



NEWSLETTER

June 2004

Volume 9 Issue 1

Boca Raton, Florida



CITY OF BOCA RATON

City Council Looks to the Year Ahead...

The annual City Council goal-setting sessions were held April 19th and 20th, during which your elected officials identified the City's goals and priorities for the upcoming year.



(L to R) Deputy Mayor Bill Hager, Council Member Susan Haynie, Mayor Steven L. Abrams, Council Members Susan Whelchel and Dave Freudenberg.

Top Goals for the Future:

- Maintain a **Financially Sound City Government**
- Provide **Top Quality Municipal Services**
- Establish **Strong Partnerships** with our Stakeholders

Among the Top Policy Agenda Priorities for Fiscal Year 2004-2005:

- North Federal Highway Corridor Master Plan**
- Traffic Management**
- T-Rex Master plan**

...and at the Past Year's Accomplishments

- One new Fire Rescue Station** has been completed, another is under construction, and four others are being renovated
- South Beach Park Pavilion renovation** has been completed
- Central Beach Renourishment** has been completed
- Membrane Softening Water Treatment Plant** (the largest one in the country) construction is nearly completed
- The new Spanish River Library** at 1501 Spanish River Boulevard has broken ground

For more information on our council and its goals, visit http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/city/council_image.cfm

New Fire Stations Mean Safer City

Throughout the City of Boca Raton you can see the tangible results of the general obligation bond that was passed in November 2002 to expand and improve the City's fire rescue facilities.



There are two new fire rescue stations. The Richard H. Muehlberg Fire Rescue Station 7 (rendering above) at 3001 West Yamato Road has been completed and was dedicated on May 14th. Construction continues on Station 8 at 190 SW 18th Street, scheduled to open in October.

The other six stations are undergoing major renovations or, in two instances, being totally rebuilt. Station 2 is being relocated to 903 West Palmetto Park Road, while Station 3, on State Road A1A, is being rebuilt at its current location. The Fire Rescue Services Department expects to hire 48 new personnel by the end of October 2006 to staff the new stations.

As a result of the additional stations, residents will benefit from faster response times. The facilities, equipment, and training are geared to the latest advancements in fire service technology, encompassing emergency medical services, fire suppression, hazardous materials response, and disaster preparedness for all natural and technological disasters, including terrorism.

The Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department has entered into a new era reflecting the philosophies of fire service in the 21st century.



Project IRIS Update



The City's reclaimed water program has been in operation for almost ten years. This program cleans treated wastewater and uses the reclaimed water for irrigation. Currently, Project IRIS delivers an average of over five million gallons daily of highly-treated reclaimed water to two golf courses, FAU, 83 businesses, the Boca Raton Community Hospital, some City parks and roadway medians, and over 600 multi-family and single-family residences. This source of irrigation water replaces potable water, well water, or canal water that had been used for sprinkling.

This reclaimed water contains some natural nitrogen and phosphorus, which provides a source of year-round fertilization. Irrigation systems connected to Project IRIS have fewer restrictions on days and times of operation than systems using fresh water resources. The cost of reclaimed water is less than half that of drinking water. Rates for drinking water range from \$0.52 to \$1.59 per thousand gallons, depending on the level of usage. Reclaimed water is charged at a flat rate of \$0.28 per thousand gallons.

The City's Recreation Services Department has been an enthusiastic customer of Project IRIS for years. With the latest extension of the underground pipeline to the southeast area of our City, the latest beneficial use of this resource will be to irrigate the City's 23.5-acre cemetery.

The cemetery uses approximately 1.5 million gallons of drinking water each month for irrigation. This translates into an average monthly savings of \$1,853.00 when reclaimed water replaces the drinking water. It is estimated that this will result in a savings to taxpayers of about \$22,240.00 annually, while saving 18 million gallons of our drinking water. City staff estimates that this changeover will be completed by the end of the 2004 calendar year.

For more information, call 338-7310.

"Squid" McGlamery Named Florida's Top Lifeguard

Boca Raton Ocean Rescue's Lieutenant Patrick "Squid" McGlamery was selected as Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association's 2003 Lifeguard of the Year on January 21, 2004.



The Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association's (FBPCA) purpose is to improve standards and promote professional open water lifesaving throughout the State of Florida. FBPCA numbers 46 Florida beaches in membership. This award is given to an ocean lifeguard who has shown outstanding contributions and achievements in Florida Lifesaving.

