



# The Annual Report

*A publication of the City of Boca Raton*

*June 2006*



## **Welcome to the City of Boca Raton!**

This statement has a similar meaning to the citizens, business owners, and visitors of our City, as well as to others across the state, the country and even the world. Images of beautiful beaches and parks, vibrant restaurants and shops, quiet neighborhoods, a strong business community, and solid finances are certainly among the thoughts that people have about Boca Raton. The fact is, the City of Boca Raton has a world-wide reputation for excellence. But it takes work and planning to sustain and improve our reputation.

Each year, the City Council holds a goal-setting session. This year, the City Council met with City staff over two days in April to look at the progress of the goals set last year, review the challenges facing the City, and plan for the future by developing a vision for the City of Boca Raton for the year 2021 (15-year horizon), a plan for 2011 (five-year plan) and an action plan for next year.

### **The City Council Goals for 2011**

- **A Financially Sound City Government**
- **World Class Municipal Services**
- **A Strong Partnership With Our Stakeholders**

## **City Council Action Plan and Major Projects for 2006-2007**

- **Update the City's fiscal plan and education program**
- **Workforce housing**
- **Traffic projects including the FAU/I-95 interchange**
- **Increased recreational amenities**
- **Downtown library design**
- **Construction of fire stations and support facilities**
- **Hurricane preparation and response**
- **Increased on-line City services**
- **Reviewing land use and zoning categories**
- **Downtown vision and creation of a "spine"**

*Boca Raton  
City Council  
(left to right)*

*Bill Hager*

*M.J. Mike Arts*

*Mayor Steven  
Abrams*

*Deputy Mayor  
Susan Welchel*

*Peter Baronoff*



# Emergency Preparedness

**Goal: The City of Boca Raton will be prepared for hurricanes and other emergencies.**

## The City of Boca Raton is Preparing .... Are You?

Preparing for hurricane season is a continual process at the City of Boca Raton. We are committed to community safety and emergency response, and we reevaluate and modify the City's plans after each hurricane or emergency event. As you begin your preparation for the 2006 hurricane season, the City is preparing as well.

The City acquired additional generators to ensure that operation of fire and police services, water and wastewater systems, and the City's Emergency Operations Center can all continue after a hurricane, even if power is unavailable for an extended time. The City also has smaller generators for traffic signals.

The City is implementing modifications to the City's points of distribution for critical supplies, improving the City's Citizen Information Center, and re-evaluating evacuation procedures for residents with special needs.

**Like the City, residents also need to plan and be prepared for hurricanes.** To assist the residents in hurricane preparation, the City hosted four workshops to address hurricane preparedness and safety matters and will be distributing a revised and updated Hurricane Guide to residents in early June.

Please call 393-7703 for more information or if you have ideas or concerns.

**For information during and after an emergency, call Boca Raton Citizen Information Center at 416-3400.**



## The City of Boca Raton

### Important Telephone Numbers

Police / Fire Emergencies	911
Fire - Rescue non-emergency	367-6700
Police non-emergency	368-6201
Boca Raton Citizen Information Center (during an emergency)	416-3400
Hurricane Information Hotline	393-7800
Evacuation Information (select Option 3)	393-7800
FEMA	800-621-3362
Palm Beach County Emergency Management	563-712-6400
American Red Cross	994-2860
Florida Power & Light	800-468-8243
Florida Dept. Financial Services (Florida Dept. of Insurance)	800-342-2762

**During an emergency tune in to cable Channel 20 or 1650AM to monitor City emergency updates**

## AM1650 - Emergency Communication

Following hurricanes and other emergencies, local television and radio stations have information for all of the cities in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. Often the information about the City of Boca Raton is inaccurate or incomplete. In order to get accurate up-to-the-minute information about the City of Boca Raton including the status of City facilities, water and sewer system reports, updates of power supply situations, available ice and water distribution, curfew hours and other information, tune to AM 1650, the City's radio station.

The City's radio station broadcasts 24 hours a day. During non-emergencies, it is a source of information for beach conditions, road construction projects, sanitation schedules, and other City activities. But when a disaster strikes, the focus of the broadcast switches to emergency notices.

