



# NEWSLETTER

December 2003

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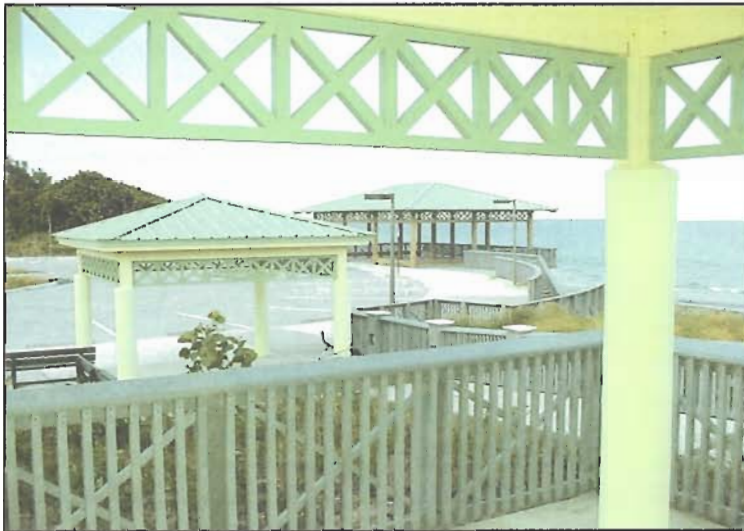
Boca Raton, Florida



CITY OF BOCA RATON

## ***South Beach Park Renovation Completed!***

South Beach Park has been reborn. The landscape and architectural character of the site incorporate elements from decades past by retaining decorative themes in the design of the restroom, plaza and pavilions. Landscape upgrades reestablished the diverse native ecology reminiscent of the early barrier island dune ecosystems.



The project's architectural improvements include a complete renovation of the existing pavilion, adding two new pavilions, a new restroom, a plaza that overlooks the ocean, an outdoor shower, an oceanfront viewing promenade, two fenced-in children's play areas with shaded play apparatus and swings, eighteen free public parking spaces, and an additional sixteen parking spaces in South Beach Park. The driveway and parking area are surfaced with brick pavers. A video camera for viewing surf conditions through the Internet has been installed. You will now be able to walk from the South Beach Pavilion to the north end of Red Reef Park on paved walks, boardwalks and pavers. The pavilion was originally built in the early 1900s at this prominent intersection, situated at the historic endpoint of one of the first roads in Boca Raton to connect A1A on the barrier island to the town center on the mainland.



The project was designed through an extensive public involvement process, culminating in a display of design options at the site for public vote.

Facilities will be handicapped-accessible with barrier-free access to various park amenities.

**The official re-dedication was held on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## ***Boca Raton***

### ***Welcomes New Residents***

Thanks to the recent annexation of 494 acres adjacent to the current City limits, approximately **3,255 new residents** will be added to the City's population, effective the last day of 2003.

The Mayor and City Council, City Manager Leif Ahnell, and City staff welcome all new residents to our beautiful City, and we have high hopes that your association with our municipality will be a rewarding one.

Post-annexation demographic figures:  
Incorporated area: **27.95 square miles**  
Population: **79,300 residents**

If you are one of our new residents, this may be the first time you have seen one of our semi-annual newsletters. We hope you find it useful. Comments and questions may be directed to our public information officer at 393-7777.

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*You probably know that the Lions Clubs collect eyeglasses for the needy. But did you know that you can recycle your old spectacles at the City's public library? There is a drop-box inside at 200 NW Boca Raton Boulevard, just north of Palmetto Park Road. For more info, dial 395-9122.*





*Construction to Start on the  
New Western Library*

In response to the 71.1% "YES" vote for new libraries in Boca Raton, plans are moving forward rapidly for the first of two new facilities: the Western Library.

The location couldn't be more beautiful or convenient: the north side of Spanish River Boulevard, halfway between Military Trail and the I-95 overpass. The spacious site allows for something patrons have long requested: a drive-up book drop! The rear of the building will be the focal point, with the back of the building facing the existing lake.



