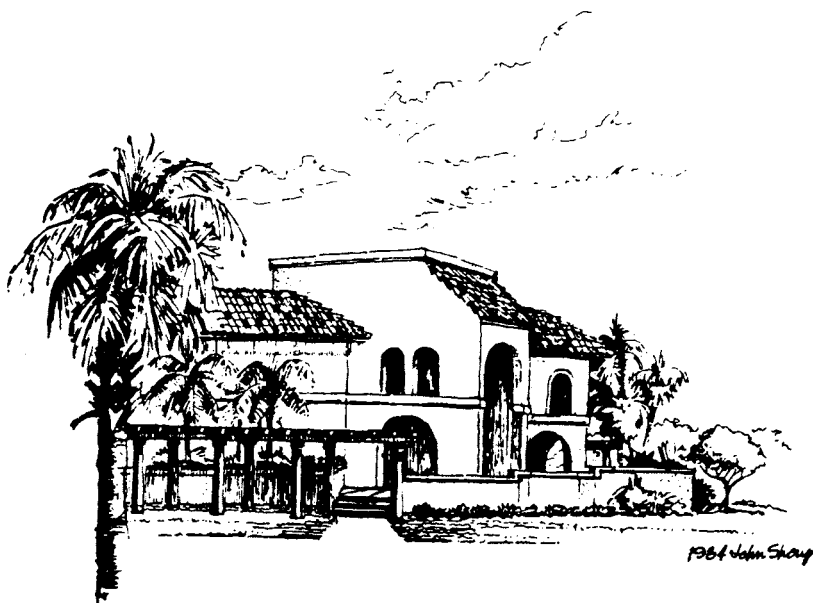


# The Spanish River Papers

December 2007

Volume XX



## A Chronicle of The Boca Raton Public Library 1923-2007

# Boca's First Library Established by Local Woman's Club

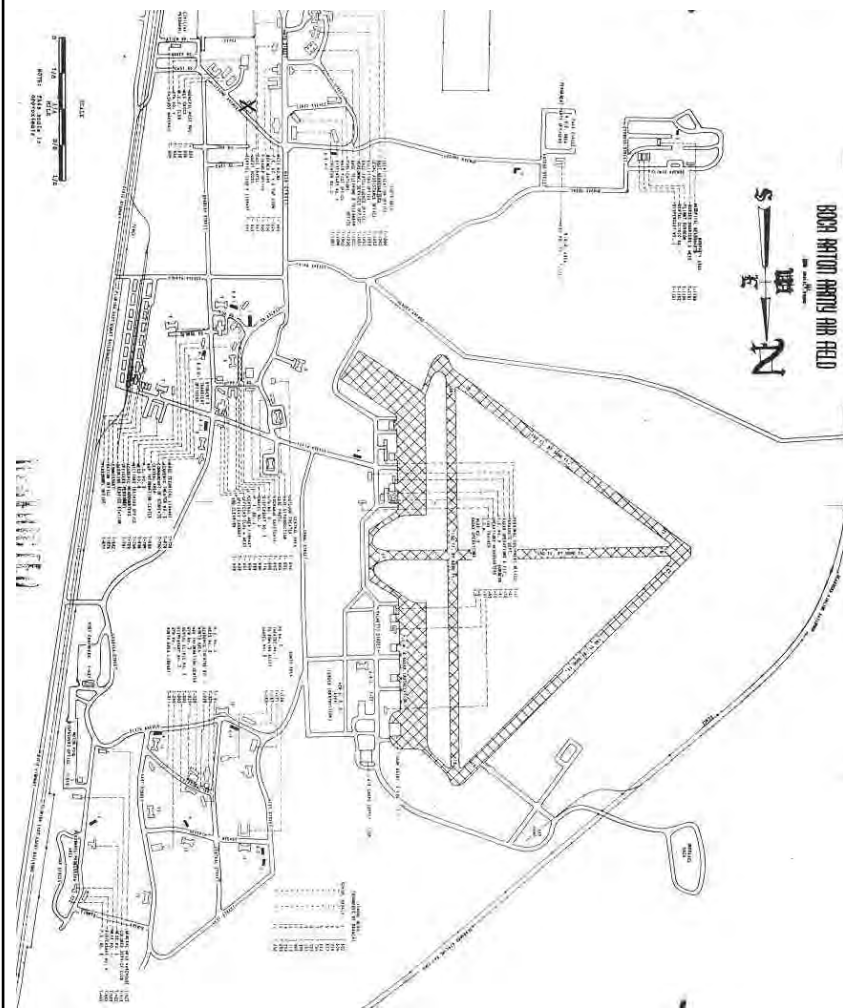
January, 1923. The Woman's Club of Boca Raton has started the community's first library. The Club's vision for a public library in Boca became a reality through hard work, dedication, and the spirit of volunteerism. The core of the library's collection consists of a large number of fiction titles donated by the Friends of the Chicago Public Library, thanks to Mrs. Morris Stokes. The Boca Raton Woman's Club has devised a novel method for further developing the Library's book collection. They have been

performing musicales featuring local talent. Audience members must bring a book to donate to the library in order to gain admission to a show. Local architect, Addison Mizner, has been supporting the cause by encouraging guests at the Boca Raton club to donate books that they have read while vacationing at the hotel to the library. Woman's Club members, Mrs. Charles Stokes, Mrs. W.C. Young, Mrs. Crosby Tappan, and Miss Erma Habercorn have been serving as volunteer librarians.



*The Boca Raton Woman's Club, formed in the early 1920's, promoted "general philanthropic work, along practical and educational lines." The club grew to 28 members in 1926. There was a designated librarian and a library committee. The members of the board gathered on the steps of the new town hall are: (first row) Lillian Williams and Harriet Gates; (second row) Eula Raulerson, Ruby Bender, Clementine Brown, Beulah Butler, Mary Alice Lamont, Helen Stokes, Pauline Raulerson, and Mayor John Brown; (third row) Unidentified, Peg Young (Library Board Chair), Florence Purdom, Audrey Purdom, Mamie Riley, Jack Cramer (builder of Town Hall), Mamie Habercorn, Gladys Sherman, and Katie Long.*

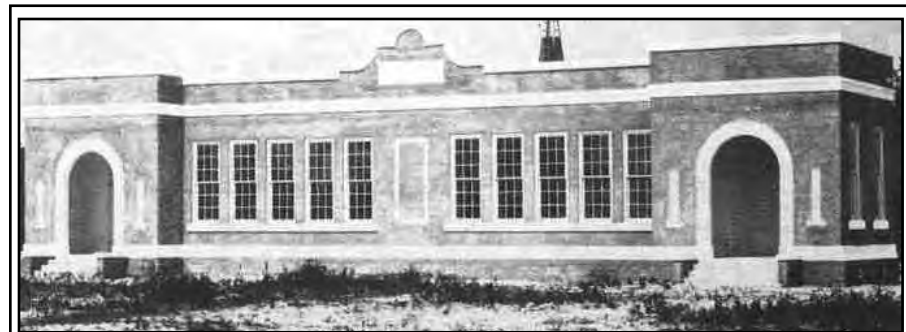
The building at location "X" on this 1940's map of the Boca Raton Army Air Field is labeled "SERVICE CLUB & LIBRARY"



## Land Bust Busts Library

January, 1926. Boca Raton's public library, formed in 1923 by the local Woman's Club, is the latest victim of the land bust decimating the local economy. The South Florida economy had benefited by the booming real estate market, which hit its height in 1925, setting

off a fever of land speculation, construction, and population growth. However, the bottom has fallen out of the real estate market and the economic conditions have forced the library's closure. The Library's book collection will be donated to the local elementary school.



When the Library closed in 1926 it's book collection was moved to this elementary school.

## New Library Opens at Boca Raton Army Air Field

January, 1946. The Woman's Christian and Civic Club, under the leadership of President Mrs. Arnold MacSpadden, has opened a new library at the Boca Raton Army Air Field, Wives of Army personnel and other local women who felt that Boca Raton needed a public library aided in the efforts. They are assembling a collection of books for the new library through a combination of membership drives, fundraising activities, and personal donations. Thanks to Recreational Director of Civilian Personnel Mrs. Mabel Wood, the Library will be located in a room in the base's Administration

Building. Myrtle Fleming, Carrie Sperry, Paulette Hebel, Helen Mann and Birdine Merritt will serve as volunteer librarians. The library will be open three afternoons and one evening a week.



When the Library reopened in 1946 it was housed in a building at the Boca Army Air Field.

## Boca Library Gone With the Wind

September 18, 1947. Yesterday, a category four hurricane with gusts of up to 155 miles per hour came ashore near Fort Lauderdale. The intense and unusually large storm caused extensive damage at the Boca Raton Army Air Field, where the Boca Raton Public Library is located. Army officials estimated damages to the base at \$4.5 million. The building housing the library lost its roof in the high winds, forcing the library to close. There are no immediate plans for reopening.



Three volunteers who made the library possible!  
Helen Mann, Hildegard Schine,  
and Eleanor Bebout.



J. Myer and Hildegarde Schine. Mr. Schine purchased the Boca Raton Club in 1944. They were big supporters of the library.

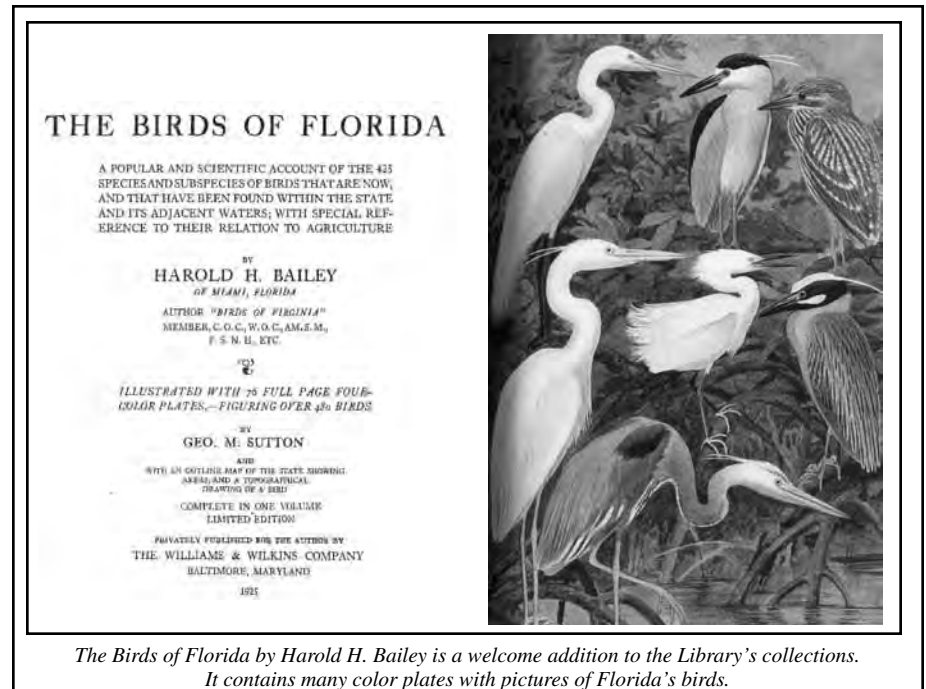
## New Library to Open in Boca Town Hall

May 28, 1948. Boca Raton will soon have a new library. The new facility will replace the one formerly located at the Boca Raton Army Air Field that was closed last year due to extensive hurricane damage. Thanks to the efforts of former Woman's Club secretary, Eleanor Bebout, a new library board was created on April 26, 1948. Carrie Sperry, Dorothy Cox, Helen Mann, Eleanor Bebout and Myrtle Fleming will serve as the new library's Board of Directors. Mrs. Bebout will serve as President. Thanks to the Boca Town Council, the new library will be located in a room in the Municipal Building.

## Library Developing New Reference Collection

February 29, 1949. The Library received a gift of fifty dollars from an anonymous donor this week that was used to purchase *The Birds of Florida* by Harold Bailey. Mr. Bailey's book will be the start of the much needed reference collection. It is a beautiful volume, scientifically

correct and easy to understand with exquisitely colored illustrations of the state's bird life. The Library committee hopes to have a reference collection as quickly as possible that will contain adequate information to service the information needs of local residents.



*The Birds of Florida* by Harold H. Bailey is a welcome addition to the Library's collections. It contains many color plates with pictures of Florida's birds.

## Library Gets New Benefactor

January, 1950. Mrs. Eleanor Bebout, President of the Boca Library Board, and Mrs. Hildegard Schine, wife of J. Myer Schine of the Boca Raton Club, recently had lunch together. The result of the meeting is that the library now has a new

supporter and benefactor. Thanks to Mrs. Schine the library has been redecorated with new bookcases, fluorescent lights, and draperies. Mrs. Schine envisions a new building in Boca that will house both a library and an art museum.



*Boca Raton Library Board Members at first annual art exhibit and open house.*

## Library Hosts Art Exhibit and Open House

*April 5, 1950.* The Boca Raton Library Board held their first annual Art Exhibit and open house yesterday in the Municipal Building. The Exhibit featured the works of both local and visiting artists. Paintings from galleries in Miami and Palm Beach were also on display. Among the exhibitors were Dr. Eric Carlberg (Director of Washington Art Studio and Galleries), Miss Mary Bonson (Director of the Worth Avenue Galleries), Mr. Vuk Vuchiinch, Mr. Vernon Lamme, Mr. Henry Cohen, Mrs. William Willingham, Mr. William van Dresser, Mrs. Stanton Pascal, Mrs. A.K. Merrill, Mrs. Kay Driscoll, Mr. Theodore Pratt, Mrs.

Harold Butts, Mrs. Joseph Shapirpo, Mr. Bran Latham, Mr. Harold Batisto, Mrs. C. Freeman, Mrs. J.C. Mitchell, and Mr. Richard Mann. Some pieces from the work of the late Leno Lazzari were also on display.

Library Board member Hildegarde Schine served as the general chairman of the Art Exhibit. Other members who helped organize the event included secretary Helen Mann, historian Edith Peyton, Alice Swetman, Eleanor Bebout, Roberta MacSpadden, and Gui Bell. The Art Exhibit was a great success, attracting more than 800 people. Many of the attendees expressed how much they enjoyed the event.