A leader in the profession, Patrick is currently president of the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) Southeast Region. In the spring of 2003, Patrick traveled to Destin Florida, where there have been numerous drownings, to train their EMS personnel in the USLA's Aquatic Response Team certification program. Patrick has designed and maintained the USLA Southeast Region's website, as well as Boca Raton Ocean Rescue's Beach Condition web page www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/OceanRescue/ocean.htm.

60 More AEDs In Circulation Will Save More Lives

The Fire Rescue Services Department is about to embark on a program to increase the availability of automatic external defibrillators throughout the community.

Automatic External Defibrillators, or AEDs as they are commonly called, are small, lightweight devices used to assess a person's heart rhythm. If necessary, the device administers an electric shock to restore a normal rhythm in victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The chances of survival for a victim of cardiac arrest increases dramatically if the revival occurs within four minutes, and AEDs, in the hands of trained individuals, provide one of the swiftest methods to



achieve this revival.

The Fire Rescue Services Department, working with the Boca Raton Police Services Department, was able to receive funding to purchase 60 "Heart Start On-Site" AEDs to place in not-for-profit organizations where there is a high volume of public activity. The Department requires that at least one person on the premises where the AED is located be trained in its use, and the program will be carefully monitored for effectiveness.

YOUR AWARD-WINNING CITY

Do you know how terrific your City is? Take a look at just a few of the awards Boca Raton has won in just the last year:

- David York Water Re-use Award: Best Reclaimed Water Facility in Florida**
Best-operated Wastewater Plant over 14 Million Gal/Day
(Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association)
- Best Purchasing Department in Florida** (third year running)
(Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers)
- Tree City USA** (21 years in a row)
- National Champion Lifeguards** (second year running)
(National Surf Life Saving Association)
- Wheels in Motion Award** (South Florida Commuter Services)
- Bronze Level Bicycle-Friendly Community Award**
(League of American Bicyclists)

Boca Raton Beach Management Program

Our beaches contribute much to the reputation Boca Raton enjoys as being one of the nation's most prestigious playgrounds to visit and a superior community in which to live. To protect and preserve, for future generations, one of the City's most valuable natural resources, the Municipal Services Department, in conjunction with other City staff and outside governmental agencies, has secured funding and developed a plan for long-range beach renourishment.

The Beach Management Program, as it is called, provides storm damage protection for buildings adjacent to the beaches and protects both our dune system and our nesting areas for endangered sea turtles.

The program is implemented in phases, one of which is known as the Central Beach project; weather permitting, this phase is close to completion. The next project, scheduled for 2005/06, is North Beach. After that, the South Beach project will be implemented in 2006/07.

Preserving our natural resources through ventures such as the Beach Management Program is one way in which the City of Boca Raton works to ensure that our residents, and future generations, will continue to enjoy a superior quality of life while living in this beautiful City For All Seasons!

For more information, call 416-3385. ***See you at the beach!***

Pearl City Master Plan Update

Construction will begin this summer to implement Phase 1 of the Pearl City Master Plan. The Master Plan has been in the making since 1999, and was developed through intense community and City staff involvement. Phase 1 improvements consist of upgrades to the section south of Glades Road between Dixie and Federal Highways, from NE 10 Street to NE 12 Street. This section was the original Pearl City subdivision and was designated as a historic district by the Boca Raton City Council in June 2002. The infrastructure improvements, estimated at \$1.7 million, will be funded by a combination of federal grant money and City dollars, and will include:

- **New streets**
- **Stormwater drainage**
- **Sidewalks**
- **Enhanced pedestrian circulation**
- **Decorative street lighting fixtures**
- **Decorative signage and entrance features**
- **Landscaping (trees and shrubs)**

We anticipate completion of these improvements by the middle of 2005. The City of Boca Raton envisions much-needed beautification and identification of the oldest residential neighborhood to result from the Master Plan implementation.



In November 2000, City Council approved the Master Plan for the revitalization of the Pearl City area. This Plan will be implemented over a number of years. Therefore, the City Council deemed it in the public interest to establish a Pearl City Blue Ribbon Committee to advise the City Council and the City staff regarding the implementation of this Master Plan. The nine member committee was appointed on February 13, 2001. The committee meets the fourth Thursday of each month at the Lois Martin Community Center in Dixie Manor. The public is welcome to attend and provide input.

