



# BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

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## Special Serves and Volleys at Patch Reef

Boca Raton resident and tennis player Melissa Riveros carried the torch at Patch Reef Park's Tennis Center, signifying the start of the Special Olympics southeast Florida tennis regional.

"It was amazing because all my friends and family came," Riveros said.

Shortly afterward, Riveros won her first match of the day and, accompanied by her mother Clara, couldn't stop smiling when discussing the morning's events.

"I love tennis," the 46-year-old Riveros said. "The people are nice - all the coaches and everyone."

Riveros and approximately 60 other competitors converged on Patch Reef the first Sunday in April to determine which players would be representing Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties at the Special Olympics state tournament in Orlando.

[READ MORE ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS TENNIS](#)

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## Polishing The Diamonds

The popping of mitts, pinging of bats and cheering of proud parents that create the nighttime soundtrack at Sugar Sand Park's baseball diamonds owe their concert to crews that began toiling in the early morning hours, making the scene possible.

Groundskeepers don't spend their mornings admiring sunrises but rather staring at the ground determining the day's game plan.

"The first thing you ask groundskeepers to do when they come out to look at the field is just kind of assess the situation from the previous night, how wet the clay is and what the next possible steps are going to be," said Jim Gannon, the City of Boca Raton's district supervisor for athletic field maintenance.

Gannon is well versed at reading the clay.

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## Passport To Park Fun

There's still time to complete your Centennial Passport. Sponsored by the District as part of the City of Boca Raton's 100-year birthday celebration, the Centennial Passport is filled with little to be completed at District park attractions within Patch Reef, Sugar Sand and the Boca Raton Swim Center. Upon completion of each challenge, visitors get their passports stamped. When all pages are stamped, travelers (like Commissioner Suzi Vogelgesang) win a prize that includes a beach towel. The adventure runs through May 31. Passports can be found at those parks and Gumbo Limbo.



## Trekking With Purpose

Every other Tuesday, Hal Jackson turns himself into the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's version of a carnival barker – only he's offering educational and entertaining information to visitors.

From 9-10 a.m. Jackson greets visitors as they enter Gumbo Limbo, letting them know that one of its newest programs, Island Treks, begins at the top of the hour

Jackson has been highly successful.

More than 20 visitors – ranging in age from the retired to some being pushed in strollers – attended each of the past three Treks.

"We want to make sure our guests have an opportunity to learn more about the habitats, the ecosystems, the plants, the animals that exist on this barrier island," Jackson said.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



## Tennis Season Arrives

The Boca Raton Racquet Center is offering the community a place to play tennis at a reduced rate this summer through a semi-annual membership that lasts through Sept. 30. Membership benefits include no charge on court bookings, resident rates on lessons and clinics, and the ability to book courts two days in advance. Memberships are available for adults, juniors and families. A unique tennis experience in Boca Raton, the Racquet Center offers 26 Har Tru courts, a pro shop, lighted courts, and numerous clinics and other programs throughout the summer. For information about seasonal memberships contact the pro shop.





### Pickle Play And Improve

Looking to learn pickleball or simply improve your skills? The Patch Reef tennis center can get you smashing and dinking in no time. The tennis center offers beginner clinics on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and evenings. For those beyond the beginner level but still looking to improve, there are “Improver” clinics those same days following the beginner clinics dedicated to improving techniques and game play. Junior pickleball clinics designed for players aged 8-16 are held Monday afternoons. To register for clinics, pickleballers are encouraged to call: (561) 367-7090.



### Gumbo Tower Additions

New additions to the tower and Jacob's Outlook bring even more educational and entertainment opportunities to the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Crews recently installed 11 exhibits along the switchback walkway rails for visitors to enjoy as they climb the tower. The exhibits, some of which feature interactive elements such as movable pieces and windows, provide interesting facts about the plants and animals that inhabit Gumbo Limbo's hammock and the surrounding area. There's even one atop Jacob's Outlook (photo) – a welcome addition to what was already the best view in Boca Raton.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MONDAY MAY 5**

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

**MONDAY MAY 19**

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

**MONDAY JUNE 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 is not a place to visit. It is home." - Gary Snyder, *author and environmental activist*



### LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

It's never too early to start planning for your child's summer fun. The City of Boca Raton offers numerous camps throughout the summer designed to educate and entertain children during summer breaks.

[More About Summer Camps](#)

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

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