Since last year's hurricanes, the City's radio system has been bolstered significantly with the acquisition of a mobile radio transmitter. This trailer-mounted unit has its own equipment and antenna, so even if the City's permanent equipment is damaged, the portable unit can be set up, connected to its solar-powered generator, and continue to send out information on the emergency situation. **So in times of emergency, tune your radio to AM 1650.**

**If you want to be notified during Emergency situations by the City's Code Red telephone notification system, please call 367-7089.**

# Financial Stability

## Highest Bond Ratings!

One of the best indicators of a municipality's financial strength is its bond ratings, the scores that independent rating companies assign to cities based on their financial condition. Boca Raton was the first city in Florida to have the prestigious distinction of receiving a "AAA" rating from all three of the bond rating agencies.

*"The City's long-term financial planning, low tax rate, and financial resources position the City well to maintain solid operating flexibility."*

- Moody's Investors Services

This means that the Boca Raton taxpayers pay the lowest interest rates when the City borrows money for capital projects.

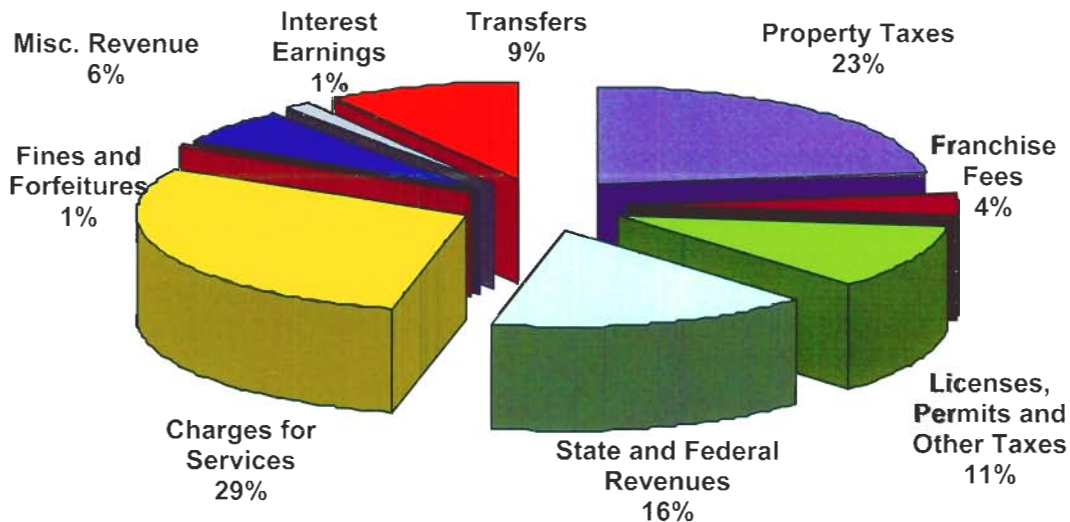
**Goal: The City of Boca Raton will be financially sound.**

## Annual Budget

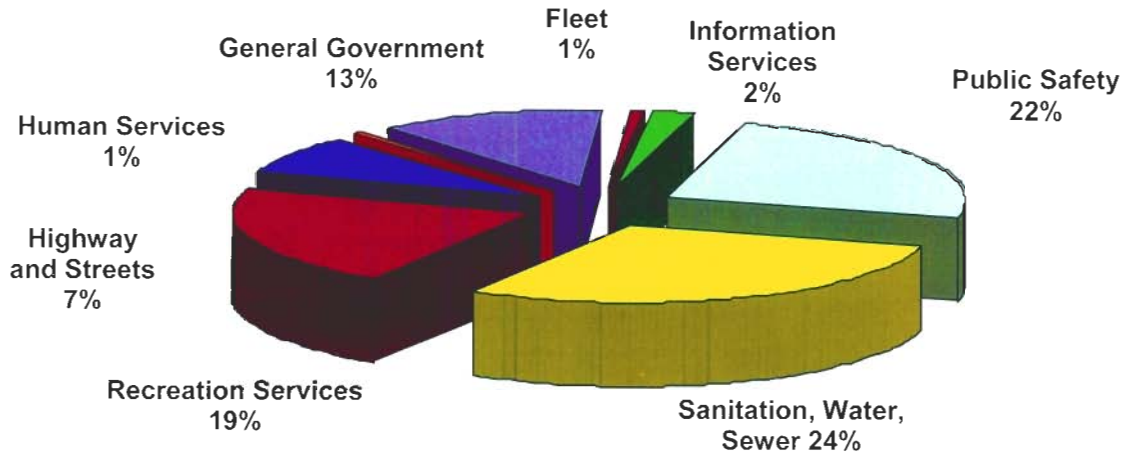
It takes significant resources to operate the City of Boca Raton. For Fiscal Year 2005-2006, the City's annual revenues and expenses total \$373,394,700.