AUSTRALIAN PINE REMOVAL

Over the past 15 years, the Boca Raton Recreation Services Department Parks Division has been removing exotic plants and trees from all of its parks throughout the city. In most cases, Florida native plants are installed to replace the exotics removed. One of the most problematic exotic trees, especially in our ocean parks, is the Australian Pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*.) Park visitors enjoy the shade that these towering trees provide. However, it is clear how destructive these trees have become to both park users and the natural environment. The purpose of this article is to answer the question "Why are the Australian Pines being removed from City of Boca Raton parks?"

PUBLIC SAFETY: A majority of the pines that are found throughout the City's ocean parks are entering old age. When pines get older, they begin a process known as "self-pruning." Lower branches that do not receive proper sunlight, even very large branches, can become weak and eventually fall. In a busy park site, these branch falls can be quite hazardous.

ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE: Australian Pines invade areas of disturbed soil, such as cleared areas and old fields. They grow quickly, shading our native plants. When the pine "needles" decompose, they release a chemical that inhibits the growth of other plants. They are also salt tolerant, which allows them to flourish on beachfronts. Here, their roots interfere with sea turtle nests. Hatchlings become entangled in the exposed roots as they make their way to the surf, often resulting in death.

PROPERTY DAMAGE: Australian Pines may appear strong, but older trees have shallow roots and weak spots in the trunks. Strong winds can snap the trunks off or uproot the trees. During Hurricane Andrew, a forest of Australian Pines covering Cape Florida State Park, was leveled, causing 7 million dollars in cleanup and restoration costs and closing the park for a year.

The City of Boca Raton taxpayers have millions of dollars invested in Boca Raton's City Park facilities. Restrooms, boardwalks, gatehouses and other infrastructures must be protected from the damage that vulnerable Australian Pines pose.

PUBLIC HEALTH: A major cause of hay fever, wind-pollinated Australian Pines bloom from late winter to spring, shedding billions of pollen grains.

CLIP AND SAVE

Important Telephone Numbers

City Hall.....	393-7700
City Manager.....	393-7703
City Council and Mayor.....	393-7708
Fire-Rescue Services.....	367-6700
Housing Authority.....	393-7755
Employment Hotline.....	393-7981
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

City Hall Business Hours are
8am - 5pm

Monday through Friday

except for holiday closings:

July 5, September 6, October 11,

November 11 & 25, December 24 & 31

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

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Sanitation Schedule Changes

Due to the observance of Independence Day on July 5th, 2004, the Monday/Tuesday pick-ups have been rescheduled for Tuesday/Wednesday, July 6th and 7th, respectively.

Due to the observance of Labor Day on September 6th, 2004, the Monday and Tuesday pick-ups have been rescheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, September 7th and 8th, respectively.

Due to the observance of Columbus Day on Monday, October 11th, 2004, the Monday/Tuesday pick-ups have been rescheduled for Tuesday/Wednesday, October 12th and 13th, respectively.

Due to the observance of Veterans' Day on Thursday, November 11th, 2004, the Thursday pick-up is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th.

Due to the observance of Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 25th, 2004, the Thursday pick-up is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th.

For more information, visit

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

Bulk item collection occurs quarterly -- in January, April, July, and October.. Please check your sanitation brochure or call the Sanitation Division at **416-3367** for the days scheduled for your area.

South Beach Park
Palmetto Park Rd and A1A
Boca Raton

Weather Readings updated
every 5 minutes

8.00 in.

3.05:12-44

More weather graphs

Sun and Moon Info

Current Tide Info

Weather Trends

Weather Data

Read up on:

Top Currents

Tides

Where are We?

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

Map

South Beach Park Boca Raton, FL

updated every 5 minutes during daylight
Central Water Forecast

May 25 04 11:51:04 Water Temp 78°F



click on the image for the high resolution image (640x1280)

Water temperature obtained from the site near Boca Raton

Live WebCam

Been to the Beach, lately?

Well, if you can't make it there in person, you can "hit the virtual surf" through the Internet. Just click over to www.video-monitoring.com/boca/default.htm or get there through our home page. You'll find information about wind, weather, tides, the sun and moon, maps of the area, radar information, and much more. This has been one of the most exciting additions to our website in some time, and we hope you are enjoying it.

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

E-MAIL

BocaPIO@ci.boca-raton.fl.us