The design incorporates the amenities that residents said they wanted in their new libraries, and more. There will be a significant focus on children and teens, with a larger storytime room, a great space for children's materials and activities, and a room just for teens. A meeting room will be available for larger programs.

The building will feature many new resources with two computer labs, an electronic classroom, and several areas for wireless connectivity. For those who want quiet in their library, a second-floor quiet study area will have glass walls facing out to the lake. And, of course, there will be books, reference materials, and an up-to-date audio-visual collection.

In addition, there will be a café for coffee, a bagel, or lunch. A beautiful rooftop terrace facing the lake will provide space to snack "al fresco" and will also provide space for children's programs. This area will allow library users a place to sit, read, and relax in the sun. It will also be available for rent - a marvelous place for a party or event.

A ground breaking celebration is expected in the Spring of 2004; watch for news about this event on City Channel 20 and other local media. Thanks again to our residents for making this wonderful new, high-tech facility possible!

## BOCA RATON TO OFFER FREE VITA TAX PREPARATION AND TAX FILING THIS TAX YEAR - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Lois Martin Community Center at Dixie Manor in Boca Raton will house a **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** site during the 2003 tax-filing season. Free tax preparation and electronic filing of tax returns for individuals or families with an annual income of less than \$35,000 will be available.

Volunteers who enjoy helping people are needed for the Lois Martin Community Center site. VITA volunteers are needed to prepare tax returns, to assist in the management of the site, and to greet tax filers at the Center. The IRS will provide **free training** for all volunteers. In return, IRS expects the volunteers to commit to working a minimum of four hours per week during the filing season - January 15 through April 15, 2004. Training is conducted at locations convenient for volunteers.

If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Melissa Beck, IRS Tax Specialist at (561) 616-2050, or contact the United Way by calling Donna Pulda at (561) 375-6675. You may also go online to the United Way Website at [www.unitedwaypb.org](http://www.unitedwaypb.org). Then go to the Volunteer Center box on the right to find a volunteer opportunity.

The Lois Martin Community Center is located at 1350 N. Dixie Highway in the Dixie Manor apartment complex. The Center will be open and preparing free income tax returns from January 15 through April 15, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, as well as 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

**SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS...** the City Council will be appointing citizens to vacancies on the following boards in the upcoming months:

**Financial Advisory Board** - conducts ongoing, selective review of the annual budget and capital improvement programs.

**Community Relations Board** - encourages mutual understanding and respect among all groups and ages in the City.

*A volunteer is a person who believes that people can make a difference — and is willing to prove it.*  
— Anonymous

**Telecommunications Advisory Board** - advises City Council on issues relating to use of the City's cable television channels and other communication services.

**Environmental Advisory Board** - provides advice to the Planning & Zoning Board and to the City Council on the impacts of proposed development.

**Advisory Board for the Physically and Mentally Challenged** - promotes increased public awareness of the specific needs and rights of the physically and mentally challenged.

Throughout the year, as terms expire, vacancies occur on the two dozen or more volunteer citizen advisory boards. For additional information or to receive a board application, call the Board Coordinator in the City Clerk's office at 393-7743. You may also go online to [www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/city/boards/BOARDAPP.pdf](http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/city/boards/BOARDAPP.pdf)

Volunteers are also needed at City Hall, the Community Centers, and other locations around town. We are seeking expeditors at the One-Stop Center (construction or real estate background helpful), victim advocates for the Elder Outreach Program, children's storytime leaders at Patch Reef Park, assistants for the Library's TeenZone Program, Citizens On Patrol and parking enforcement personnel, and golf course rangers. For information on these and other positions, contact **Susan Kores at 393-7770**, or email [skares@ci.boca-raton.fl.us](mailto:skares@ci.boca-raton.fl.us). The **Volunteer Hotline number is 393-7882** for recorded information.



