



# BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

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



## Playground Opens To Rave Reviews

Nine-year-old Jordan Ogman led a charge of youngsters through the open gates, the group becoming the first to enjoy the newly renovated, all-inclusive playground Ogman inspired.

On May 22 at Patch Reef Park Ogman slid down slides, shot balls into baskets set for pint-sized hoopsters, and cooled off at the all-new splash pad. Everyone received hugs. The smile never left his face.

"He could not be any happier," said Stacey Ogman, Jordan's mother. "He keeps saying, 'Everyone's here!' He's so excited. He's been in the water. He's been all over the place and loving it."

Less than two years ago Jordan's parents petitioned Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Commissioners to create a playground more suitable for Jordan and other special needs children like him.

Seeing a need, Commissioners voted to remake the Pirates Cove playground within District-owned Patch Reef Park into an all-inclusive playground where children like Jordan can play side-by-side with their more able-bodied peers.

"I love it!" Jordan repeatedly yelled as he raced through the playground for the first time.

The playground opened in time for Memorial Day park visitors to enjoy.

Jordan stood in front of Stacey and his older sister Kira, all five District Commissioners and several City of Boca Raton Councilmembers as his father, David, snipped the ceremonial red ribbon with oversized scissors, opening the new playground to the Boca Raton community.

[READ MORE ABOUT PATCH REEF'S INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND](#)

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# Gumbo Limbo Greeting

A fortuitous suggestion for a grandmother/grandson adventure, a shared birthday, and a common hometown led to a new calling for Sue Budlong.

Shortly after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, Budlong's daughter, Audra, suggested to Sue that a trip to the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center with grandson Jackson would make for a fine outing.

A South Florida resident for more than three decades, Budlong had never visited Gumbo Limbo.

"I noticed that Gordon Gilbert, who was the founder of this nature preserve, was from Akron, Ohio, and that's where I'm from - and we share the same birthday," Budlong said. "He's obviously older than I am, but it was almost a sign from the universe saying this would be a great place to volunteer because I love nature and I love sea life."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



# Raise The Blue Flag

Boca Raton's Spanish River Beach became blue in May. The Foundation for Environmental Education designated the beach a Blue Flag winner, honoring its significant achievements in coastal management, sustainability and environmental education. District Commissioners attended the May 2 ceremony during which Boca Raton officials officially raised the blue flag. Commissioners congratulate the City – particularly the Boca Raton Recreation Services department – for the well deserved award.



# June Sunday Fun-days

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District celebrates the city of Boca Raton's centennial throughout June with Centennial Sundays.

Each Centennial Sunday will offer a different event with new rewards for travelers participating in the free Centennial Passport program.

"As Commissioners we are proud that the District is a sponsor of Boca Raton's centennial celebration," District Chair Erin Wright said. "I love Centennial Sundays because they give the community even more reasons to visit and enjoy some of our great parks."

Designed for family fun, Centennial Sunday events offer a wonderful opportunity for bonding. Every Sunday will feature a new craft for participants to complete. Completed passports earn travelers a frozen treat.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



# Oh Look! Squirrel!

Take a walk on the squirrel side. What would happen if a rat tried to masquerade as a squirrel? That's the premise of Squirrel-ish, a fun and sometimes wacky book by Bambi Edlund. Squirrel-ish is currently the featured book at the Patch Reef Park StoryWalk. Children enjoying Squirrel-ish learn that the grass isn't always greener as they bounce and stroll from station to station. Squirrel-ish is loaded with little surprises that will entertain children as they move through Patch Reef Park's fresh air.





## French Service in Boca

The Boca Raton Racquet Club is preparing to launch into the heart of Grand Slam season with its French Open Mixer. Tennis players are invited to come together on Sunday, June 1 from 9-11 a.m. for the mixer. Intended for players rated at the 3.5-4.5 level, the cost is \$30 for District residents, \$37.50 for non-residents. Refreshments will be provided. To register, call 561-367-7095. The second of four tennis Grand Slam events, French Open play began on May 19 and runs through June 8.



## Pickle Play For Memorial Day

The Patch Reef Park Tennis Center celebrated Memorial Day in the kitchen on the courts. Fifteen four-player teams hit the courts early Sunday morning for serves, volleys, smashes and dinks during the Memorial Day pickleball tournament. Created for players rated 2.75-4.50, the tournament split competitors into two divisions based on their ratings. Winners of each division received the trophies pictured above. Others received medals for their performances.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MONDAY JUNE 2**

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

**MONDAY JUNE 16**

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

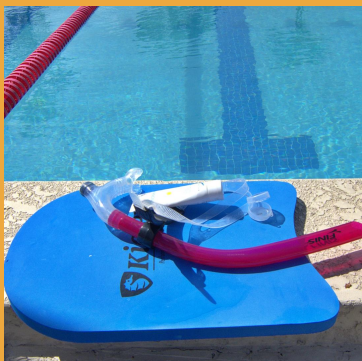
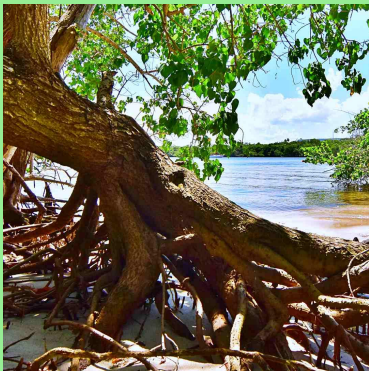
**MONDAY JULY 7**

**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

“When was the last time you spent a quiet moment just doing nothing – just sitting and looking at the sea, or watching the wind blowing the tree limbs, or waves rippling on a pond, a flickering candle or children playing in the park?” – *Ralph Marston, author and publisher*



## LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

Is this the summer you or your child learns how to swim? Learn from the best. Swimming lessons for people ranging in age from pre-school to adult are available throughout the summer at the Boca Raton Swim Center and Meadows Park Pool.

[More About Swim Lessons](#)



Phone: (561) 417-4599

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