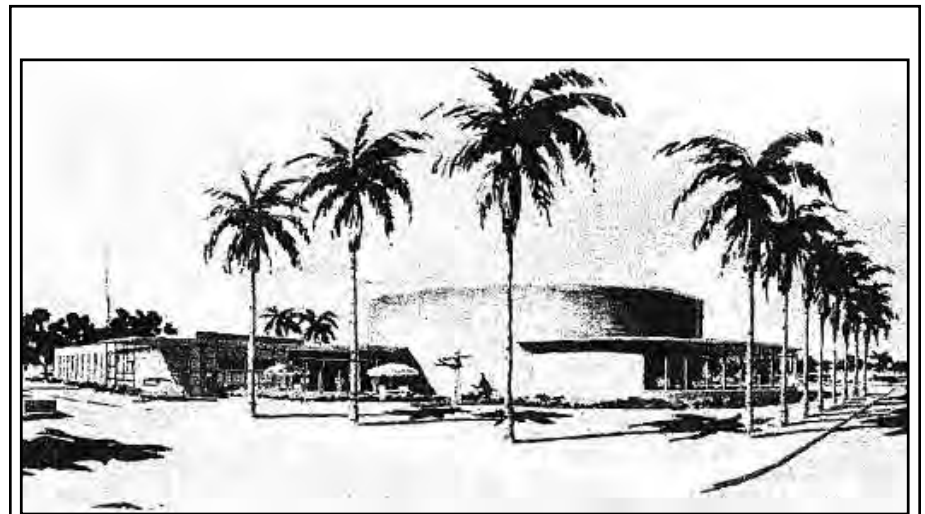
## Library and Cultural Arts Center Planned for Boca

*December 2, 1955.* Plans are underway for the Boca Raton Library and Cultural Arts Center to be built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. Myer Schine, overlooking the golf course. The Center's first priorities will be books and art, but it could eventually also play host to flower shows, art classes, drama groups, musical organizations, craft classes, book reviews, and other civic activities. Facility plans include a 200-seat auditorium and complete kitchen facilities for catered events such as buffets, garden parties, and teas. According to Art Guild President Mrs. Arnold MacSpadden, the design plans will be flexible, so that portions of the facility can be built as needed and as funds become available.

The Center will be part of a million-dollar development on a 25-acre tract of land in the heart of downtown Boca Raton. The project's architects are Gamble, Pownall, and Gilroy of Fort Lauderdale.

The Building Committee members are Richard Pfeiffer, chairman, F. Gertiser, Mrs. H. D. Gates, Mrs. W. P. Bebout, Mrs. Frank Matthews, and W. W. Thomson. Arnold MacSpadden and Mrs. F. Byron Parks are serving as advisors. There are plans for a benefit fundraising ball at the Boca Raton Club this season.

Proceeds from the ball will be combined with proceeds from the sixth annual art exhibit and donated to the building fund.



*Architect's rendering of proposed Art Museum and Library.*

## An Editorial Opinion: Libraries Are Essential

December 7, 1956. December means Christmas, but in Boca Raton it also means renewing one's library membership.

Libraries are essential. They serve all ages and provide inspiration, information and ideas. It is here we find the records of humanity's experience. More money is spent today buying comic books than is spent on textbooks. Children should be introduced to mental food and made to realize that education

is a never-ending process.

We must open our minds to ideas. If we do not do this, we will not change, grow or produce. We need to stretch our minds and imaginations. The ideas books offer us are why they are important. The preservation and distribution of human wisdom is found in our library that the library memberships support. (Actual editorial from *Boca Raton News*.)

## Building Site Given to Library & Art Guild

December 29, 1956. Boca Properties, Inc. has given a parcel of land to the Boca Raton Library Association and the Art Guild of Boca Raton, Inc. The intention is that a new library and cultural center will be located on the site. The Deed dated December 22, 1956, transferred a 200-foot piece of property located on SE First Street and Second Avenue to

the organizations jointly. Mrs. Burt Rogers, President of the Boca Raton Library Board, accepted the Deed on behalf of the Library. The Art Guild was not represented at the ceremony. Now that the site has been acquired, the Library Association is making plans to start a Building Fund Drive. The future plans of the Art Guild are not yet known.

## Library Board Separates from Art Guild

January 18, 1957. The Boca Raton Library Association, Inc. has decided to sever its association with the Art Guild of Boca Raton, Inc. The two groups are co-owners of a parcel of land located at the corner of Second Avenue and First Street SE previously deeded to them by Boca Raton Properties, Inc. on December 22, 1956, and recorded January 11, 1957. The Library Board unanimously agreed that this action

was necessary because securing a new and more adequate facility to house the library was imperative. Members of the Board expressed the opinion that the situation was of emergency proportions and that it was necessary to start planning and begin a building fund drive immediately. Anyone who wishes to make a donation to the Library building fund should contact the Library Association.

## Library Relocates to Garden Apartments

March 1, 1957. The Boca Raton Library is moving from its present location within Town Hall to a new location within the Administration Building of the Garden Apartments on West Palmetto Road. The Library will soon be housed in a 680 square foot unit that will provide more space for additional shelving and larger aisles. The Library will be closed this coming Monday and Tuesday to complete the move. An open house for the public will be held after the move is completed.

## Boca Town Council Continues to Support Library

March 8, 1957. The Boca Raton Public Library is able to continue its services because of the support that it receives from the Town Council. The Town Council subsidizes a large portion of the Library maintenance and has agreed to pay rent for up to eighteen months on a building located at Boca Raton Gardens on West Palmetto Road, opposite the City Park. There is ample parking and the Library will be within walking distance from the Boca Raton School.

But this arrangement is looked upon as temporary. Due to the recent growth of the City the current facilities are inadequate and the Library Board feels that it is necessary to launch a building drive in order to raise funds for a new library building as soon as possible.

The Library Board has expressed appreciation for the support of the Town Council and the Boca citizens in their efforts to provide quality library service to the community. The members of the Library Board are: Mrs. H.W. Rogers, Mrs. Harley Gates, Mrs. William Maxfield, Mrs. Robert Ghiotto, S.T. Hershner, P.J. Brannen, Mrs. T. Sieferth, Mrs. Henry Landry, and Major General Thomas Hanley.



Mrs. W.F. Strudy, Library Assoc. president, thanks F.B. Joiner and A.L. (Dutch) Muller for building new book shelves for the library.

## Library Membership Drive Gets Underway

*March 15, 1957.* Volunteer workers will be calling at each house in the city this week seeking to enroll new members and renew old memberships to the library. In addition to being allowed to borrow books, library members also have a vote in meetings of the membership. Mrs. T. A. Sieferth,

a member of the Library Board, is in charge of the drive. She has twenty-two volunteers to assist her. It is hoped that residents will not only become members of the library and take advantage of the large selection of books it has to offer, but also will become active in library affairs.

## Library Files Suit to Determine Land Ownership

*June 14, 1957.* A suit was filed last Thursday by the Boca Raton Library Association, Inc., as plaintiff, and The Art Guild of Boca Raton, Inc., as defendant. The Library is seeking a ruling regarding the ownership rights to a parcel of property previously deeded to the parties by Boca Raton Properties, Inc. The Library claims that the Art Guild never accepted the deed in its present form because of certain covenants and restrictions imposed by the Grantor, to which the Art Guild objected, and that the rights of the parties with regard to the property are uncertain.

When contacted by telephone, Mrs. Richard Mann, president of the Art Guild, said that the parcel of

land had been set aside for use as a library and a cultural center by the J. Myer Schines and when Schine sold his Boca Raton interests to Arthur Vining Davis and his organization, the Boca Raton Properties, Inc., the contract reportedly included the deeding of the land to the library and the art guild.

She explained that the original plans had been made for a library and museum but were changed over the years to a combination library and cultural center that would be located in the same building. The Library is requesting that the property be partitioned so that the individual uses of each party can be accommodated.

## Library Receives During National Library Week

*April 15, 1959.* This year's celebration of National Library Week was a very special one thanks to the generosity of a number of people and organizations. The Friends of the Boca Raton Library raised \$2,000 in a campaign of ringing telephones and doorbells. That donation has allowed the purchase of encyclopedias, reference books and shelving. In addition, the Friends received other gifts including a window air conditioner, glass museum display cases, pictures and books from private collections.

Books, book cases, maps, reference materials and a world globe were donated by many other library supporters. Among the contributors were the Kiwanis Club, Dr. & Mrs.

Willard Machle, Mrs. Ralph J. Tyner Jr., the First Bank of Boca Raton, St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Mrs. J. Allen Abbott, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel C. Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Eskild Bondesen, Maurice Taube, Arthur Mirandi of the Doby Brick Company, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Drummond, Mr. & Mrs. Adam J. Hazlett, Mr. & Mrs. William W. Thompson, Mrs. & Mrs. James R. Caldwell, and Mrs. Clarence Searight.

Nearly 200 people attended a reception held on Monday evening where refreshments were served by hostesses: Mrs. Shapiro and Mrs. Caldwell, assisted by Mrs. John P. Brown and Mrs. Burt Rogers, Mrs. Domina Jalbert, Mrs. Ralph J. Tyner Jr. and Mrs. Mark Lasker and Dr. & Mrs. William G. O'Donnell.



*Mrs. Harold R. Archer, Mrs. Warren Murray, and Mrs. Joseph Gola, Jr., discuss plans for Woman's Club book drive.*

## Library, Art Guild Legal Dispute Still Unresolved

*October 29, 1959.* The acting president of the Boca Raton Library Board, Mrs. H. W. Rogers, issued a statement explaining why the Library Board did not have a representative at a joint meeting with the Boca Raton Art Guild last Wednesday. The meeting was called in an effort to have the two groups reach agreement on library matters.

Mrs. Roger's statement said that attorneys representing the library's interest told the board that such a

meeting was inadvisable without attorneys for both parties being present. Both organizations are presently negotiating an equitable division of property and funds now held by the Art Guild.

While this is going on, Mrs. Rogers' assured us that "adequate and uninterrupted library service has been maintained by active participation of the Library Board members and the cooperation and assistance of the city."

## Library, Art Guild Divide Proceeds from Land Sale

*January, 1960.* A check for \$50,000 was presented to the Boca Raton Library Board and the Art Guild representatives last Friday at the First Bank of Boca Raton in exchange for a deed to a parcel of land located at the corner of First Street and Golfview Blvd. The original lot was set aside for the Library and Art Guild by Mr. & Mrs. Myer Schine several years ago. When the Schines sold their interests in the Boca Raton Hotel and Club to Arthur Vining Davis, Boca Raton Properties, Inc. acquired the lot. When the lot was subsequently conveyed to the Library and the Art Guild, the deed contained covenants and restrictions that

were unacceptable to the Art Guild. After legal action was instituted, the property was bought back for \$50,000. The proceeds were divided equally and a check was given to each organization in exchange for its portion of the property. Accepting the Library's check for \$25,000 was C. Harrison Newman, president of the Library Board, and accepting the Art Guild's check for \$25,000 was Mrs. Anthony Mojokowski, vice president of the Art Guild. Officers of the Library Board said that they were very happy that the suit had been settled because the Library Board was now in a position to start planning for a new public library facility.

## Plans Approved for New Boca Library Building

*March 16, 1961.* The Board of Directors of the Boca Raton Public Library approved the final plans for the City's new library building at a meeting held earlier this week. The new building will measure 40 by 90 feet, enclosing almost 4,000 square feet. It will be completely air-conditioned and include a conference room, an audio room, and a children's area, along with a general library area. The building will be located on a site on NW 2nd Avenue in between NW 2nd Street and NW 3rd Street.

The Boca Raton Woman's Club has agreed to furnish the children's area and conduct a "Story Hour" on Saturday mornings. Other organizations have been invited to

undertake other projects in connection with the furnishing and operation of the new facility.

Construction bids will be opened on April 4th in the offices of Howard McCall, the architect for the project. Plans are being made for a groundbreaking ceremony. Construction is scheduled to start sometime in April and completion is expected within 3 months.

The members of the Library Board are: Rev. James C. Stoutsenberger, president; Al Sterling, vice president; Mrs. Hazel Brown, secretary; Eskild Bondesen, treasurer; C. Harrison Newman, director; Maj. Gen. Thomas Hanley, director; and P.J. Brennen, director.



*Local architect Howard McCall's rendering of the proposed Boca Raton Public Library building.*

## More Money Needed to Complete Library Construction

*May 4, 1961.* The price tag for the construction of the new building to house the Boca Raton Public Library is \$41,000. Architect Howard McCall created the winning design and Hibiscus Construction Co. submitted the winning construction bid.

The 4,000 square foot building will be located on Northwest 2nd Avenue between Northwest 2nd and 3rd Streets. The Library's current location is not large enough to house its growing collection of books and materials.

The \$41,000 price tag is \$20,000 more than the funds the non-profit

Boca Raton Library Association has available. Al Sterling, Vice President of the Library Board, stated that the remainder must be raised in the next month if the building is to be completed before the start of the school year.

The organization has been able to raise \$4,500 in public donations to help cover the shortfall and is seeking additional contributions. Anyone desiring to contribute to the cause should send their tax-deductible donations to the Boca Raton Library Association, Inc. at 209 West Palmetto Park Road.

## Library Holds Groundbreaking Ceremonies

*June 24, 1961.* Yesterday groundbreaking ceremonies at the site of the future home of the Boca Raton Public Library. The new 4,000 square foot library building, designed by architect Howard McCall, will be completely air-conditioned and include a soundproof study room,

a conference room, a librarian's workroom, and separate reading areas for adults and children.

The Hibiscus Construction Co. has committed to a completion date of October 15th. Public donations to the Library Building Fund are still needed to cover the budget shortfall.



*Shovels prepared for library's groundbreaking ceremony.*

## New Boca Library to Be Dedicated on Friday

*November 9, 1961.* On Friday an official ceremony will be held to mark the opening of the brand new Boca Raton Library building on NW 2nd Avenue. The Reverend James C. Stoutsenberger, president of the Library Association, will serve as the master of ceremonies by introducing the guests and giving a brief speech about the Library. Vice-Mayor Courtney C. Boone will cut the ribbon and the Reverend William Deutschman will deliver a dedication prayer. Attendees are expected to include city commissioners and other city officials, school principals, representatives of Hibiscus Construction Company, architect Howard McCall, officers and directors of the Library Association, including vice president Al Sterling, treasurer Eskild Bondesen, and directors Admiral John Cassady, Major General Thomas J. Hanley, Mrs. Burt Rogers, P.J. Brannen, and C. Harrison Newman.

The Library will officially open to the public on Monday. Library hours will remain Monday through Friday from 2-5 p.m., Tuesday and Friday from 7-9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The air-conditioned facility will feature juvenile and adult areas, a conference room, a small room for later use as a music (record) room, and a book drop for night deposit. Additional space will allow 1,500 books that the Library had stacked away due to space shortages in its old facility to now be placed on the shelves.

Library Association officials praised city officials and local businessmen for their efforts in helping to complete this project. The Association also noted that the Building Fund drive to pay for the new facility is nearly completed, but several thousand dollars are still needed.



