questions children can ponder as they make their way through Danica McKeller's "Ten Magic Butterflies," the latest book to appear at the Patch Reef Park StoryWalk. The book tells a tale of flowers that decide to become butterflies. As they follow the walk, children can choose their favorite flowers from the book, look around for flowers and butterflies within the park, and flap their arms like butterfly wings while moving from station to station. The StoryWalk is presented in conjunction with the Boca Raton Library, the Friends of Boca Raton Library and the City of Boca Raton.

Boo: Scary Good Times

Boca Boo Days launched this week with a Lab-Laser Engraved Bat House build, followed by a [Spooky Sounds](#) demonstration at Sugar Sand Park. On Sunday Gumbo Limbo hosted two [Halloween by the Sea](#) parties that many a Spiderman enjoyed. The fun continues this weekend with the Monster Mash pool party at the Boca Raton Swim Center, costumed pickleball and tennis play at Patch Reef and the Boca Racquet Center, the Haunted Hammock at Gumbo Limbo, and more. For a complete list of Boca Boo Days events, follow the link below.

[BOCA BOO DAYS](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONDAY NOV. 4

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

MONDAY NOV. 18

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

MONDAY DEC. 2

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

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

Ode To Open Space

"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own."
– *Charles Dickens, author*



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

Annual Boca Raton beach, boat and dog park permits are now available. Permits are good from Oct. 2024 through the end of Sept. 2025. For information about purchasing or renewing permits, follow the link.

[Annual Permit Info](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**

Phone: (561) 417-4599

Keep in Touch!

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Greater Boca Raton Beach and Parks District | 21618 St Andrews Blvd | Boca Raton, FL 33433
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