Some residents believe that all of the City's revenues are property taxes. Actually, as shown in the charts below, property taxes account for less than 23% of the City's total revenue.

### CITY REVENUES



### CITY EXPENSES



For more information about the City's budget, please call 393-7737.

# Public Safety

**Goal: The City of Boca Raton will establish and maintain a safe environment for its residents, businesses, and visitors.**

## Crime Rate Continues to Drop

The Police Services Department continues to work with the community to reduce crime. In 2005, the crime rate within the City of Boca Raton continued to decrease. Overall felony crime within the City dropped by 5%. Specifically:

<u>Crime</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Sex offenses	22%
Robberies	35%
Motor vehicle thefts	29%
Larceny	4%

The City had no homicide cases in 2005.

Also, during 2005, the Boca Raton Police Services successfully completed both National and State re-accreditation, and the Crime Prevention Unit has received several awards for its "I Prevent Crime" program.

In December, the Boca Raton Police Dive Team won the overall 2005 National Public Safety Divers Championship.

*Boca Raton's Veteran's Day Celebration featured the Boca Raton Community High School ROTC color guard and others in a salute to our veterans.*



## New Fire Stations

In 2002, the voters of the City approved a bond issue for constructing two new fire stations and rebuilding the other fire stations within the City. Since that time, the City has been busy with fire station construction.

Fire Rescue Station 8, located on SW 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Dixie Highway, was completed in March. The vehicles that were located at the Boca Bayou facility were relocated to the new fire station. The new fire station also houses the Boca Raton Police Services Community Policing Officers.

In August, Fire Rescue Station 4, located at Yamato Road and NW 3rd Avenue was completed.

Two Fire Rescue stations remain under construction. The construction of Fire Rescue Station 1, located at the corner of North Federal Highway and Glades Road is scheduled to be completed in late 2006, and the scheduled completion date for Fire Rescue Station 3, located near A1A and Palmetto Park Road is June 2006.

In 2005, contracts were awarded for the construction of the new Fire Support Building on Banyan Trail, and the new Fire Administration Office at 6500 Congress Avenue. Both projects are slated for completion in late 2006.

**For more City information  
please call 561-393-7700  
or visit the City website at  
[www.myboca.us](http://www.myboca.us)**

# Recreation Facilities



## Beach Renourishment

Two of the many areas in the City affected by the hurricanes of the last few years were the beach and the Boca Raton Inlet. The high surf removed much of the sand of the City's central beach, which had been renourished with new sand just a year before.

And most of the sand removed from the beach by the storms was deposited near the mouth of the Boca Raton Inlet, which interfered with the boaters using the convenient connection between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean.

During 2005, the City designed and obtained permits for the project to dredge the sand out of the inlet and put it back on to the beaches. Not only will there be more sand on the Central Beach in Boca Raton, the inlet will become much safer for boaters. This project was completed in March, well before the start of turtle-nesting season.

**Goal: The City of Boca Raton will maintain a variety of recreational facilities, including a great beach.**

## New Libraries Underway

The progress continues on the two new libraries primarily funded by the voter-approved \$20 million bond issue.



Spanish River Library - The 40,000 square foot library is under construction north of Spanish River Boulevard, west of I-95 and east of Military Trail. There have been some construction delays on this project, and completion is expected in the summer of 2007.

Downtown Library - Through a complicated "land swap", the City acquired 7 acres of the property formerly known as Causeway Lumber for the site of the new downtown library. This site is located on NW 2nd Avenue, just north of the existing library.

**For more information on recreational facilities, please call 393-7810**

## Dog Park Opens



In 2005, the City of Boca Raton opened a park that is already going to the dogs. Mizner Bark, a six-acre open space, is the area's first dog park - a park exclusively for dogs (well, and their owners too).

The park, located near the eastern end of Banyan Trail, has all of the amenities that a dog could want, including a large fenced area, trees and shade structures, and even a dog-sized water fountain!

The parking area at Mizner Bark is periodically patrolled, so City residents should obtain a free Mizner Bark parking sticker from the City by calling 393-7995.

**Goal: The City of Boca Raton will provide exceptional services.**



## New Train Station Opens

The new Tri-Rail Station located near the intersection of Yamato Road and I-95 was recently dedicated. The construction of the new station was funded by Tri-Rail and the City of Boca Raton.

It is anticipated that this station will become the central hub of a City-wide shuttle system that will connect downtown, FAU, Town Center Mall, Arvida Park of Commerce, and other locations throughout the City. When the shuttle system is put into service, workers, students, and shoppers will be able to take the train system from both up and down the South Florida Coast to the Yamato Road Station Tri-Rail, and then take an up-scale shuttle vehicle for a short ride to their destination.