*Boca's new downtown library.*

# Mayor Brodhead Proclaims Library Week

April 22, 1965. Today is the first day of Library Week in Boca Raton. By his eloquent proclamation, Mayor Sidney Brodhead has called attention to a vital aspect of life in our community. Mayor Brodhead points out that "the written word serves as the fuel to feed the burning flame of inquiring minds." It's the inquiring minds that will build the future, not only of Florida and the United States, but of Boca as well.

Persons who are interested in civic affairs will seek books to study problems and solutions from other cities; persons who are interested in cultural activities will go to the library for books on music, art, dance, and

literature; those with hobbies will find on library shelves the reference materials which will lead them to a keener appreciation of their pastime; all will be able to find in their library the keys to enriched leisure time in works of fiction.

A library, in short, is not a dusty storehouse for dog-eared volumes. It is the hub of activity for the myriad activities of the mind ... and people think about everything! During Library Week, it's only right that we remember that the Boca Raton Library exists for our benefit and use ... but let's not forget that it depends also on our support and encouragement.



Mayor Sidney Brodhead presents Library Board members, Mrs. James R. Caldwell and William Stowe, with copy of Library Week proclamation declaring the library a "vital aspect of life."

# Boca Library Has New Ownership and Name

December 20, 1966. This month, Boca Raton's library was dedicated to the City. The facility has also undergone a name change and will now be known as the Boca Raton Public Library. The current Library facility dates from 1961 and is designed to hold 20,000 volumes. The private, non-profit Boca Raton Library Association raised the funds for its construction.



The Official Seal of the City of Boca Raton



Mrs. William Stroup assists librarian, Mrs. Janet Murray, with the shelving of encyclopedias donated by the Boca Junior Woman's Club.

## BOCA RATON LIBRARY

*It is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to our community. There are many ways in which this Library can contribute to your happiness and we sincerely hope we may have a real part in making you feel at home.*

### HOURS

(EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1966)

MONDAY 12 - 8 P.M.	THURSDAY 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
TUESDAY 12 - 8 P.M.	FRIDAY 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
WEDNESDAY 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.	SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Phone 395-2980

**200 N. W. 2nd AVENUE • BOCA RATON, FLORIDA**

CARD COURTESY OF BOCA RATON NATIONAL BANK

*Welcoming card given to new library patrons in 1966.*



*Library patrons are welcomed at Boca Library's new circulation desk.*



*Mrs. Leedy Hogan, a representative of the National Association of Railway Business Women, presents collection of 60 books about railroads to Boca Library as Mrs. Grace Porterhouse, manager of the Boca Raton Apartments for Retired Railroaders, as student pages, Bill Feltner and Nancy Howe look on.*



*Mayor John G. Brown, Sr., Boca's first mayor, was a supporter of the Library.*

## **Boca Raton Library to Add Section on Local History**

*June 15, 1972.* A new addition to the library's collection includes documents and pictures related to local history. John G. Brown, assistant manager of the Boca Raton Motel, has had a great deal to do with making this possible. Brown's father, the late John G. Brown, Sr. was Boca's first mayor and his mother was Boca's first schoolteacher. He has donated most of the documents from his parents' archives for the benefit of those interested in local history.

The Browns moved to Boca in 1915 from Deland, Florida. Mrs.

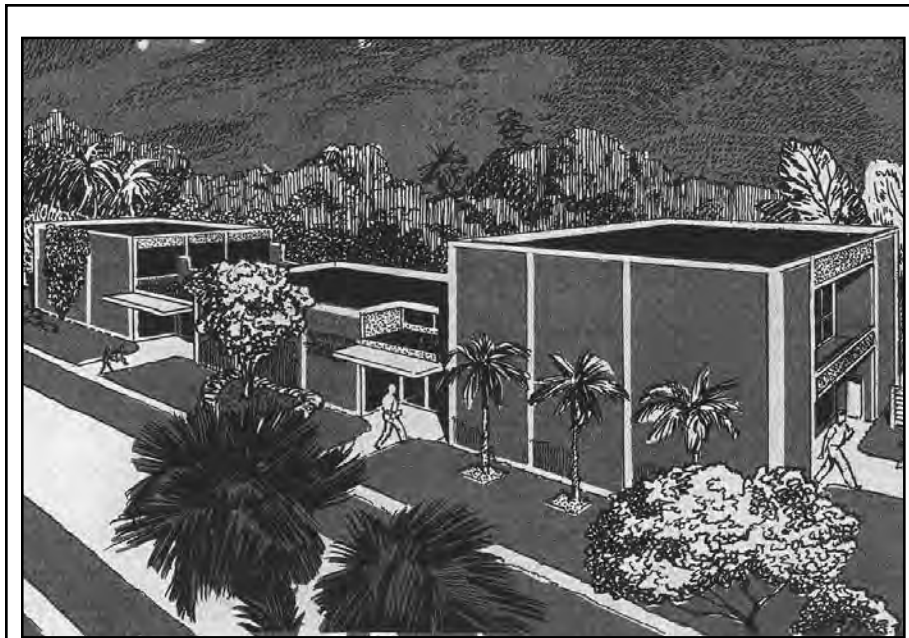
Brown made eight dollars a week teaching and waiting on tables at her boarding house. Mr. Brown, Sr. became a road construction engineer and built most of Old Dixie Highway from the Broward line to Delray Beach. When Boca Raton was incorporated he ran for mayor and was elected. Running for office then was relatively easy as the town only had about 100 people. Under Mayor Brown the water works plant was built, the city hall was built, and the city's first fire truck was purchased.

## New Library Wing Under Construction

September 10, 1972. The Boca Raton Public Library will close temporarily from September 11 through September 16 as books are relocated to the new wing constructed at the building's southern end.

The new wing will add more than 5,000 square feet of space to the Library to raise the total square

footage to just over 9,000 square feet. Architects McCall, Lynch, and Associates, who had previously designed the original building, designed the new addition. Sommers and Messmer Construction Co. began building the new wing last February at a cost of \$120,000.



The architect's rendering of the new addition to the Boca Raton Public Library.

## Children's Books Donated to Boca Library

November 16, 1972. The Junior Service League of Boca Raton has just contributed 36 juvenile books to the Boca Raton Library in commemoration of National Children's Book Week and the dedication of the library's new wing on Monday.

The contribution could not come at a better time as the children's section of the library, now located on the second floor, is a very busy place. Presently the library has approximately 9,000 volumes geared to pre-school through eighth graders with additional books for older children found in the Young People's Section.

The children's section is about to

become even more of a gathering place as story hours are going to be conducted soon on a regular basis and a children's film collection is being assembled.

Contributions have become very important to the library and the Junior Service League's gifts of such books as Bright and Early Books for Beginning Beginners, the Sesame Street series and the Little Animal Book are welcome additions.

Children's librarian Mrs. Florence Mangus says it is wonderful to watch the children as they read or look at the pictures because you can see from their faces they are responding to the books and appreciate having their own area of the library.



An concerned parent reads to her daughter and a 'friend' in the children's section of the Boca Raton Public Library.

*Dedication of New Library Wing*

*Boca Raton Public Library*

200 N. W. 2nd Avenue  
Boca Raton, Florida

November 13, 1972  
1:00 P.M.

INVOCATION . . . . . FR. RONALD J. PUSAK  
REMARKS . . . . . REV. ALBERT G. SHIPHORST, Chairman  
Library Advisory Board  
REMARKS . . . . . MR. BYRD MARSHALL, Mayor  
BENEDICTION . . . . . RABBI BENJAMIN ROSAYN

Refreshments . . . . . Courtesy Junior Woman's Club

— OPEN HOUSE —

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Albert G. Shiphorst, Chairman  
Mrs. Raymond Homrich, Secretary  
Mrs. Clarence H. Kent  
Mrs. Ralph B. Kling  
Dr. Donald M. Beckwith

DEDICATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

November 15, at 10:00 A.M.

“BOOK REVIEW” - “THE CAPTAINS AND THE KINGS”  
by Taylor Caldwell

Presented by Mrs. Ralph B. Kling

November 16 - 9:30 to 10:00 A.M.

“STORY TIME” for pre-school children

November 18 - 9:30 to 10:00 A.M.

“STORY TIME” for school-age children

Film: “THE MAGIC BOOK”

Film: “THE DOUGHTNUTS”

## Many Children's Programs at Boca Library

September 30, 1973. On Monday night at 7:30 p.m. the Children's Room of the Boca Raton Public Library will show the film “The Fish and the Fisherman” to eight-year-olds and up. The 30 minute film is a story of a fish offering a fisherman three wishes if he would throw the fish back in the water. It is based on an Alexander Pushkin poem and has an original musical score.

Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. there will be a half-hour story hour for four-year-olds. On Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. there will be stories for five through eight-year-olds. Starting October 17, a monthly program for three-year-olds will begin. On December 17 there will be a special Christmas program.

## FAU Students May Have Access to the Boca Raton Public Library

November 13, 1973. City Librarian Janet Murray introduced a proposal to both the City Library Board and the City Council that would allow FAU students to use Boca Raton Library facilities without charge.

Currently FAU students are not considered residents of the city for purposes of obtaining a library card. Students had questioned their having to pay for using the city facilities when Boca Raton residents are allowed to use the university's library free of charge.

If the Library Board accepts Murray's proposal, it will then go to the Boca Raton City Council for final approval.



Young children gather at library for storytime

## Library Use Increases During Economic Downturn

*April 17, 1975.* Despite the current economic situation library use has been on the increase. Janet Murray, Director of the Boca Raton Public Library, says “the library always seems to have an increase in business when things get bad.”

This presents a problem for library officials, because this increase in use has been accompanied by a decrease in operational funds. In order to adjust to a 3% decrease in their budget the library has had to reduce hours, cut expenditures for supplies, institute a hiring freeze, and turn down the air conditioning. “We haven’t trimmed the book budget,” Mrs. Murray says. “We have \$18,000 in the budget to buy books this year, and that won’t be cut. We can’t cut the book budget, because that’s our product.”

In the last three years the number of patrons, both adult and juvenile, has nearly doubled. As of March 31, there were over 26,000 borrowers who checked out books over 190,000 times last year. The library now has over 50,000 volumes on hand. As the library has grown, the clientele has changed. The summer slowdown

doesn’t exist anymore. The library’s patrons now cover a wide range of people from retired senior citizens to children of IBM employees. One thing they all have in common though, they like their fiction. “More fiction books go out than anything else,” Mrs. Murray says. “Of course people will take out three or four fiction books at one time. We have a good business section, and that seems to get a lot of use—books on the stock market and so on.”

If capital expansion is limited by the economy, expansion of programs at the library is not. A summer reading program for children now augments the winter program of lectures, travelogues, and book reviews. Last year over 400 children signed up for the eight-week reading program.

Mrs. Murray doesn’t think the bad economic times will last forever, though. She still hopes the library will expand along with the town. “We’re really too small now,” she says. “We need a new wing here as is, and we’re hoping to expand one of these days with a branch to the west and north.”

## City Holds 50th Birthday Party at Library

*May 12, 1975.* A capacity crowd gathered at the Boca Raton Public Library yesterday to celebrate the City’s 50th Anniversary. A short lecture on Boca history was followed with music and dancing. Head Librarian Janet Murray and the library staff dressed appropriately

in costumes from the 20’s. The youngsters seemed surprised that the grandfolks could have so much fun especially in a library. When one patron complained about the noise, a staff member replied, “it only happens every fifty years.”



*Patrons enjoy music at the library on Saturday afternoon.*



*Dee Ann Boston and Florence Mangus, children's librarian, examine the calliope that will be a part of the upcoming clown parade. The parade will kick off the library's Razzle-Dazzle Reading Circus on Saturday.*

## See Clown Painting Faces At Boca Library

*May 18, 1975.* A demonstration of clown make-up will be given at 7:30 p.m. on Monday at the Boca Raton Public Library. The demonstration is a prelude to the clown parade scheduled for May 31 at the library. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 are invited to be clowns in the parade, which will open registration for the children's summer reading program. George Dunning will present the clown make-up demonstration for interested children and their parents.

## Library Patrons Can Check Out Books from Other Libraries

*May 20, 1975.* If you ever find yourself wanting a volume that the library either doesn't have or has few copies of, there are some things you can do to obtain the book you desire. First, you can put in a request for

the library to purchase an additional copy of the material, or if this is not an option, request that they borrow it through the inter-library loan program. You can do this by giving the library a call at 395-2980.

## Business Is Good At the Boca Raton Public Library

*September, 1976.* The Boca Raton Library has a constant stream of customers, with ever-growing requests for reference books, pamphlets, investment services, magazines, books on tape, CD's and other materials. In fact, the books are in such demand that the library has installed a secret alarm system in every volume. Visitors pass through gates before leaving, which send off loud whoops if someone forgets to check out a volume.

The financial newspapers are big items for this library. Early weekday

mornings there are serious looking business people eagerly going over *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications in the reading room. Downstairs there is a super reference desk with all the financial information you need to make, or keep a million dollars. Reference librarian Panna Mody gets frequent callers who want to know answers to money questions. Would-be players of television's Jeopardy get help here too. Mody obviously likes her job and doesn't get flustered by unusual requests.



*Reference room at the Boca Raton Public Library with business materials*

## Boca: A City with Many Books

September 26, 1976. Close your eyes and imagine a city with five libraries. There would be so many books in town that you would probably expect the streets to be paved with them. It would be the antithesis to the one described by Ray Bradbury in *Fahrenheit 451* (a story about an imagined world where all books were banned from the public). It would be the new City of Boca Raton.

Among the academic and public libraries in the city there are an estimated 840,000 books available to its residents. Most of these volumes are in the Florida Atlantic University library. Dr. Peter Spyers-Durante, the FAU library director, says that the university's library has over 760,000 items, making it the only complete research library within a 60-mile radius of Boca Raton. The university also has a computer terminal connected to 600 other research libraries across the country. "We consider the FAU library to be an area research center," he says. While the facilities at FAU are primarily for the use of the students and faculty of the university, Boca residents are free to use the library and materials are available on a restricted basis.

Janet Murray, Manager of the Boca Raton Public Library, says that the city library currently houses approximately 56,000 items, but there are plans for expansion of the city's library system to include several more buildings.

Mrs. Murray says that the library has extensive collections covering Lincoln, railroads, Floridiana, and the Civil War and that it participates in an interlibrary loan system among other county and state libraries, so if the city library does not own a book that a patron wants, it can be borrowed from another library.

The College of Boca Raton has a 27,000-book library that is also open to the public. Residents who register with the college librarian are given check-out privileges.

