



BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

March 2025 | *Official Newsletter of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District*



Rugby Gains Foothold in Boca Raton

Garth Duff-Gray stood before some 100 boys in the twilight of a glorious March evening and yelled three times, his volume increasing each time.

“What is tonight?!!

And three times the boys responded, each time with growing enthusiasm.

“Rugby Night!”

With a thunderous round of applause from all involved, practice for one of Boca Raton's lesser known, yet up-and-coming youth sports programs launched.

Formed in 2011, Boca Raton Youth Rugby now boasts 135 players. A little more than a decade old, it's already producing some of the best players in the nation.

[READ MORE ABOUT BOCA RATON YOUTH RUGBY](#)



Key To Success

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District received one of the greatest honors the City of Boca Raton can confer when officials presented the District with the key to the city.

District Commissioners Bob Rollins and Craig Ehnst, joined by District Executive Director Briann Harms, accepted the award as part of the city's State of the City and Community Celebration event at Mizner Park's amphitheater in mid-March.

"This key represents a partnership that shows how much good the District can do for the community when we work together with the City," Rollins said. "It's an honor to be here to receive this key on behalf of all of our current Commissioners and those Commissioners who served before us."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Maintaining Excellence

Sharing a pair of over-sized scissors with Boca Raton mayor Scott Singer, and with fellow District Commissioners Suzi Vogelgesang and Craig Ehrnst by his side, Commissioner Bob Rollins cut the blue ribbon in front of him, ceremoniously opening the new maintenance facility at the Countess de Hoernle Park / Spanish River Athletic Facility. The District funded the building's construction. It provides a hub for maintenance equipment and vehicles that service not only de Hoernle Park, but also nearby District-owned Patch Reef and Sugar Sand Parks, as well as District-funded Mizner Park.



Pool Ready To Cool

Everybody back in the pool!

The Boca Raton Swim Center's pool resurfacing project is complete and Boca Raton community members are invited to come enjoy the water again.

Pools like the one at the Boca Raton Swim Center need to be resurfaced every decade or so to prevent leaks and ensure public safety.

The project began in mid-January. Completed on schedule and on budget, the pool officially welcomed swimmers back into the water on Saturday, March 15.

Open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Swim Center pool is 25 yards long and offers six swimming lanes.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Stirring The Pot

District Commissioner Craig Ehrnst had a little something cooking on March 8, and he served it up to anyone who wanted a taste. Ehrnst, also a trustee with the Boca Raton Police Foundation, served as head chef for the Foundation's entry into the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce's Chili Cook-off at the YMCA. Ehrnst is no stranger to chili cook-offs. He worked from the same recipe that he followed to win the 2008 NCCI Hand-off For Hope Chili Cook-off's Taster's Choice award, and he makes a pot every New Year's Day for his family. Alas, the four-judge panel selected a different bowl of chili as the winner.



Let It Snow A Little Longer

Even though Spring officially arrived last week, there's still a chance to catch some snow in Boca Raton. Visitors to the "Snow" exhibit at Sugar Sand Park's Science Explorium can get a little feel for what winters are like elsewhere on the globe as they walk through the special exhibit. They'll learn why snow is an important part of our ecosystem, how it helps the planet regulate temperature, and all about the formation of snowflakes. But like actual snow, the Snow exhibit won't last long in South Florida. It will only be at the Science Explorium until May 4. Hurry, before the summer heat arrives.



Put A Roof On It

The new covered pickleball facility at Patch Reef Park is taking shape. Earlier this month crews finished installing the structure's roof. The grading and base for the 18 courts have also been completed, and the installation of electrical works is in progress. Patch Reef's covered pickleball courts are still on schedule to open by the end of this year. The courts are located next to Patch Reef's tennis facility. Across the park, new features are already being installed at the all-inclusive playground that will replace Pirates Cove. The new playground is on schedule to open this summer.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONDAY APRIL 7

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

MONDAY APRIL 21

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

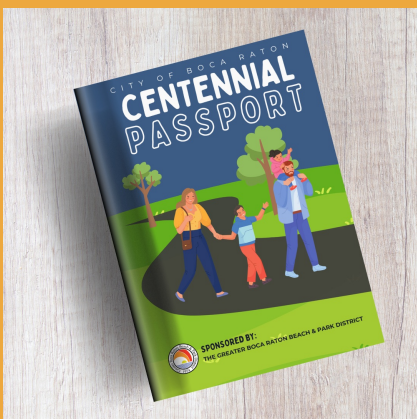
MONDAY MAY 5

**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

"Plant spacious parks in your cities, and loose their gates as wide as the morning, to the whole people." - *Andrew Jackson Downing, landscape architect.*



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

Visit one of the District's great parks to celebrate the City of Boca Raton turning 100 years old this year. The District has partnered with the City to create the Centennial Passport program. Travelers get their passports stamped at various District owned or funded parks and attractions. Complete the journey, receive a prize.

[More About The Centennial Passport](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**

Keep in Touch!

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