## A CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN FOR NORTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY

On October 28, 2003, the City of Boca Raton City Council authorized an agreement with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council for the purpose of conducting a planning charrette for the North Federal Highway road-corridor. For several years, residents and, business and commercial property owners along the North Federal Highway corridor have requested that the City Council prepare a master plan to foster the redevelopment of the area. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) conducted a charrette to develop such a master plan.

*The French word, "Charrette" means "little cart" and is often used to describe the final, intense work effort expended by art and architecture students to meet a project deadline. This use of the term is said to originate from the École des Beaux Arts in Paris during the 19th century, where proctors circulated a cart, or "charrette", to collect final drawings while students frantically put finishing touches on their work.*

Stakeholders in the area were invited to participate in the process to share their views with the design team. The City Council appointed a steering committee to foster the charrette process, which concluded on November 14, 2003. Some of the concepts suggested for the Master Plan include:

- ◆ Creation of a more pedestrian-friendly environment along street systems in the area;
- ◆ Creation of more public open spaces;
- ◆ Providing the opportunity for mixed-use development;

In the coming months, the TCRPC staff will work with the North Federal Highway Steering Committee and City staff on refining the recommendations for the Master Plan. The Master Plan is expected to be formalized and presented to City Council in the spring of 2004.



### Sign up NOW for the Master Naturalist Program

From January 10 to February 14 and from February 28 to April 3, 2004 (that's two sets of six successive Saturdays), the Gumbo Limbo Environmental Center will be offering the Florida Master Naturalist Program's Freshwater and Coastal Systems courses. These two University of Florida courses are modeled on the successful Master Gardener Program.

Want to know more about Florida's fabulous natural environments? Want to venture into the field with expert leaders to learn what makes the *real* Florida tick? Sign up for these courses. You can register online at [masternaturalist.org](http://masternaturalist.org) or call Susan Elliott (freshwater 338-1586) or Keith Chappell (coastal 338-1527). Each course is only \$200. The outdoor activities may be moderately strenuous but hands-on and engaging.

Naturally, the course materials and Gumbo Limbo staff instructors are excellent. Both courses will be led by Steve Bass, Boca Raton's Manager of Environmental Education and Conservation.

## View from the Bottom

Not many City residents or visitors spend much time thinking about what happens to the water after it goes down the drain. And actually, that's a good thing – because in some areas of the country, wastewater, or sewage as it is sometimes known, is a serious problem. In those areas, sewage has resulted in environmental degradation from sewage overflows into streams and rivers. Sewage has even contaminated drinking water wells and reservoirs.

Although wastewater collection and treatment is taken for granted in Boca Raton, the operation and maintenance of this system takes a significant effort. It is a huge network of sewer pipes and pump stations that transport over 14 million gallons of wastewater each day from homes and businesses to the wastewater treatment facility, where it is effectively treated so that it can be safely returned to the environment.

While most of the sewer lines in the wastewater collection system were constructed during the past 30 years, some date back to the 1940s, and some are even older. Depending on the age of these pipes, they are made of cast iron, vitrified clay, or polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Keeping the wastewater moving through these pipes, and keeping storm water and groundwater out of the system, is no small feat given Boca Raton's flat terrain, sandy soil, and high groundwater table.

The City's Utility Services Department has a number of employees who have responsibility for maintaining the collection system. To do so, they use some specialized equipment. One of these is a video truck. This vehicle can send a small camera down the sewer pipes to videotape areas of potential problems. Once the camera spots a problem, measurements can be taken from the vehicle to pinpoint the location. Repairs include injecting grout to seal a crack in the pipe, installing a liner within the old pipe to create a new pipe, and physically replacing the problem section of the old pipe with new pipe.

Roots and other objects can cause back-ups in the City's collection system. For that situation, the Utility Services staff uses a specialized truck that operates like a huge vacuum cleaner. Water is pumped at high pressures through a hose at the front of the truck that can break up blockages and clean the pipes. A large hose at the back of the truck can pull the wastewater and debris into a large tank mounted on the truck.