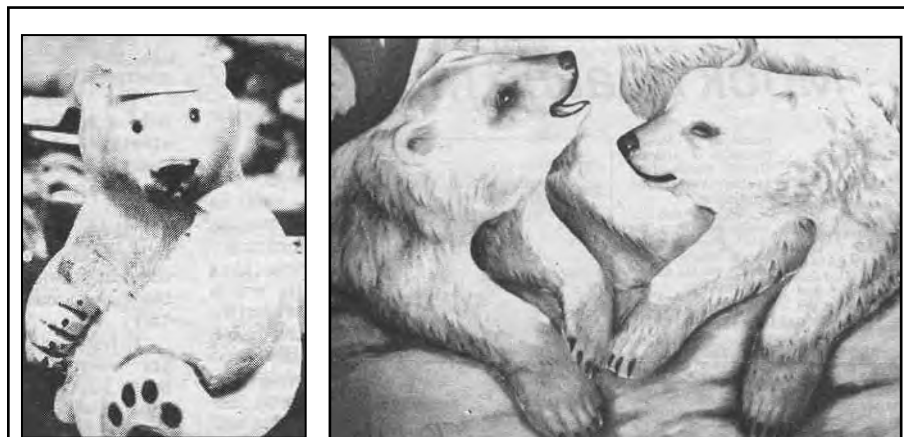
As the city grows in size, so will its libraries. Between the city, university, college, county, and state libraries, Boca Raton residents will be well covered.



## Polar Bears Visit the Boca Library

February, 1977. The Boca Raton Public Library is continuing its series of featured collections this month with an exhibition of miniature models of polar bears belonging to well known local collector Herman

Herst, Jr. The delightful miniature polar bears come from all over the world and are made from a variety of materials, including bronze and wood. They are sure to charm Library patrons of all ages.



Marcella's friends from the North visit the Boca Raton Public Library.

## Boca Library Browsers Find More Than Just Books

December 4, 1977. Today a library is more than just a book repository. Residents are encouraged to head over to the Boca Raton Library and learn all they have to offer.

Whatever your interest, you can find it at the library, from weekly news magazines and daily newspapers to music, films, art and games. There is even a story hour for children of

all ages.

It is obvious that library patrons have already caught on to how much more the institution offers. The figures tell the story. The Boca Raton Library has about 16,000 patrons and users checked out almost 225,000 books, pamphlets, films, pictures, periodicals, games and toys last year.

## Janet Murray Retires from Library After 17 Years

February 1, 1978. Janet Murray, Director of the Boca Raton Public Library since 1961, is officially retiring. She will continue to guide the Library on a consultant basis during the transition period as the Library searches for her replacement.

Mrs. Murray is originally from Pennsylvania and began her library career in Huntington, West Virginia. She and her husband moved to Boca Raton in 1959. When she became the head of the Boca Raton Public Library in 1961, the City had not yet acquired control of the Library.

The Library consisted of a large rented room and storage space in the old Garden Apartments Building near the present-day City Hall on Palmetto Park Road. Phyllis Alexander was the only other employee. They oversaw a collection of around 9,000 volumes. When the City acquired control of the Library a dozen years ago, Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Alexander boxed and moved the books themselves to the Library's current location on Second Avenue.

Under her direction, the Library had grown to approximately 66,000 volumes and a staff of ten regular and nine part-time employees. Mrs. Murray plans to spend her retirement sewing, painting, gardening, and possibly cooking.

## Prize-Winning Cartoons on Display at Boca Library

April 6, 1978. The political cartoons of Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist Bruce Shanks are currently on display at the Boca Raton Public Library. The works are from Mr. Shanks' 41 years at the *Buffalo Evening News* in New York. His cartoons are known for their simple artistic style and short but eye-catching slogans. He is also well known for his trademark character John Q. Public.

Mr. Shanks won a number of awards over the course of his career. He won the Pulitzer for his cartoon titled "The Thinker," depicting a labor leader in the pose of the well-known statue. He moved to Boca Raton upon his retirement four years ago. While he still draws the occasional cartoon, he now focuses on creating clay sculptures.

The cartoon exhibit will remain on display at the Library through the remainder of this month.



A political cartoon by Boca resident, Bruce Shanks.



welcome **Spring!**

MARCH-APRIL 1978

PARKS AND RECREATION  
CITY OF BOCA RATON FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT

**THE RECREATOR**

Spring 1978 Recreator lists city programs including those being held at the library.

## Boca Library Hires New Library Director

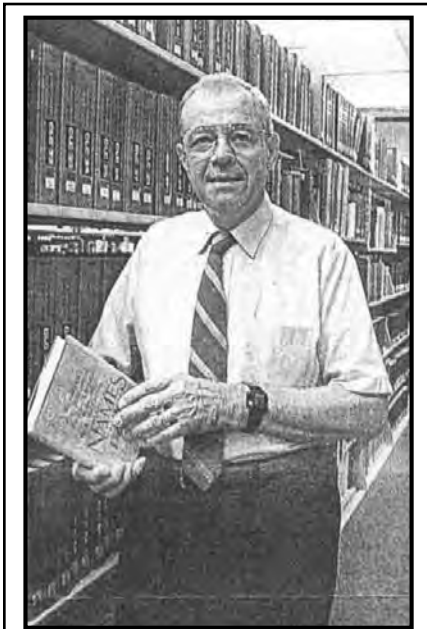
July 24, 1978. The Boca Raton Public Library has announced that Michigan librarian Bruce R. Kauffman will become their new Director on or before September 1. Mr. Kauffman will be replacing Janet Murray, who served as the Library's Director for seventeen years before retiring this February.

Acting Librarian and City Parks and Recreation Director Jim Rutherford served as Chairman of the four-member selection committee formed to choose the finalists. The other committee members were Florida Atlantic University Library Director Harry Skallerup, Director of the Broward County Library System Cecil Beach, and Secretary of the Library Advisory Board Helen Bero. The committee narrowed the field of 88 applicants to 6 finalists before conducting interviews.

The committee was impressed with Kauffman's broad experience at both public and university libraries and his familiarity with the use of computer applications in library science. Mr. Kauffman comes to Boca from the Jackson District Library in Jackson, Michigan, where he has served as Assistant Director.

He has also worked at the University of Cincinnati Library in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Kauffman is excited about helping the Library grow and develop, although he will not plan any definite changes until he arrives. He is taking over a library that has already grown to approximately 66,000 volumes and will oversee a staff consisting of ten regular and nine part-time employees.



*Library Manager Bruce Kaufman is concerned about his library's lack of space.*

## Meet Your Boca Neighbors

November 30, 1978. If you are a parent of a school-age child in Boca Raton, you may not know Florence Mangus, but your child probably does. Mrs. Mangus, who is in her tenth year with the library, is the youth services librarian at the Boca Raton Public Library.

"No two days here are the same," says Mrs. Mangus. "The point of our job is not to pop up and help children every time they want it, but to teach them to help themselves."

As a part of this educational process, Mrs. Mangus has devised story programs for children aged 3 to 12, which she conducts in the library, in the Boca Raton Community Center, and in various schools. During the holiday season there are additional special

programs.

"We feel that guidance is important in getting children interested in books early," she says. "We read, tell stories and even include the care of books. We always throw in a little entertainment to keep it interesting, as their interest span is very short. For this we use hand puppets, film strips, songs, and finger plays."

Mrs. Mangus has maintained an interest in children that spans the time during which she was a teacher and housewife who raised three children of her own. Her interest in libraries began with courses at Ball State University back in her native Indiana. Mrs. Mangus says, "librarianship is very rewarding work."



*Children's librarian Florence Mangus.*

## Library Board Predicts That County Plan Won't Work

*June 13, 1979.* On Tuesday the Palm Beach County Commissioners voted to end subsidy payments to seven city libraries, including Boca Raton. The purpose of the subsidy has been to reimburse the municipalities for library services to residents of unincorporated areas of the county. According to Library Manager Bruce Kauffman, Boca Raton's payments from the tax district for the present budget year are about \$26,000. In place of the subsidy, the commissioners have voted to accept a recommendation from the county library advisory board to encourage cities to enter a reciprocal borrowing agreement for books and other library materials. Under the agreement, unincorporated area residents and city residents could use any library that is a party to the agreement without paying a non-resident fee.

As expected, Tuesday's vote by the county commissioners probably will spell the end of cooperation between city and county libraries. Representatives of several city libraries told commissioners that the cities probably won't accept that proposal. "I'd be surprised if a single

city goes along with the plan," said West Palm Beach Librarian John Hillis. Boynton Beach Librarian Virginia Ferris said, "reciprocal borrowing implies that you're trading equal amounts, and that's not the case because the city libraries are much better stocked than the county branch libraries."

The Boca city library advisory board members and library manager Bruce Kauffman said today that the County Commission's action is not in the best interests of the taxpayers of this municipality. When the City Council reviews the proposed 1979-1980 budget, it will be asked to review its agreement with the county library system. The library advisory board will request that the Council provide money for at least part of the deficit that the local library will experience because of the county's severance of the subsidy payments. The Library will probably institute a non-resident fee. Library Manager Bruce Kauffman said, "he thought than an annual fee of \$20 was fair and equitable, and that he didn't see any other alternative."

## Miniature Delights at Boca Library

*June 15, 1979.* This month the display at the Boca Raton Library is a delightful collection of miniature doll furniture on loan from local residents such as sisters Jacque McCullough and Lenore Alford.

Mrs. McCullough's collection consists of Tootsietoy furniture, introduced in the 1920s and made until metal became unavailable during World War II. Her sister, Lenore Alford, loaned an almost complete set of Petite Princess furniture produced by the Ideal Toy Corporation in 1964 and discontinued after the first year of production due to its high price.

Les and Flo Bercier, Marge Kreh, Margaret Terrall and craftsman

Gene Styles of Pennsylvania also have loaned the library handmade, miniature crafts and accessories.

Miniatures have become one of the fastest growing hobbies in the South and there are several national magazines devoted to small collectibles. Boca Raton had the first miniature club in Florida.

Many collectors start out purchasing pieces for their children, but when the children outgrow doll houses, the adults continue to collect anyway. They travel around the United States attending various show where they buy and trade and even set up workshops in their homes where they make their own miniatures.

## Boca Library Promotes Summer Reading by Young People

*June 24, 1979.* While a lot has changed in the nearly ten years Florence Mangus has been children's librarian at the Boca Raton Library, one thing remains the same. Boys and girls have decidedly different tastes in books.

According to Ms. Mangus, girls prefer books about themselves and their peers while boys like things such as science fiction.

During the summer months the library is working hard to open up new worlds for young people and letting them make educational discoveries outside the structured learning of the school year. The library is offering a number of programs for youths, including Super Summer '79 - a reading group that is

treated to a different guest speaker every Wednesday morning. The group also keeps a log of the books read over the summer and at the end of the program will vote for the most popular book.

In addition to Super Summer '79, there is a daily reading program for children between the ages of 3-6 at the Boca Raton Community Center.

But the library's business is books and the children taking part in the programs are reading on their own as well as in groups - checking out more than 250 books every day. The most popular books with girls are those by Judy Blume. Boys prefer Encyclopedia Brown, a kid-turned-detective series that has been popular for more than ten years.

## Boca Library No Longer Part of County 'System'

October, 1979. When Palm Beach County started its own taxing district library system in 1968, all libraries in the county's municipalities were asked to participate in the "System." The Boca Raton Public Library decided to participate, along with most other city and privately owned libraries in the county. As Boca Raton's population increased, the administrative and operating costs of servicing thousands of new people also increased. They now exceed the library's resources and the System's level of reimbursement. Therefore, the City of Boca Raton has elected to

withdraw from the System upon the occasion of a recent reimbursement reduction. Now full-time residents and property owners of the City of Boca Raton will be offered library services free as a benefit of their municipal taxes, which constitute the sole source of support for the operation of the library. All services previously offered under the prior arrangement will be continued. Non-residents who pay the county library system tax will thus be charged a non-resident fee to use the Boca Raton Public Library.

## Boca Library Has New 'Friends'

November 26, 1979. The Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library enlisted thirty members at the group's first organizational meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday evening in the City Council Chambers at the City Hall.

When asked, who are the Friends?, Mary Homrich responded that "friends are intelligent, creative, warm, friendly, enthusiastic men and women of varying ages and occupations who enjoy what they are doing and laugh a lot...who may or may not behave this way in other situations, but certainly do when they are to share their dreams for the library in which they have an abiding interest and for which they have great affection."

City Librarian Bruce Kaufman explained that the "Friends will do what Friends always do," provide a helping hand, support, and encouragement. He said that the group's activities would be determined by the membership, but that typical friends organizations work to bring public attention to the Library; to cooperate with the library staff in developing services; to give support to legislation related to libraries; to help the Library acquire

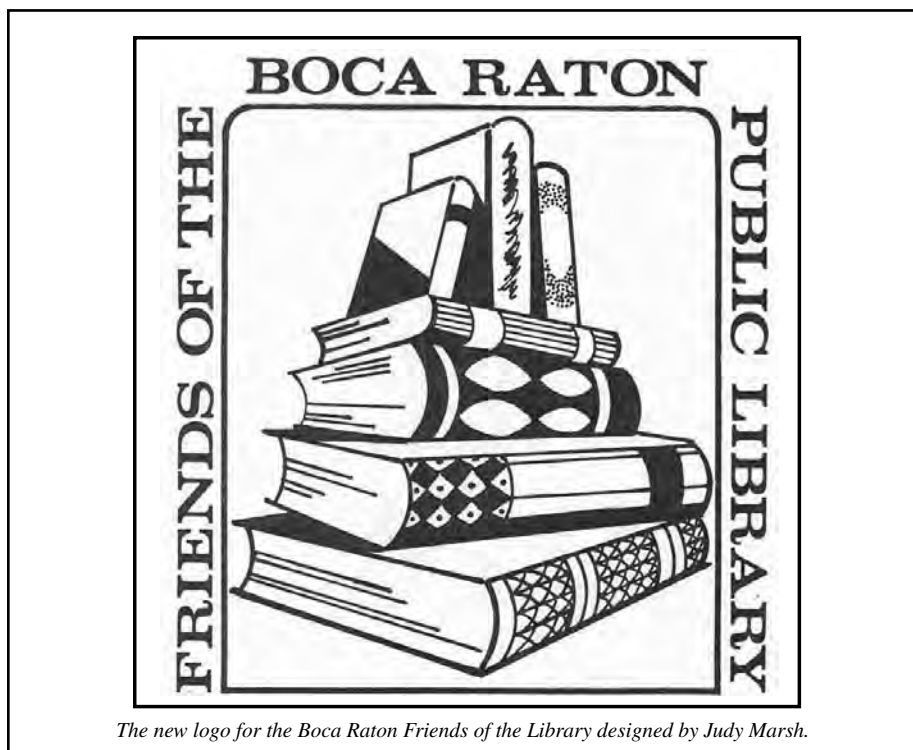
materials; and to help raise money for the Library.

Friends' groups sometimes sponsor book sales, film series programs, author events, and other educational and cultural programs for the community's residents.

