



Boca Raton E-News

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November 2009

Boca Raton's 2009 Holiday Festivities

Twinkling lights, seasonal music, and entertainment for the entire family are all part of the 2009 holiday experience planned by the City of Boca Raton. The [Recreation Services Department](#), along with many supporting organizations and individual volunteers, has planned a wide variety of activities for the residents and multitudes of guests who visit the City during the winter season.

The festivities begin on Friday, November 27, at 5:00 pm, when Boca Raton Mayor Susan Whelchel officiates at the annual [Holiday Tree Lighting](#) in [Mizner Park](#). Lights begin to twinkle in the Park, along major highways and at other landmark locations around the City at precisely 6:00 pm when the Mayor 'flips the switch.' Entertainment planned for the evening includes walk-about musicians, the [Boca Raton Community High School Band](#), a whimsical holiday stage show, Holiday Hoedown, by ZMC Productions, and an appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus! Children will enjoy rides, face painting, balloon making, sand art, and cupcake decorating. The [Boca Raton Garden Club](#) will unveil the club's 16th annual Boca Raton holiday ornament depicting the Mizner Park Gazebo. Finally, there will be a special collection drive, the TEDDY BEAR and TOY

TURNOVER. Families are invited to donate a newly purchased Teddy Bear or toy which will be turned over to the [US Marine Toys for Tots](#) holiday toy drive.

For additional information about any holiday activities, or if you wish to become involved in any way, please visit the City's special event offices located at the Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Boulevard, or call (561) 393-7827.

Watch Your Bag, Boca!

The holiday season is quickly approaching and criminals start focusing their attention on shoppers. Customers who go from store to store and leave previous purchases in their cars are a more likely target. Many of the victims of these types of crimes leave their cars unlocked or purchases in plain view. Besides shopping bags, criminals also look for money, cell phones, laptops, purses, GPS systems and iPods.

Shoppers should be aware of their surroundings. Thieves typically watch shoppers load big purchase items like TVs and laptops into their cars and follow them to their next destination. Once the shopper goes into their next location, the thief breaks into the car, stealing the merchandise.

Victims may be eating a meal at a nearby restaurant or doing more shopping while the thief is burglarizing the car. The best practice to employ to prevent this situation from happening to you is to drive straight home after making high-end item purchases.

Unfortunately, you never can be sure that a criminal has not watched you leave your purchases unattended in your vehicle or followed you from your previous location. Eating prior to shopping and keeping your vehicle empty of valuables is the best way to avoid becoming a burglar's next victim! As always, the [Boca Raton Police Services Department](#) reminds everyone to **Remove it, Lock it or Lose it.**

If you would like more crime prevention tips during the holiday season, you can call 561-347-3938.

Mayor
Susan Whelchel

Deputy Mayor
Susan Haynie

Council Members
Anthony Majhess
Michael Mullaugh
Constance J. Scott

International Coastal Cleanup 2009

On September 19, [Gumbo Limbo Nature Center](#) coordinated the [International Coastal Cleanup](#) for Boca Raton's beachfront parks. More than 550 participants cleaned at three beachfront properties – Spanish River Park, Red Reef Park, and South Beach Park – and in two mangrove areas – Spanish River Park and Rutherford Park. Volunteers included individuals and families; Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops; corporate groups; and school classes and clubs. Working in groups of four, the Coastal Cleanup participants collected 1,500 pounds of garbage while also keeping a tally of the types of trash.



Volunteers clean Boca's beaches

The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer event of its kind. Last year, nearly 400,000 volunteers from 104 countries and 42 states cleared 6.8 million pounds of trash from oceans and waterways and recorded every piece of trash collected. Florida holds the 4th largest cleanup in the world.

Senior Information Day, November 18

The Elder Affairs Advisory Board of the City of Boca Raton is sponsoring **Senior Information Day** on November 18, aimed at providing pertinent information on a number of age-related topics for seniors and caregivers. Two sessions, afternoon and evening, will be held at the [Spanish River Library and Community Center](#), 1501 NW Spanish River Boulevard. The afternoon session, aimed at seniors, is scheduled from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, while the evening session from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm will be aimed at adult children of seniors. Water and snacks will be provided.

Several speakers will make presentations at both sessions, and information packets of resource materials will be available. Topics will cover a wide range of subjects of interest to senior citizens and their families including caregiver education, community resources, assessing facilities, long-term care, living wills and health care surrogates.

Elder Affairs Advisory Board members look forward to welcoming seniors and their families at this important event for those in their golden years.

Green Fact of the Month

Number 6 plastics are made from Polystyrene or PS. It's easily formed and versatile. PS is often made into foam products popularly known as Styrofoam. Common uses are packing "peanuts," meat trays, egg cartons, disposable cups and plates, aspirin bottles and compact disc cases. Polystyrene is recycled into insulation, light switch plates and carry-out containers. Cups, meat trays and other containers that come into contact with food are often not recyclable due to contamination. The City of Boca Raton does not accept Styrofoam for recycling.

The Number 7 designation for plastics is a catchall category for a wide variety of plastic resins which are used in the manufacture of reusable water bottles, Tupperware, sunglasses and CDs. The City accepts #7 plastics for recycling with the exception of plastic motor oil, pesticide or chemical containers.

The plastics numbering system was created in 1988 by [The Society of the Plastics Industry](#) to help consumers better identify what can and cannot be placed in your recycle bin. The City of Boca Raton's [2009-2010 Sanitation Brochure](#) has complete information on the City's recycling program.



Upcoming City Events

- Thursday, November 5, 11:00 am** **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION OUTREACH**
Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Program
 City Hall, 201 W. Palmetto Park Road
- Saturday, November 7, 14, 21, 28 8:00 am** **BOCA RATON GREENMARKET**
Local vendors and live music
 S. Federal Highway & S. Mizner Boulevard
- Saturday, November 7, 7:00 -11:00 am** **P.O.T.S. SALE**
Buy and sell previously-owned treasures!
 Patch Reef Park, Rutherford Community Center, Yamato Road, just west of Military Trail
- Saturday, November 7, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm** **GUMBO LIMBO PROGRAM SHOWCASE**
Sample the best of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's public programs
 1801 N. Ocean Boulevard
- Sunday, November 8, 12:30 pm** **BICYCLE TOUR OF BOCA**
It's a family affair and a great way to spend the afternoon!
 Patch Reef Park, Yamato Road, just west of Military Trail
- Wednesday, November 11, 9:00 am** **VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY**
Tribute to Veterans
 Boca Raton Cemetery, 449 SW 4th Avenue
- Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 pm** **VETERANS' DAY CONCERT**
AIRMEN OF NOTE – US Air Force Band & Honor Guard
 Mizner Park Amphitheater
- Saturday, November 14, 11:00 am** **INLINE SKATEBOARD COMPETITION**
Live DJ and pizza party
 Tim Huxhold Skate Park, 400 Crawford Boulevard
- Sunday, November 15, 12:00 noon** **GUMBO LIMBO 25th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE**
Special Tribute to Gordon Gilbert
 1801 N. Ocean Boulevard
- Saturday, November 21, 5:00 pm** **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**
Teen Fall Festival
 City Hall north parking lot, 201 W. Palmetto Park Road
- Friday, November 27, 5:00 pm** **HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING**
Special Concert - Boca Raton Community High School Band
 Mizner Park Amphitheater
- Saturday, December 5, 8:30 am – 11:30 am** **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**
Children's Museum Event
 498 Crawford Boulevard

Interested in volunteering? Opportunities are available throughout the year at City-sponsored events. Visit the Recreation Services [Volunteer](#) webpage.



Happy Thanksgiving!