Not only will the shuttle reduce traffic and parking congestion in the City, it will provide a great link between the regional transportation systems and the destinations within the City. It is a way of providing a viable transportation alternative to the thousands of workers and students who currently drive to Boca Raton each day.

When the double tracking of the Tri-Rail lines is completed in the fall of 2006, it is planned that the Tri-Rail trains will run every 20 minutes. The shuttle system will be based on this 20 minute cycle.



## Water Facility Dedicated

In early 2005, the City of Boca Raton dedicated its new state-of-the-art water treatment facility. With a capacity of 40 million gallons per day, it is the largest membrane softening process facility in the world, and the water produced is clean, clear, and exceeds all Federal and State requirements. In fact, a group of state and local environmental regulators recently ranked Boca Raton's water one of the best tasting waters in South Florida.

The construction of this \$60 million facility began in 2002. The key to the facility is high-tech synthetic membranes used as filters. Extremely small holes in the membranes allow the water through, but not the impurities.

Although the water rates in the City of Boca Raton are among the lowest in the State, the City's Water Treatment Facility provides some of the highest quality water in the State.

## Annexations Are a Success

In 2003 and again in 2004, the City moved its borders to include some additional neighborhoods and businesses. As projected, the actual revenues from annexing these areas have exceeded the cost to provide services to these new areas, which has resulted in a net positive gain to the City's finances.

Both of these annexations have resulted in a win-win situation for all of the residents. The newly-annexed residents are now receiving the benefits and low cost services of the City and the existing residents are benefiting from the additional revenues that keep property taxes lower.

# Smart Development



**Goal: The City of Boca Raton will facilitate “smart growth” and establish a balanced economy.**

## What is “Smart Growth”?

The term “smart growth” evolved from a growing trend across the country that the dominating development pattern of sprawl was no longer acceptable for the sustainability of cities or their existing suburbs. Smart growth incorporates streets, public spaces, and pedestrian-oriented retail to become places where people meet, attracting pedestrians back onto the street, and helping to revitalize community life.

In Boca Raton, smart growth in specific areas of the City is supported by the establishment of mixed land uses, compact building designs, walkable neighborhoods, a variety of transportation choices, and preservation of open space.

## North Federal Highway Corridor

In November of 2003, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council conducted a charrette to assist the City and its citizens in initiating a plan for the redevelopment of the North Federal Highway Corridor. The vision of the Citizens’ Master Plan was to create a place guided by many of the principles of smart growth.

In order to do so, the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations were recently amended by City Council to create a new “Mixed Use” Land Use category and a corresponding “Village Center” zoning district.

The North Boca Village Center, commonly referred to as the Levitz Plaza property, located between Federal and Dixie Highways north of NW 76th Street, was identified as the most suitable site for a village center. Redevelopment of the site will create a strong and positive first impression of the North Federal Highway Corridor from the City’s northern border.

The North Boca Village Center was the first site to be approved for a land use and zoning change. The Master Plan for the redevelopment of the site includes a mixture of retail, restaurant, office, theater, and residential uses on the 20-acre site. The North Boca Village Center will also be the new home of the Caldwell Theater.

The redevelopment of commercial property to mixed use is a way to reduce the traffic associated with the property. Residential uses generate far less traffic than commercial ones.

*The highlighted portion of this map shows the area of the North Federal Highway Corridor in which large properties (over 20 acres) can be developed under the City’s new land use and zoning districts.*

*A total of 1,500 additional residential units can be developed in this area.*



**For more information on Smart Growth, call 393-7781.**



City of Boca Raton  
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## Here is your annual report on the City of Boca Raton!

Each and every day, the City of Boca Raton and its 1,600 dedicated and hard-working employees are committed to providing top-quality services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the City.

The Mayor and City Council have created a vision of the City and a series of goals. These goals guide the City staff in providing services to the community in areas including financial stability, growth, public safety, recreation, and municipal services.

This report outlines some of the activities and accomplishments of the City in 2005 that address the goals of the City Council and the City staff. It provides a status of the services provided to the citizens, businesses, and visitors of the City of Boca Raton.



## 2006 City of Boca Raton Mayor and City Council

Mayor Steven Abrams  
Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel  
M.J. Mike Arts  
Peter Baronoff  
Bill Hager

**For the latest City of Boca Raton information, check out our website:  
[www.myboca.us](http://www.myboca.us)**