The group is seeking other interested citizens to join the organization, and they are especially interested in persons who have been involved with friend's groups in other communities. The next meeting will be held on February 1st. Anyone who is interested in participating can obtain an application for membership at the Library administration offices.

The concept of a library friends' organization is a useful one and deserving of support. Its embodiment now in an organization devoted to practical ends is another sign of the growing maturity of the community and its continued pride in its civic and cultural assets.

John Tarrant is president of the steering committee; Shirley Weber is vice president; Betty Liberty is secretary; and Donald Hulse is treasurer. The directors are Judy Fink, Michael Giles, and Mary Homrich. The group intends to file incorporation papers later this week.



The new logo for the Boca Raton Friends of the Library designed by Judy Marsh.

## Limited Space: Boca Has Outgrown It's Library

January 10, 1980. The Boca Raton Public Library Friends Group toured the Library today and found that the facility is cramped and outdated. The amount of the library building devoted to staff space is only 6%. According to the Library's Manager, the minimum amount of space for staff should be more like 15%. Apparently the Youth Services

Section of the Library is using space in another city building for their very important children's programs. They are also renting space in the Fischer Building at A1A and 40th Street for necessary storage space. The Library Friends are committed to a campaign for a substantial expansion of the existing library facility.

## County Residents May Gain Access to the Boca Library

February 28, 1980. If county and municipal library officials can reach an agreement over cooperative library services, west area residents outside the city limits may be permitted to use the Boca Raton Library free of charge.

Library officials say they are near an agreement that would allow just that by October. The arrangement is part of a plan devised by Jerry Brownlee, Palm Beach County library director, to get all the cities to return to a countywide library system

disbanded in 1979. Boynton Beach and Riviera Beach have already rejoined the county system and it is expected that Belle Glade, Pahokee and Lake Park will do the same in the near future.

Right now citizens who live outside the city limits must pay \$20 per family to use the library. The new arrangement would allow reciprocal borrowing, permitting free use of the city library by county residents and use of the county library by those who live in Boca Raton.

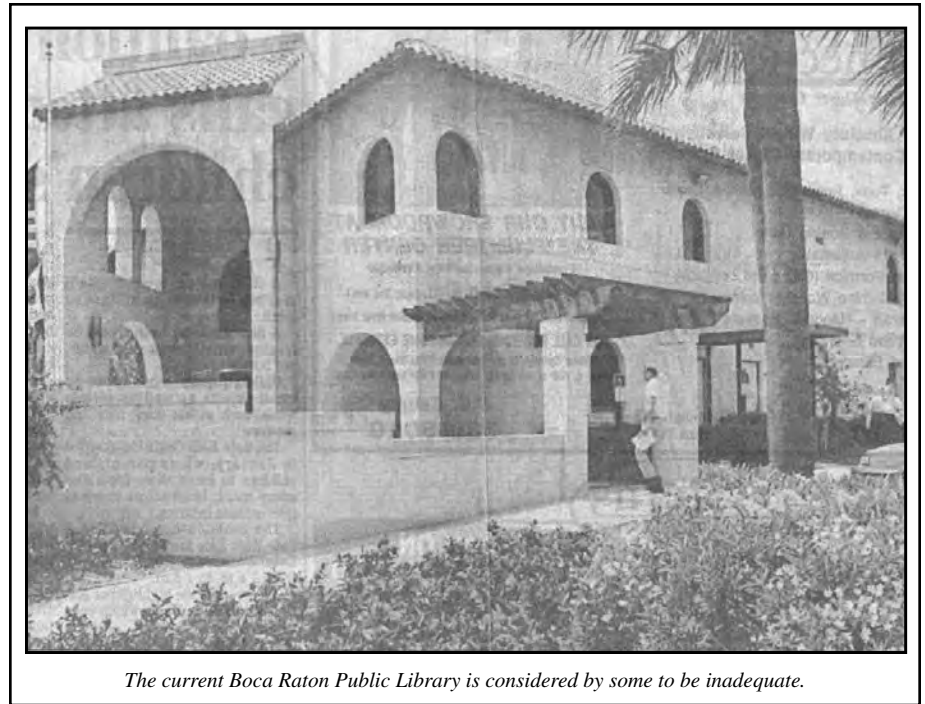
## Boca Seeking to Expand Library Facilities

April 7, 1980. According to James Rutherford, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Boca library is in critical need of more space. The current facility is cramped and library staff don't have the room they need to work efficiently. Logically, the building should expand to the east, but there are two lots there with people living on them.

Rutherford is hoping the city

council can place a general obligation bond issue before the voters in November that will allow the city to pay for an expansion.

In anticipation of the passage of the bond issue, Rutherford is already talking to the owners of the lots, Viola Poston and George Markakis, as no expansion can occur until the city obtains title to the land.



*The current Boca Raton Public Library is considered by some to be inadequate.*

## Library Friends Hold First Book Sale

November 21, 1980. The Boca Raton Public Library Friends will hold their first book sale, dubbed the "Boca Book Bash," on Saturday, November 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The sale will be held at the Boca Raton Mall on North Federal Highway as a part of the Mall's Annual Christmas Bazaar. Book Sale Chairman Ted Pritzker, said that there would be a nice selection

of hardcover and paperbacks; fiction, nonfiction, children's books; something for yourself, an old friend; a book that you've been meaning to read, or a gift for a special person. The Library Friends still need help sorting books, setting up, and pricing books for the sale. If you would like to volunteer, call Ted at 392-4300.

## Library Friends Host Best-Selling Author and Naturalist



Naturalist and author, Roger Tory Peterson.

February 20, 1981. World-renowned author and naturalist, Roger Tory Peterson, appeared yesterday evening at the Boca Raton Community

Center as a guest of the Friends of the Library. The title of his presentation was "A Field Guide to the Birds," which is also the title of his recent book, which has been on the New York Times Best-Seller List for over three months. It is a completely revised edition of Peterson's original "Field Guide to the Birds" first published in 1934. Peterson not only wrote the book on birds, he also painted all of the 136 full-color plates in the book while his wife, Ginny, painted the 390 range maps.

Since the publication of his first field guide, Peterson has produced more than two dozen other field guides covering a wide range of nature topics including astronomy, animal tracks, wildflowers, rocks, reptiles, butterflies, seashells, trees, and, of course, birds.

Peterson is considered to be one of the world's foremost naturalists with nine honorary degrees from American universities and numerous

international awards in the fields of ornithology, natural history, and conservation, including the Gold Medal of the World Wildlife Fund.

The author and his wife were guests of honor at a dinner and cocktail reception that was held in his honor at Pal's Captain's Table. Following the presentation autographed books were available for purchase by the attendees.

Peterson's appearance was one of a series of presentations hosted by the Library Friends this season.



Featuring the completely new edition of A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS by Roger Tory Peterson

Peterson not only wrote the field guide series, but illustrated them as well.

## Boca Needs A Bigger Library?

February 22, 1981. On March 10th the citizens of Boca Raton will vote to approve a \$1.92 million bond issue that will be used to fund an expansion of the Library. The 5,490 square-foot addition will almost double the Library's existing floor and shelf space. The addition will be comprised of a two-story annex to be constructed to the south and east of the existing Library building.

At this juncture there does not seem to be any substantial opposition to the project. Many local organizations, including the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowner Associations, Citizens for Reasonable Growth, the Boca Area Commerce Political Action Committee (BAC-PAC), and the Executive Board of the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, have stepped forward and expressed their support. It's hard to be against libraries. "You might as well be against motherhood or America," says City Safety and Risk Management Officer, Jack Present.

But City Librarian Bruce Kauffman is still concerned about taxpayers being apathetic or unwilling to approve the proposed expenditures. "To list the groups that are officially backing us is like a football team telling themselves that they expect an easy win this weekend."

## Boca's Library Is Inadequate

March 5, 1981. The size of the library has not kept up with the city's rapid growth and finds itself severely limited in the service it can provide.

On Tuesday, however, voters can help bring the library up to date by casting their ballots for the \$1,920,000 bond issue. If passed, the city could sell general obligation bonds and expand the library. This would allow for a doubling of public space, adding multi-purpose rooms, new book stacks, reader space and room for library employees. In addition, \$100,000 would be spent on new books.

The present library was built when the population of the city was 8,500 and has been expanded once. Now, the city's population is approximately 50,000 and the library falls below national library standards in many areas.

The number of volumes contained in the library is one-third the number recommended for a city our size. Employee work space is less than half the normal percentage it should be. The size of the library restricts the number of children's programs available and forces some programs to be held in the Community Center rather than the Children's Section.

## Boca Library Friends Incorporate

*March 29, 1981.* This week the Boca Library Friends filed documents with the State of Florida creating a corporation. The documents contained the following:

Name: Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, Inc.

Purpose & Activities: To provide programs of interest to library and improvement of library services. Programs vary from a film on treasure hunting to a program on Oriental rugs. A book discussion group is being

formed. Events include the Book and Author event, held in February. Each year the Friends bring a nationally-known author to Boca Raton. Book sales are held several times a year.

Meetings: Monthly meetings; location varies. Newsletters are available at the Library.

Officers: John Tarrant, President; Shirley Webber, Vice-President; Don Hulse, Treasurer; Bette Liberty, Secretary; Judy Fink, Membership; and Clara Stewart, Newsletter.

## Boca Library Will Get More Books

*August 20, 1981.* James Rutherford, Parks & Recreation Dept. Director, was very happy after the City Council tentatively approved \$94,000 to buy new books for the library and \$33,000 to buy a new computer, to hasten the cataloging of the additional books. The library now has about 64,000 volumes, but a substantial portion of them are in poor condition and need to be replaced.

In March voters approved a \$6 million bond issue, of which \$1.9 million was earmarked for library expansion, which will allow the existing library to double in size. About \$100,000 of that amount will be spent for books. "It means we will have a representative collection of

books on the shelves when the new library opens," Rutherford said.

There was some opposition to the additional allocation of funds for books during the fiscal year because of skepticism surrounding the timely completion of the library expansion project. The director of the City Engineering Department has indicated that the project should be completed by the October 1, 1982, deadline.

Although the council reviewed Rutherford's entire budget, he said "what makes me the happiest is the council's response to our request for the expansion of the library ... the library is a priority."

## Library Friends Host I.B.M. Sales Executive

*October 30, 1981.* On Thursday evening The Boca Library Friends hosted a program at the Community Center entitled "The Present and Future of Home Computers." The guest speaker was Mr. Larry Crismond, Sales Manager for Personal Computers at I.B.M. in Boca Raton.

The Personal Computer, or "PC," was developed by a group of twelve engineers led by William C. Lowe, who assembled in Boca Raton several years ago to work on a secret project codenamed "Acorn." The result of these efforts was a machine called the "IBM PC."

Crismond and his staff have been working hard to market the new machine released several months

ago on August 12th. He explained that I.B.M. is now engaged in an extensive marketing effort to make these new computers available for use at home and in small businesses. Crismond said that his company is building on the old "American affection for the machine." He claims that personal computers will help persons accomplish what they want to, faster and easier, and that even if you have never used a computer, the interactive system makes the I.B.M. PC easy for anyone to use. The PC runs on a 4.77 MHz Intel 8088 microprocessor. It is equipped with 16 kilobytes of memory and comes with either one or two 160 k floppy disk drives. The cost of the new machine is \$1,565.



*A 1973 aerial photo of the IBM complex in Boca Raton where the first PC was developed.*

## Library Not A Quiet Place During Renovation

June 22, 1982. It's noisy and dusty outdoors. Indoors there are books stacked everywhere. There is only one telephone, the air conditioner is malfunctioning, and the water is occasionally cut off. The Boca Library is having its troubles right now, but no one is angry about it. The troubles are a part of an expansion project now under way. When the project is completed sometime near the end of the year, the library will have 125% more space, about 6,000 more books, and a special storytelling room for young children.

Inadvertently, in the construction process, the telephone lines had been cut and the water had been turned off. The air conditioning in one part of the library didn't work for more than a week. Recently an acetylene torch, used to remove a plate glass

window, created so much smoke that it set off the fire alarm that rang for an hour. Last week during a heavy rain, water came under the door. There is no room for the boxes of new books that have been processed.

But staff members are taking it all in stride. Armed with fans, they have just continued with their work unperturbed. According to reference librarian Dwight Rodden "none of the problems have been serious so it has been easy to maintain a sense of humor." Library Manager Bruce Kauffman said that "although there have been difficulties, the library has been open and will remain open." He explained that "once the construction is completed, the library will be closed temporarily in order to move in furniture and books, but that is several months away.



Anne Witte, technical services librarian, works amid mess during library renovation.

## Increased Library Fines Are Necessary

September 9, 1982. The City Council has decided to increase library fines. Members agreed that careful control must be kept over lending practices and prompt action taken against irresponsible borrowers. The new fines are tough penalties, but they are preferable to a poorly stocked

library. Currently books may be kept for as long as three weeks and record albums may be kept for a week. Under the new policy, fines will be 10 cents per day for overdue books up to a maximum of \$5 and fines for overdue records will be 25 cents per day up to a maximum of \$10.

## Local Youngsters Learn to Write Stories at the Library

September 25, 1985. This past summer the Boca Raton Public Library conducted a writing program for young writers in which the youngsters were encouraged to write their own stories. The youngsters were provided with not only paper and pencils, but also instruction on the writing process. Through the summer they talked about coming up with ideas for stories and how to go about getting them down on paper. The final products showed a diversity of interest, wit, and social consciousness.

When the program was over, the young writers were encouraged to enter their stories in a contest. The winners of the contest were: First Place (9-12 year olds) Steven Kiley for "The Secret House," a tale about a boy who enjoys creating things out of scrap materials and makes a cost-free gift for his dad. Second Place (9-12 year olds) Sheri Lynn Kiley for "My Day At Kennedy Space Center," a humorous story about the planning and the events occurring on a family trip.

First Place (6-9 year olds) Robert

French for his imaginative "War of the Mice." Second Place (6-9 year olds) Carrie Karas for "The Babysitter," a fantasy about a babysitting job for a whole gang of cabbage patch kids. Third Place (6-9 year olds) Ryan Di Ponia for "The Three Good Fishermen," an introspective account of a personal experience.

Cats were a popular topic. Dominique Palambo's story was entitled, "Tutu the Cat." Robert Lopker brought the neighbor's cat, the central character in his story, "Hudson the Six-Toe Cat," into the final class to prove to everyone that it had six toes on each paw.

There were two stories about Christmas, "Christmas in July" by Christopher Remy and "The Happy Sad Christmas" by Khara Kessler. Lauren Brodsky wrote stories about birthdays and Courtney Bliss described the events on her brother's baptismal day. Ian Mitchell wrote "Indian Boy" a parody of the Ugly Duckling story. These boys and girls may watch TV, but they also read, write, imagine, and think. They also enjoy the library.

