



BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

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



Art In Our Park: Artistic Vision Coming Soon

Soon, fish will swim and birds will fly in an unexpected place.

A prominent wall within Sugar Sand Park is about to be transformed into a scenic vista as part of the City of Boca Raton's "Public Art Boca" program.

"I think art at Sugar Sand is a terrific idea because it offers a visually engaging experience that can also become a photo opportunity for people who are going to the park," District Commissioner Craig Ehrnst said.

During a ceremony scheduled for Friday, Dec. 6, City of Boca Raton and District officials will take part in a ribbon cutting, ceremoniously declaring renowned artist James Prosek's mural complete and open for viewing. A portion of that mural appears above.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE JAMES PROSEK MURAL COMING TO SUGAR SAND](#)



Fantasy Playground Is Reality

From the mouths of babes sprouted a playground for the ages.

And an army of volunteers molded the vision of children, creating a playground that's part of the fabric of Boca Raton.

In 1993, the year before the ballfields at Sugar Sand Park opened to the public, a group of Boca Raton residents requested that District Commissioners build a playground that combined education and recreation at the park.

Commissioners quickly agreed, deciding to rely heavily on community input for the design and creation of the new playground.

To choose which features to include in the playground, organizers turned to the people who would enjoy it most.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Giving Boca A Sporting Chance

District destinations are more than simply a walk in the park.

They are a jog, a sprint and various other types of workouts as well.

District parks will offer almost anything to keep the Boca Raton community entertained and healthy.

For 50 years Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Commissioners worked to ensure as many of the community's recreational needs have been met.

As a result, visitors young and old to District owned or funded parks can partake in their choice of nearly two dozen sports or fitness activities.

"Different kids want different things," District Commissioner Suzi Vogelgesang said.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Digging in the Dirt

Young Jordan Ogman, pictured above shaking hands with District Commissioner Bob Rollins, joined District Commissioners and City of Boca Raton officials to ceremoniously break ground on the new inclusive playground coming to Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton. Living with a rare genetic disease that limits his physical and mental development, Ogman's issues navigating the Pirates Cove playground prompted Commissioners to renovate that play area to make it more inclusive for children of all abilities. Pirates Cove is now closed to the public for the renovation. The new inclusive playground, built on the current Pirates Cove site, is expected to open in the summer of 2025.



Year Of The Month: 1974

Let's recall where it all began. Looking to ensure that the Schine Tract – land along the beach and Intracoastal in Boca Raton pictured above – didn't become condos and housing developments, the City of Boca Raton purchased the property. But how to pay for it? In 1974 the Florida legislature approved the creation of the Greater Boca Raton Beach Tax District to help retire the debt. As a result, the Schine Tract eventually became Red Reef Park, Red Reef Family Golf Course and the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Later renamed the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District, the District has been creating or funding some of South Florida's best parks for 50 years.



Boca Jolly Days Ahead

The District is pleased to once again have its parks and funded facilities play a major role in enhancing the Boca Jolly Days fun. On Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center is the site



Special Olympian Wins Gold

Robert Vittiglio (pictured above with coach Maryellen Jones on his right and mother, Rose, on his left) progressed from pickleball newbie to state champion

for **Ornaments Naturally**, where participants aged 7 and older create tree ornaments from sea shells, pine cones and other craft supplies. Every Friday in December **Gumbo Limbo Aglow!** takes light. The Racquet Center holds its season-ending party on Dec. 20. Sugar Sand offers two events: **Do You Want To Paint a Snowman** (Dec. 23) and the **Noon Year's Eve Party** (Dec. 31).

[BOCA JOLLY DAYS](#)

in less than a year. On an early November weekend in Orlando Vittiglio, who trains with the Special Olympics program at Patch Reef Park, brought the singles gold medal in Adult Division II back to Boca Raton. Also representing Palm Beach County, John Morgan and his mother Donna finished fourth in the unified adult division. Learn more about the first-year program and its successes [here](#).

[SPECIAL OLYMPICS PICKLEBALL](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONDAY DEC. 2

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

MONDAY DEC. 16

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

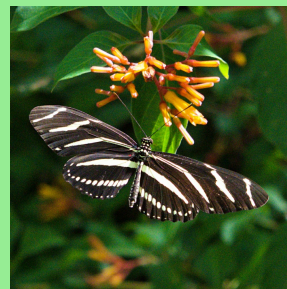
MONDAY JAN. 6

**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

"I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright." – *author and philosopher Henry David Thoreau*



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

The Thanksgiving break is a great time for Boca Raton's children to play golf, tennis, learn about nature and have fun with science. Boca Raton offers camps covering all those fun activities. Follow the link for more information, including dates, times and fees.

[View Upcoming Camps](#)

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

[Send Us A Message](#)

Keep in Touch!



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)