Property owners should be aware that the City maintains the portion of the wastewater collection system that is within the streets and City rights-of-way. The maintenance of the other portion of the system – the pipes on private property that transport wastewater from a home or business to the City's system – remains the responsibility of the property owner. Therefore, care should be taken not to plant trees or large shrubs close to these sewer lines.

### Swim for Your Health!

Your City operates two beautiful outdoor swimming pools, 25 yards by 25 meters (Junior Olympic size), year round, seven days per week, and they are heated during the winter months. Staff offers a wide variety of instructional and recreational programs for all ages. Annual and semi-annual permits may be purchased for recreational swimming or daily fees are available.

Additional information can be found in **The Recreator** or by calling the individual pools for operating hours. *Meadows Park Pool* (561-393-7851) is located at 1300 NW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and *The Swim Center* (561-391-2072) is located at 21618 St. Andrews Boulevard in the newly-annexed area.

**The Recreator** is also available online at [www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/parks/recreator.htm](http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/parks/recreator.htm).

**CITY OF BOCA RATON**  
**201 W. Palmetto Park Road**  
**Boca Raton, FL 33432-3795**

**Presorted Standard**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Boca Raton, FL**  
**Permit No. 46**

### Sanitation Schedule Changes

**Due to the observance of Christmas Day on December 25th** - the Thursday pick-up has been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 24th.

**Due to the observance of New Year's Day on January 1st, 2004** - the Thursday pick-up has been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 31st, 2003.

**Due to the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 19th, 2004** - the Monday/Tuesday pick-ups have been rescheduled for Tuesday/Wednesday, January 20th and 21st, respectively.

**Due to the observance of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 16th, 2004** - the Monday/Tuesday pick-ups are scheduled for Tuesday/Wednesday, February 17th and 18th, respectively. For more information, visit

[www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/PDF/Sanit/Holiday.pdf](http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/PDF/Sanit/Holiday.pdf)



### COLLECTION OF VEGETATIVE WASTE

Vegetative waste is collected weekly on the same day as your current recycling day. Vegetative waste **must not** be mixed with non-vegetative waste or bulk items. Please consult your sanitation brochure or call the Sanitation Division for vegetative waste guidelines.

### BULK ITEM COLLECTION

The next bulk pick-up collection will be in January. Please check your sanitation brochure or call the Sanitation Division at **416-3367** for the day scheduled for your area. Bulk item collection occurs quarterly -- in January, April, July, and October.

### DO YOU LIVE IN A FLOOD ZONE??

A large portion of Boca Raton lies in the special flood hazard area as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For information about flooding and insurance, including what flood zone your property is in, please call the zoning office at **393-7792**.

Please note: it is unlawful to dump or throw anything into ditches or canals. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. If you witness dumping, and/or to report debris accumulation in canals or ditches, please call **393-7860**.

### For the most current INFORMATION

**TUNE-IN**  
City Government TV  
Channel 20  
&  
City Radio 1650AM

**LOG-ON**  
City Website  
[www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us](http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us)

**E-MAIL**  
[BocaPIO@ci.boca-raton.fl.us](mailto:BocaPIO@ci.boca-raton.fl.us)

----- CLIP AND SAVE -----

### Important Telephone Numbers

City Hall.....	393-7700
City Manager.....	393-7703
Council and Mayor.....	393-7708
Fire-Rescue Services.....	367-6700
Housing Authority.....	393-7755
Police (Non-emergency)....	368-6201
Police Services TDD Unit...	338-1226
Recreation Information.....	393-7806
Sanitation Services.....	416-3367
Utility Services.....	338-7300
Hurricane Information.....	393-7800

**Business Hours are 8am - 5pm**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**except for holiday closings:**  
**January 1, January 19,**  
**February 16, May 31**