# Kids Have Fun at the Library



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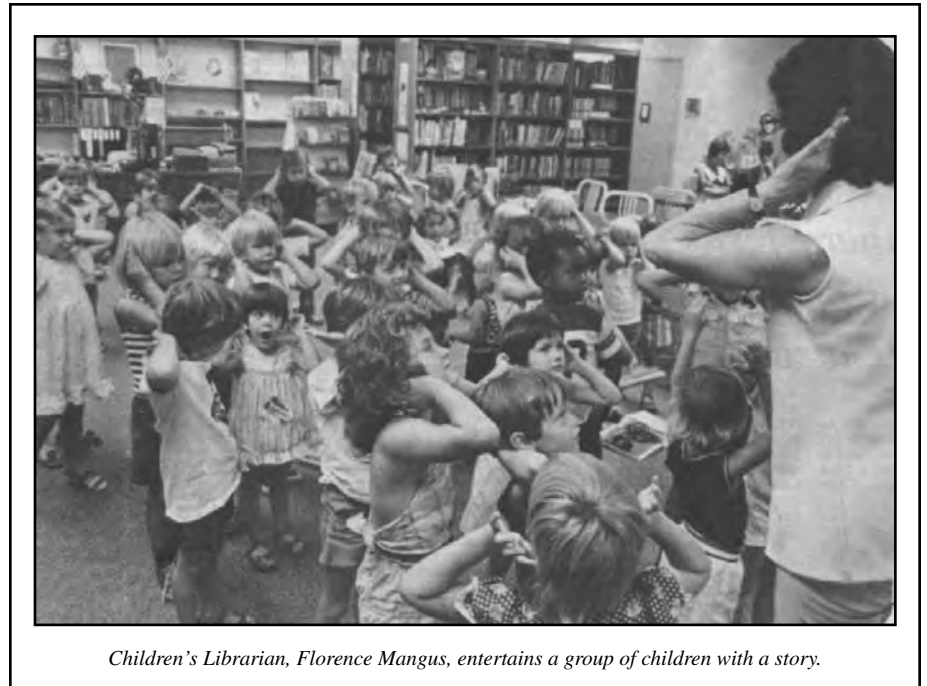


*Top Right: Librarian Celeste Kennedy helps young patrons select a good book.*

*Middle: Local children try to solve puzzle for library contest during Children's Book Week.*



*Bottom: Children (Rachel Klinger & Chad Beck) have fun at the Boca Library.*



*Children's Librarian, Florence Mangus, entertains a group of children with a story.*

## Retiring Librarian Says Children Still Love A Good Story

August 7, 1986. Florence Mangus retired last Friday after 17 years as children's librarian at the Boca Raton Public Library. During her career she has seen changes resulting from advances in technology and the need for more parents to work. She says that over the years the children themselves have changed only slightly. Maybe they are more visually oriented, but overall their love of a story hasn't changed, there are just more stories to choose from. I think that their interests are much more varied. Probably they are way ahead of their time. They are certainly much more advanced than children were 20 years ago. The popularity

of television and computers hasn't seemed to lessen the appeal of books. I can't see any lack of any interest in reading. In fact, I believe it's as good or better than ever" Mrs. Mangus says. "Children mainly come to the library for fun... the trick is to make the learning experience fun," she says. She has a reputation for being able to make most anything from egg cartons. "I used them for insulation in space machines, for dragons, corsages – there are just too many things you can make out of an egg carton." Mrs. Mangus is retiring to pursue her own varied interests, she says, like traveling, cooking and entertaining.

## Crowded Parking Lot Frustrating for Library Patrons

*January 26, 1987.* There's a lot of cruising going on in the Boca Raton Library parking lot. That's because there are more patrons than spaces for their cars. This is especially true in the late morning and early afternoon hours when traffic at the library is the heaviest.

Mickey Gomez, deputy director of Boca Raton Parks and Recreation Department, agreed that there are just not enough spaces for the visitors and that people are driving around and around until they finally get

frustrated and park on the swales.

There may be a solution in sight, however. City officials are seeking to expand the lot, adding 40 spaces to the 50 that already exist. Negotiations are presently underway to purchase property east of the lot. There are presently two buildings on that property which will be torn down if the deal goes through.

Count on circling for a while, though. Even if the deal for the new lot goes through it will be at least four to six months before completion.

## Reading Program Takes a Page from the Video Age

*July 25, 1988.* Kids are very sophisticated today and technology has started to invade age-old pastimes such as reading. Books often get passed over for video games or other technological entertainment.

This summer the Boca Raton Library is combining the magic of books with the magic of computers. The theme for this summer's reading program is "There's Magic in Books" and it emphasizes fun learning and the use of educational games to enhance learning skills.

The Library is doing a lot of wizardry and magic things – making a sort of enchanted kingdom of books.

For 9-11 year-olds there are book

tapes and a computer game called Think Quick that entertains them as well as gets them to learn. Toddlers have a Read-to-Me club, which encourages children from the earliest ages to discover reading and books.

Children fill out sheets with the titles of the books they have read and when they reach 20 books they receive a reward.

Michelle Jordan, 10, is a veteran of the library's reading clubs, having attended them since she was three. For Kenny Turner, age 9, however, computer games are more fun than reading and he hardly recognizes them as learning experiences at all because he's enjoying himself so much.

## The Boca Library Reference Desk Has the Answers

*September 14, 1988.* Okay, let's suppose you have a really hard question that can't be answered by anyone in Palm Beach County or even in Florida. Chances are, even a real toughie won't be able to throw the hardworking reference librarians at the Boca Raton Library, 200 NW Second Ave. That's because your friendly local library is a really high-tech operation, far different from the library of even a few years ago. "We're going to be expanding even more in the next couple of years," explains city librarian Bruce Kauffman.



*Everyone's questions are answered at the Reference Desk at the Boca Raton Public Library.*

## Romance Titles Popular at the Boca Library

*September 14, 1988.* Romance fiction is hot with Boca Raton Library patrons. Romance novels are always found on the reserve shelves, especially such authors as Danielle Steel, Barbara Taylor Bradford and Susan Isaacs.

June Totura, adult services librarian, admits that the number of an individual book the library purchases is a guess and that reviews have little to do with readers' choices as often romance genre books get negative reviews in the press, but not with the reader.

Totura explained that the Boca Raton library patron is very diversified. They like romances, but they are equally keen on nonfiction subjects. Boca residents don't only read the best sellers. Many of the people who live in the city originate from large metropolitan areas in the Northeast and they are interested in music, art, business and classic literature.

Bibles, dictionaries and religious books are also in demand as are murder mysteries, but romance novels are at the top of the list.

## A Library in Mizner Park?

May 17, 1989. Clifford Barr, chairman of the library board, thinks a library would fit in very well at Mizner Park. He has already discussed this proposal with city officials and hopes they will agree that the city's library belongs in the planned commercial-cultural center to be erected on Federal Highway north of Palmetto Park Road.

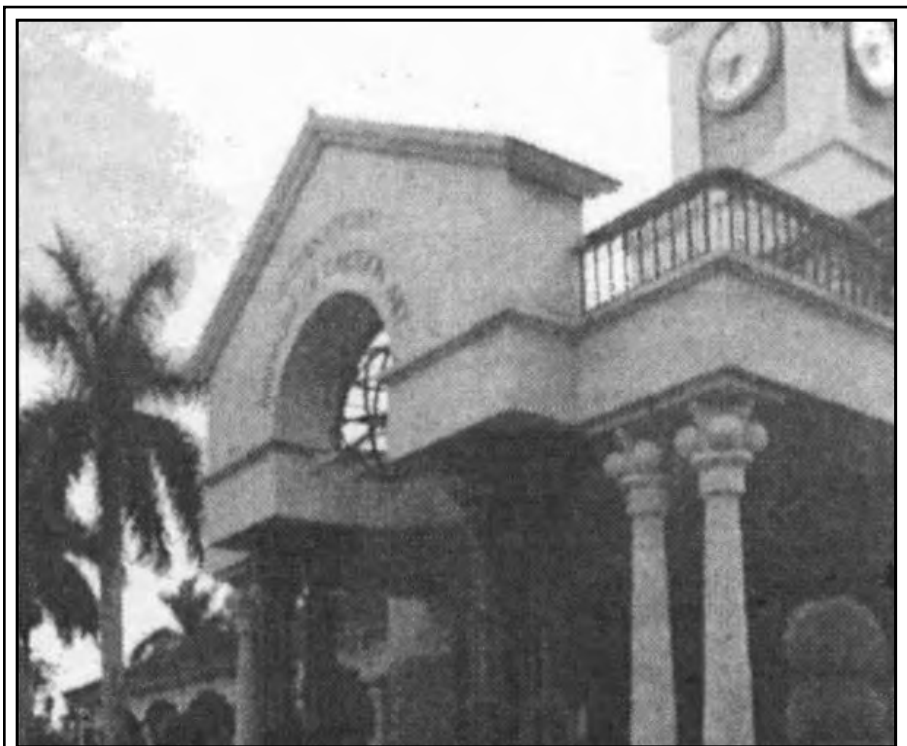
Barr is not alone in thinking that Mizner Park would be a good location. The Caldwell Theater also wants to relocate there.

The current library is inadequate to house the size of collection needed

to serve its patrons according to Barr, and its layout is inefficient. Rather than renovating the existing structure, he suggests building a new main library and letting the present building be used for other community activities.

The current library is 20,000 square feet, but Barr thinks a facility of at least 50,000 square feet should be built at the new location.

How to pay for a new library should not be an issue, according to Barr, but he thinks Boca citizens will be responsive to a bond issue so they can have a first class facility.



The entrance to the Cartoon Museum, that some think would make a good library.

## Boca Library Will Be Closed for Renovations

April 28, 1990. Patrons will not be able to use the Boca Raton Library between April 30 and May 5 as it will be closed for construction.

During the closing the first floor circulation desk and the second floor media desks will be refitted to accommodate computers.

While the library is closed, there will be no overdue fines except on video cassettes. These should be returned by April 30.

The library will reopen for regular hours on May 6.

## Friends Promote Local Library

June 24, 1990. When people complain about the cultural desolation of South Florida, Mary Arpe, president of the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, tells them about the library. At the Boca Library, visitors have access to 96,749 books, 2,800 video cassettes (which include educational and instructional tapes as well as feature films), and more than 1,000 CD recordings. Arpe and her group have a membership of over 100 advocates who are planning to get the Boca Library on a list of places to visit by sponsoring an author's series and helping to develop a literacy program. The group will also be advocating a library expansion program.



Mrs. Robert Bero looks for books in the stacks and stacks of books.

## City Council: 'Let's Get Moving on Library Plans'

August 16, 1990. The City Council has decided it's time to make a decision about the library. The proposal to build a new library in Mizner Park was made about eighteen months ago by the Library Advisory Board, but as yet no money had been allocated for the structure.

This week city manager Robert LaSala recommended that a survey be conducted to determine residents' needs. Following that a task force will be set up to tabulate, interpret, and respond to the results.

While there is no dispute that the city's library is cramped and needs more books, there is no consensus on the solution for these problems. Some members of the council want to dispense with the survey and start planning for a new library, but others prefer a slower approach.

Building a new library at Mizner Park would be expensive and it appears that there will be more deliberation before any final decisions are made.

## **Boca Conducts Telephone Survey Regarding New Library**

*September 13, 1990.* This week City Hall is conducting a telephone survey to obtain public opinion regarding the Boca Raton Library. Questions asked include location of residence, whether or not the resident uses the library, what features are liked or disliked, and how one feels

about the suggested move to a new facility in Mizner Park.

The residents who have been contacted have been very responsive and open with their opinions. The City hopes to use the information obtained from the survey to better plan for the future allocation of resources.

## **Boca Residents Respond to Library Survey**

*October 11, 1990.* There were 1,100 responses to the Boca Raton Library poll and patrons truly spoke their minds.

Some of the suggestions made were a drive-through book return drop box, adult special interest programs and copy machines that work. But they didn't limit their replies to such cut and dried desires.

Patrons commented on what they liked and disliked about the library. They mentioned what they thought of both the staff and the facility. Regular library users find it difficult to get a parking spot, they say it's too noisy and – oh yes – the copy machines don't work.

Parents want to see more books for children and they suggested there be more biographies and true stories in this category, not just fiction and fantasy.

Some patrons felt library staff was overworked and underpaid and the staff received ten times more praise than they did complaints. Many said the staff is why they continue to use the library.

There are people, however, who avoid the library for a number of reasons. These include the parking lot and books getting too heavy for older people to lift off the shelves.

Several people said thanks for having a survey and for caring what patrons thought.

## **Library, Theater May Not Move to Mizner Park**

*December 20, 1990.* More than 50 percent of the residents who use the Boca Raton Library on a regular basis do not want the library to move to Mizner Park. These results surprised the Community Redevelopment Agency and Library Board, who support such a move.

Hoping to discover residents' opinions regarding the library, a

survey was taken in August and September – both over the phone and on forms distributed at the library. Results said there would be too much traffic at the new location and that Mizner Park was too crowded. Participants in the survey also said that it would be cheaper to knock down the old library and build a new one there.

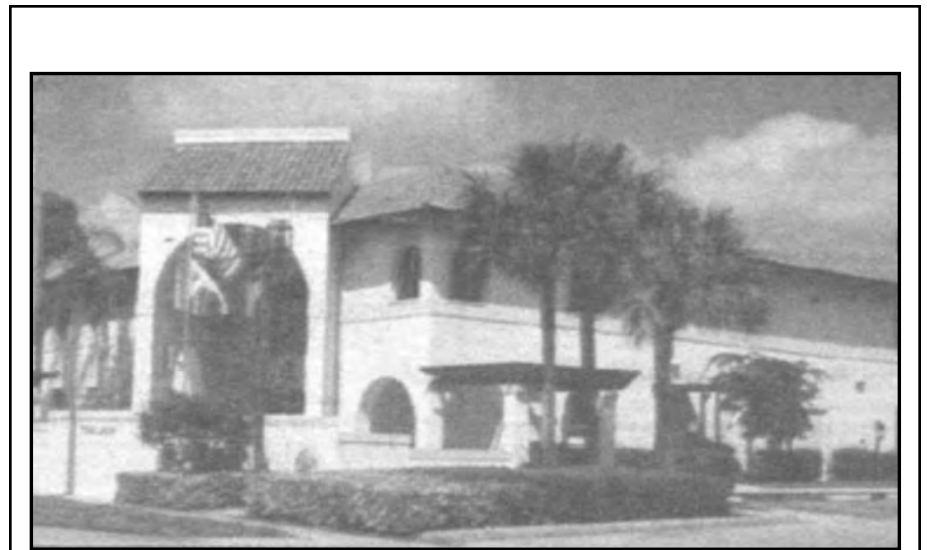
## **Boca Plans for Overdue Library Expansion**

*January 28, 1991.* The City is making plans to build a better library. The first step in this process was announced by Acting City Manager Rick Witker. Mr. Witker has advised the City Council to hire a facilities planner. The consultant would use data to develop an expansion plan. This data would include information gleaned from the residents' survey conducted by the library in August and September.

According to the American Library Association study of library standards, Boca Raton should have a much larger library – at least 50,000 square feet. This is more than twice the size of our current facility.

The library survey showed that 53 percent of participants want to keep the library where it is while 37 percent want something roomier. Fifteen percent want a branch library.

The present library has been expanded twice and, as the population grows, the communities needs change. Hopefully, the facilities planner will be able to devise a plan that, whether or not the library moves, Boca Raton will end up with an institution that can accommodate future needs. These include parking, meeting rooms, materials, and areas for literacy programs.

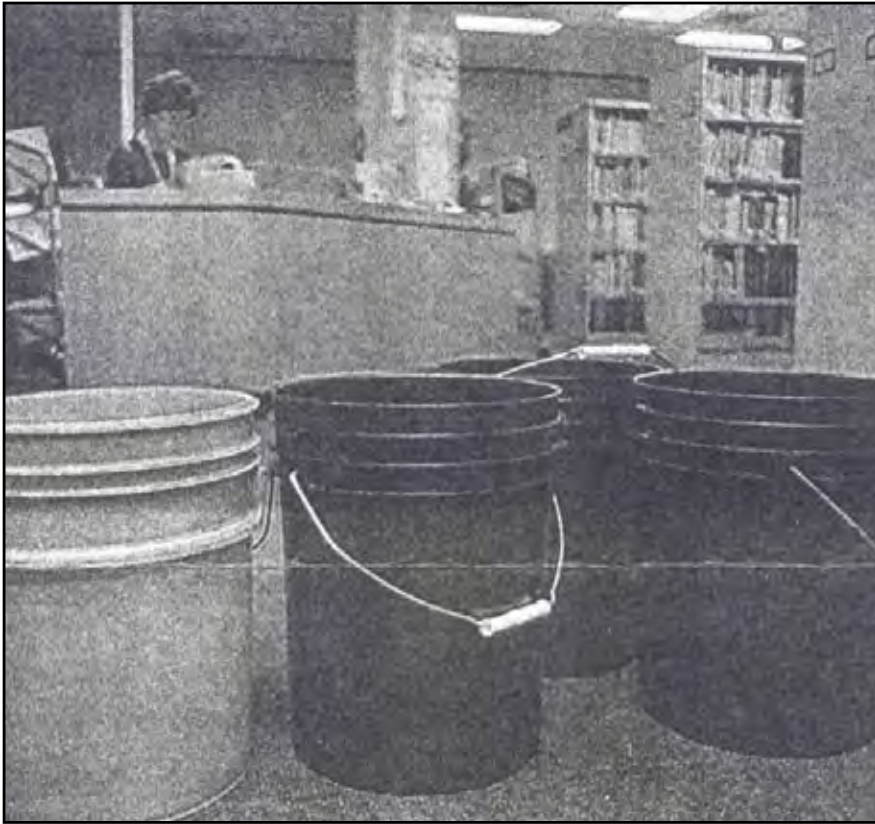


*The current Boca Raton Public Library has become outdated.*

## Library Roof Leaks During A Morning Rain

March 1, 1991. On Thursday morning heavy rains caused portions of the Boca Raton Library's roof to give way. Library staff quickly placed buckets and boxes lined with paper bags to catch the water. City Librarian Bruce Kauffman said that although one of the leaks was near the microcomputer that's there for the kids to use, the leaks posed no

problem for library users and none of the library's book collection or equipment was seriously threatened. He also pointed out that the roof has leaked during strong rains since 1988 over the portion of the roof that covers the 29-year-old building's original roof. Plans are underway to repair the leaky roof.



*Librarian Rose Hilinski tries to ignore the dripping water resulting from a leak in the library's roof.*

## Boca Library: System Overload

March 24, 1991. Librarian Bruce Kauffman is worried about the lack of space in the library and wonders what is going to happen as the population keeps growing. He is concerned that if the library doesn't expand along with the resident base it will become a walk-in, stand-up library instead of a place one can come and study or read or contemplate in peace and quiet.

The city budgets \$1 million dollars a year for the library so it isn't that there is lack of backing for the facility, it is just difficult to keep up with the needs of the expanding population.

Meanwhile, proposals are still being floated for expanding or moving Boca Raton's library – or even opening a branch. Kauffman just worries that if something isn't done soon, the library won't be able to service the needs of its patrons.

## Boca Library Now Open on Sundays

July 26, 1991. Starting in October, the Boca Library will be open on Sundays. At a City budget meeting on Thursday, city librarian Bruce Kauffman explained that the Sunday hours would be a pilot project designed to provide residents with better access to the library's collections.



*City Librarian Bruce Kauffman accepts a donation from members of the Boca Woman's Republican Club.*

## Boca Woman's Club Makes Donation to Library

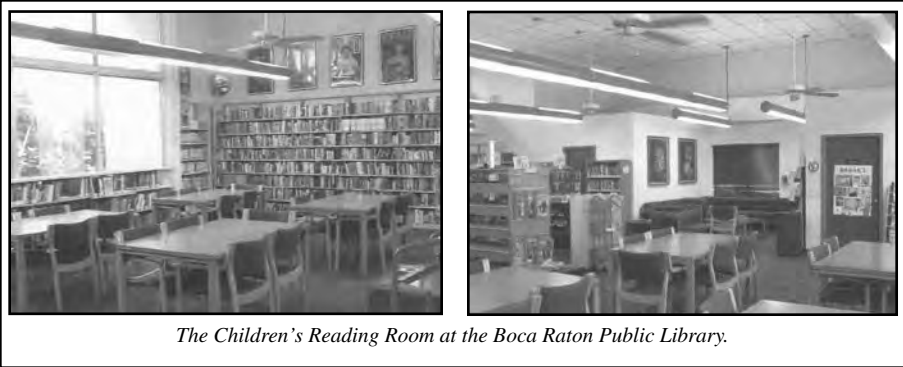
September 23, 1991. The Boca Library will purchase a biography of President Ronald Reagan with a donation from the Boca Women's Republican Club. Two members of the club, Mae Meyer and Bonnie Smith, presented a check to the city librarian, Bruce Kauffman, late last week.

## Library Updates and Expands Youth Services

November 8, 1991. The Boca Raton Public Library is refurbishing and expanding its Youth Services section. Project Architect William Romberger states that the updated carpet and color scheme will give the area a less institutional and more inviting feel. The area will also feature two new computers and an expanded reading room. The Library's reference area is

also being expanded.

For safety reasons, most of the Youth Services area will remain off limits to Library patrons while the renovations take place. The newly refurbished area should be complete by early December. Meanwhile, Library staff will do their best to ensure that patrons experience minimal disruptions in service.



The Children's Reading Room at the Boca Raton Public Library.

## Library Renovates Children's Reading Room

December 12, 1991. The children's reading room at the Boca Library is in disarray due to renovations. Library officials were cramped for space, so they began renovating the reading room five weeks ago in hopes of creating more room. Youth Services Librarian Fayth Brady said, "there were books on every cart and every flat surface that we have." To make things worse, the remodeling has been delayed while the construction company waits for the arrival of new light fixtures from California. But

according to Library Manager Bruce Kauffman, they expect the project to be completed by this weekend.

Once the renovations are completed, books for the older children will be placed in the back of the room, while picture books for younger children will be stacked in the front. Other changes include a new information desk with a computer terminal, wall-mounted bookshelves for displays of new books, new carpet, and a new copy machine.

## Boca Library Program Fights Illiteracy

March 5, 1992. The Boca Raton Public Library is working very hard to eliminate functional illiteracy in Palm Beach County. It is hard to believe, but more than 70,000 adults in the county read at less than an eighth grade level. Patrons are constantly asking the library for assistance in learning to read. There are currently thirty to forty people waiting to be trained as tutors.

Joan-Marie Mueller is the coordinator of the library's literacy program and presently has thirty-six students paired with tutors. The program started in January and is supported by Friends of the Library, book sales, donations and an advisory council.

Approximately 30 percent of the students speak another language as their main means of communication. This alternative language is usually either Spanish, Portuguese, or

Russian. Several participants are older people who never received reading instruction. Other students have high school diplomas but still read at a primary school level.

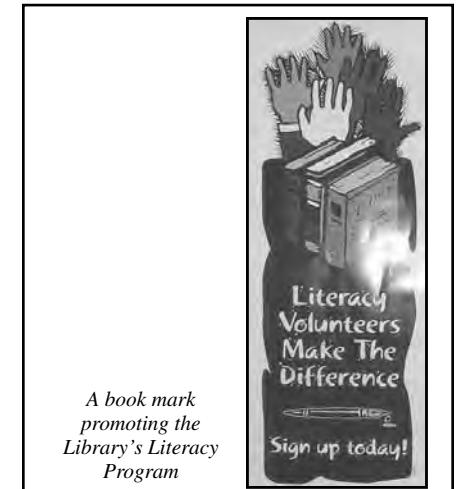
The reading program is based on the book *Laubach Way to Reading*, a teaching method that is based on phonics.

Mueller said that students and teachers bond quickly and develop strong friendships that reinforce the learning situation.

Mueller would like to add computer-based instruction for advanced students where basic reading, consumer math and life skills could be offered. Even after taking the entire Laubach course, students are only at the sixth grade level so Mueller would like to add material geared to the sixth through the ninth grade levels.



Joan-Marie Mueller, the Boca Raton Public Library's Literacy Coordinator.



A book mark promoting the Library's Literacy Program

## Library Considering Amnesty Week

*April 4, 1992.* Everyone understands that there is an overdue charge for library books that are not returned in a timely manner. But some people never return the books that they check out. Some common excuses for not returning library books are: It was stolen from my house (but nothing else was taken); It was stolen from my car (but the car wasn't stolen); I never had the book; The library's records are incorrect; My library card was stolen, so somebody must have checked something out on it; What's the harm?

Nobody else wanted to read the book anyway; My little brother put it in the dishwasher to clean it.

According to Pat Michalski, adult services librarian, the reasons people don't return books are guilt and money. Therefore, the library is considering an amnesty week during which overdue charges and charges for lost or damaged materials will be waived if the book in question is returned, no questions asked. If implemented the plan could go into effect within the next several weeks.

## Board Recommends Library Renovation

*April 9, 1992.* The library is bursting at its seams so the Library Advisory Board approved an expansion plan that would triple its size.

The board voted 3-1 for a plan that would expand the existing library by 56,000 square feet. The plan calls for the city to purchase property adjacent to the library to be used for this purpose. The project would be paid for by a bond issue.

Options include:

- (1) Purchasing land adjacent to the library for a 35,000 square foot expansion.
- (2) Purchasing land adjacent to the library for a 56,000 square foot expansion.
- (3) Purchasing land on other sites and replacing the existing library with a 78,000 square foot building.

## Boca Library Patrons Anxious for Expansion

*May 4, 1992.* The library has changed from a place where people just go to borrow a book or look something up to one where they borrow videos, records and compact discs.

Patrons say it is often so busy in the reading area that there are no seats and the library needs rooms where they can present programs or library related meetings.

In other words, the library needs to expand and users can't wait. But, while patrons are sure that these needs must be met, others are not so quick to share their feelings.

## Council Moves Toward Library Expansion

*October 29, 1992.* The Boca Raton Council approved a contract with a Coral Gables consulting firm to provide services for the expansion of the Boca Raton Public Library.

The contract is the first stage in getting voters to back a bond issue to pay for the project. If passed, the facility would be expanded from about 21,000 square feet to 56,000 square feet and would remain at its present site on Boca Raton Boulevard.

City librarian Bruce Kauffman said

the contract is for a comprehensive document outlining the city's needs and expectations and for design services including floor plans and layouts. Exterior renderings and models would also be constructed to show the public what they would get if they voted yes.

The consulting contract would cost the city \$137,000, but if the bond issue is passed the city would be reimbursed.

## Digital Telephone Directory Available at the Boca Library

*November 2, 1992.* A high-tech alternative to the telephone directory is now available at the Boca Raton Public Library. It is a computer database called PhoneDisc that contains 85 million names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons

and business located throughout the United States. The library will pay \$1,150 to Digital Directory Assistance, Inc. of Maryland to provide its patrons with access to the useful information.

## Public to View, Comment on Library Expansion Plans

*May 18, 1993.* Interested Boca Raton residents may view the current model and architectural plans for the planned expansion of the Boca Raton Public Library at City Hall through this June. The plans call for an increase in the building's square footage from 21,000 to 70,000. The expansion plans include a media collection, conference room, popular fiction section, and children's library on the first floor. The second floor would feature reference materials and adult nonfiction. Public comment cards will soon be placed next to the model.

The documents have been provided so that residents can comment on the plans and offer their suggestions. City Librarian Bruce Kaufman will once again meet with the Community Redevelopment Agency Board to share the public's views on the expansion plans and cost estimates. He will also report public comments to the City Council and present a resolution asking for a referendum on the issue. Kauffman has noted that he has already heard favorable comments from the public.

## Voters Will Decide Library Expansion Issue

September 23, 1993. The Boca Raton Public Library plans to expand its downtown facility to 52,300 square feet if voters approve the proposed approximately \$13.3 million measure in a referendum. The book collection would increase from 111,000 to 250,000 volumes. The expanded facility would also feature four times as many videos, records and compact discs, more computers, rooms for educational films and children's programs, and garden reading courts as well as additional parking spaces.

City Council member Esther Dance questioned the project's size, saying, "I'm more interested in the quality of the contents inside the walls than I am in an

elaborate building." City Librarian Bruce Kauffman noted, however, that previous expansions proved inadequate in the long term because they were trimmed. He noted that eventually libraries would become smaller due to computer technology, but "We have to deal with the needs of the next 20 years" as opposed to the distant future.

Now, expansion supporters must convince a tax-weary public to share that belief. They plan to emphasize the cost per taxpayer to show the reasonableness of the project's cost. Ralph Kulberg, president of the Friends of the Boca Raton Library likes to remind people, "You can't have a first-class city without a first-class library."

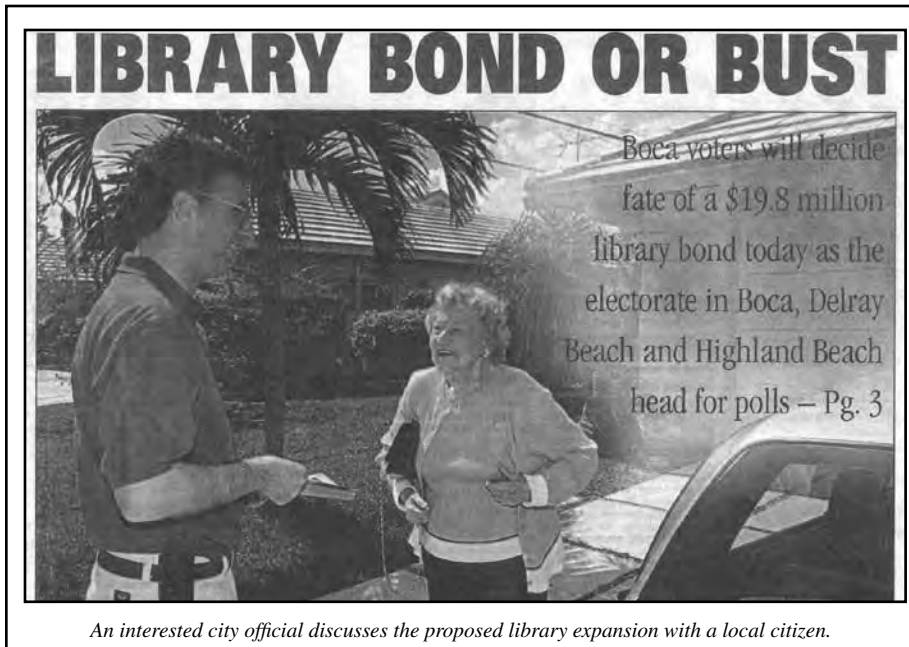
## Divergent Opinions Emerge Over Library Expansion Proposal

September 27, 1993. Supporters of the Boca Raton Public Library's planned expansion differ on how best to accomplish their goal. Some want a building of architectural beauty that would be a local landmark while others want a more nondescript, utilitarian building that would cost less and still be fully functional. Some residents complain that a planned two-story atrium would cost too much to air-condition and that Mizner style touches on the façade would make the building too grandiose. Others want a balance between the two extremes.

Also at issue is the proposed size of the expanded facility. Some expansion supporters desire a smaller sized building than that proposed. City Council member Esther Dance feels that branch libraries and bookmobiles could supplement a

smaller main library. Parking is also proving to be a contentious issue. Parking spaces at the newly expanded facility would increase from 89 to 154, but some feel that is not enough for the library's 20,000 cardholders and 900 regular out-of-town users. There were originally 157 proposed spaces but the city agreed to take out several controversial compact-car only spaces.

Despite the differences of opinion, most people agree that a good library will not only improve life for current residents, but help attract future residents as well. To critics who feel that the plans for an expanded library are too grandiose, president of the Friends of the Boca Raton Library Ralph Kulberg noted, "Is it a Taj Mahal? The only connection to the Taj Mahal is that was a labor of love, and this should be too."



## **Library Expansion Plan Delayed Again**

*October 25, 1993.* The architectural plans for the proposed expansion of the Boca Raton Public Library are headed back to the drawing board. The City's Planning and Zoning Board voted 4-3 to reject the proposed expansion's parking lot of 154 spaces, which it deemed inadequate for the expanded facility's size. The building would triple in size but there would be no significant increase in the ratio of parking spaces to square footage of the building.

After rejecting the options of buying additional property and building an expensive two-story parking garage, the City instead chose to send the plans back to the architects, Perry Dean Rogers and Partners of Boston.

The Company will seek ways to decrease the building's size to make more room for parking. A smaller building that is more functional but less attractive may be the end result.

The City also wants cost estimates for the necessary new Library employees and equipment. They still hope to place the referendum before voters in the March election. Assistant City Manager Donna Dreska stated, "The city wants a united front before the referendum is issued." Friends of the Library President Ralph Kulberg expressed disappointment in the setback, but noted that even a smaller expansion will be an improvement over the current facility. Voters will make the ultimate decision.

## **Council Majority Backs Library Expansion Plan**

*January 25, 1994.* Voters will get a chance to decide on March 8 if they want a library triple the size of the existing structure.

The cost of the new library would be approximately \$12.7 million and

the square footage would go from 21,000 square feet to 72,000 square feet.

A new facility would include a garden room, a gift shop and a meeting room that would hold 200 people.

## **Voters Reject Bond Proposal for Library Expansion**

*March 9, 1994.* Boca Raton voters have rejected a \$12 million bond issue by less than 100 votes. The bond would have funded a 49,000 square-foot addition to the overcrowded 21,000 square-foot Boca Raton Public Library located on Northwest Second Avenue.

In anticipation of the bond passing, the City Council had already voted 4-1 to purchase property north of the Library for use in a possible expansion. The Council purchased the four lots to the north of the

Library without waiting for the referendum in order to avoid the possible costs associated with having to later acquire the property through eminent domain.

The Council had also hired Bermello and Associates to begin development plans and architects Perry Dean Rogers and Partners of Boston to draw up building plans. Estimated completion time would have been approximately two to three years.

## **Boca Library Plan Scaled Back to Reduce Costs**

*October 26, 1994.* Boca Raton still needs a larger library, but the public voted down the bond issue last March in a narrow vote. Because the cost of the new facility was the main reason for a "no" vote, the city has scaled back the plans for an expanded facility. Revisions call for doing away with the gift shop, and altering other areas.

The new plans were released at a town meeting Tuesday night and call for adding about 35,000 square feet which would more than double the size of the existing building.

The revised plans would position the library in a north-south alignment with the entrance facing east. There would also be more than 200 parking spaces.

Ralph Kulberg, president of The Friends of the Library, says additional space is badly needed as things such as video collections and new books have taken over reading space.

Choosing a construction company could take until the middle of 1996 and the estimated date of completion is early 1998.

## **Library Expansion Referendum on Hold**

*January 17, 1995.* Ever since the March, 1994, defeat of the bond issue to expand the Boca Raton Library, city officials had hoped to hold a second referendum on the same issue in this year's municipal elections. However, according to City manager, Donna Dreska, that plan has now been cancelled. Dreska says that the acquisition of two tracts of land for parking lots and the exploration of resource-sharing agreements with other libraries will require more time.

The City has not ruled out the possibility of expansion. In fact the Council has already approved revised plans for a smaller and less costly facility than the one proposed last year. Council member Steven

Abrams states that Council members want to make sure the new proposal does not leave any uncertainties in voters' minds when they go to the polls as he notes, "there might not be another bite at the apple."

Ralph Kulberg, president of the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library is disappointed, but not discouraged. He stated that the Friends would use the extra time to gather public support for the expansion. Mayor Smith's Private Sector Survey review of the library supported the contention that the library has a serious shortage of space. Kulberg feels that now the Friends can express that need to the public.

## **Library to Become a Part of City Recreation Services**

*January 17, 1995.* The Boca Raton Public Library will soon have a new home and a new leader. At the same time that City Manager Donna Dreska announced the delay of the referendum vote on the planned expansion of the Library, she also stated that she plans to merge the Library into the City's Recreation

Services Department. She feels that the merger will increase efficiency. Her plans also include conducting a search for a successor to City Librarian Bruce Kauffman, who recently resigned his position.

## **Library Advocates Pressure City for Library Expansion**

*September 25, 1995.* Almost a year and a half ago, in March, 1994, Boca Raton residents were asked to vote for expansion of the library. Unfortunately, they voted "no." The City then revised the plans, so that an expansion would be less costly than what was put before the voters originally, and hoped to hold another referendum in March of 1995. This time, the vote was cancelled without rescheduling it for another time. Some find this situation frustrating.

Those who support the expansion of the Boca Raton Public Library call last year's lost vote "Word War I" and they have now declared what they call "Word War II" which is how

they describe their ongoing battle to get a new or expanded library for the City. The last Library expansion was in 1982. Since then, continued population growth, particularly among senior citizens, has strained the Library's resources.

Supporters continue to emphasize the current facility's overcrowded conditions and inadequate shelf space. They plan to pound the pavement and hold a series of public meetings to get their point across to voters. Their main obstacles are economics and politics, but they hope to finally realize the expansion plans that City officials have been working on since 1990.

## **Library Offers New Online Services**

*December 14, 1995.* Beginning in January, a library patron with a computer and a modem will be able to access the library's catalog, along with other information, without physically visiting the library. According to Patricia Michalski, acting manager of library services, a patron can determine whether or not a book is available at the library; check the status of the patron's account; access a variety of bestseller lists; and even access an on-line dictionary using "Dial Pac." The updates to the library's system will

be accompanied by the purchase of some additional computers and the acquisition of a Newsbank CD system, a computer that stores entire back issues of newspapers on a compact disc. Sometime next year, the library plans to offer free public access to the Free-Net, a database of community information and events. Using the Free-Net, patrons will be able to access the times, dates and topics of city council meetings, as well as the phone numbers of various city departments.

## Catherine O'Connell Welcomed as New Library Manager



New Library Manager, Catherine O'Connell, is welcomed by library volunteer, Lynne Diamond.

May 17, 1996. The Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library recently held a luncheon to welcome Catherine O'Connell, the new Manager of Library Services at the Boca Raton Public Library. Also in attendance were members of the city's Parks and Recreation Board and City Council members Susan Whelchel and Steven Abrams. O'Connell is replacing Bruce Kaufman, who retired from his position as Manager last year. Adult Services Librarian Patricia Michalski had been doing double duty as Manager in the interim.

Catherine O'Connell comes to the Library with a wealth of experience. Prior to her arrival in Boca Raton, she served as the Director of the Woodbridge Public Library in New Jersey for five years. She has also served as the Director of the Saginaw Public Library in Michigan and the Assistant Director of the Washington

County Free Library in Maryland. She started her library career as a page at the Anne Arundel County Library, where she made .50 cents an hour. She holds a B.A. in English from the University of Maryland and an M.S. in Library Science from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

One of her first tasks will be to prepare the Library's budget and one of her main priorities will be campaigning for the passage of a referendum scheduled to be held this November that would provide funds for expansion of the Library. The larger building would be 56,000 square feet and would more than double the building's current size. Voters narrowly defeated an earlier 1994 referendum calling for a larger expansion.

A second priority involves improving Library services through the addition of new technology, such as automatic machines for book checkout that would allow Library staff to spend more time with patrons. All improvements will aid the Library's overall goal of providing the best service possible to city residents. Ms. O'Connell is excited about overseeing the Library's growth and transition from a diamond in the rough to a polished gem.

## City Officials Plan for Another Library Expansion Referendum

October 15, 1996. Library officials and advocates know that gaining voter approval for expansion will not be easy even though a 1994 referendum on the issue failed by a narrow margin. City Librarian Catherine O'Connell is preparing to push for another vote, however, and, while she hoped there would be a vote in November of this year, she knows the importance of being ready before putting it on the ballot.

A survey conducted in 1992 found the Library inadequate to serve the needs of the Boca population according to Florida Library

Association standards. Since then, that population has expanded by approximately 7,000 new residents.

Excess books spill over onto portable carts and older materials are put away to make room for new acquisitions. While most residents see the need for expansion, many balk at the cost. O'Connell realizes the challenge and is assembling a more comprehensive lobbying effort. That will allow time to gather documents and garner public support to ensure that a future referendum, when it does come, will have a greater chance of success.

## City Hall Annex To Provide Library Services

December 11, 1996. The new City Hall Annex is set to open in February of 1997 and could possibly open earlier. Nearby city residents will enjoy the convenience of City Hall services without the inconvenient trip downtown. Available services will include certain Library services, such as the ability to return books. Additional features, such as a modem hookup to the Boca Raton Public Library, could also be offered.

Construction has already started on the foundation of the custom-

built modular trailer located in northwestern Boca Raton at the entrance to the Regency Court shopping center located at 3000 Yamato Road. The City Hall Annex will be open from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Mondays through Fridays and is to be staffed by two community service officers from the Police Department as well as a city customer service representative. Boca Raton is the first city in Palm Beach County to have an Annex providing City Hall services.

## Catch Internet Wave at the Library

February 4, 1997. The Boca Raton Public Library has added the provider Free-Net to the library's automated system. This new service will allow patrons to access a wide range of information through the Southeast Florida Library Information Network.

The system is accessible from any computer in the library and contains local and government news, media resources, arts and entertainment.

Patricia Michalski, adult services librarian, describes the new service as "internet for the beginner," since the menu allows users to navigate the site easily with little previous knowledge.

Library patrons can also dial into the library system from home computers and modems, check the library catalogue, look at their library records and access everything else Free-Net has to offer.

## Library Expands Popular Music Collection

February 24, 1997. The Boca Raton Library is going to add hundreds of pop music artists to the literary giants who already inhabit its shelves.

A CD collection containing the music of popular artists such as Rod Stewart will be added to the Teen Collection in the Youth Services Department of the library. According to Fayth Brady, Youth Services Librarian, local teens will even have the chance to make suggestions about future additions.

800 CDs are presently available and can be checked out for two weeks at a time.



Recordings of your favorite music on CD's (Compact Disks) are now available at the Boca Raton Public Library.

## Art Work Presented to Boca Library

February 9, 1998. The Boca Raton Beautification Committee recently dedicated a beautiful mirror carving of Por La Mar Park's Historic Buttonwood Tree. The carving and lovely glass rock garden, created by local artist Susan Pelish, are located in the Library's hallway. Mayor Carol Hanson spoke at the dedication and commented about the beauty of the carving and the lovely old tree. She thanked Mrs. Pelish for her artwork, J.G. Roth Glass for the mirror, Jim Pelish for installation,

Boca Laser for the dedication plaque, Ruth Smith, the project chair, and the library staff for working together to enhance the library with such a gorgeous piece of artwork. The Beautification Committee presented a print of the tree to Mayor Hanson. Susan Pelish's oil painting of the Por La Mar Green Buttonwood was selected by the State of Florida's Urban Council to commemorate their 1997 annual conference. The original painting now hangs in the State Capitol in Tallahassee.



Artist Susan Pelish appears at artwork dedication with Jo-Ann Landon, Mayor Carol Hanson, and Council Members, Steven Abrams and Bill Glass.

## Boca Library Considers Expansion of Existing Facility

April 9, 1998. The City of Boca Raton is once again considering the possibility of expanding its public library after a 1994 voter referendum on the issue failed by 88 votes. Manager of Library Services Catherine O'Connell notes that, "This building is inadequate to serve the community," and that, "We are out of space."

An evaluation of the City's library facility is currently being conducted.

Expansion alternatives include several full service branch libraries or smaller branch libraries electronically connected to the main library.

A Library patron survey revealed their top two desires were more reading and study space and more copies of popular books.

The Library would also like to offer new technology, such as Internet access, video-conferencing, and graphic imaging systems, which patrons expect to find at their public libraries. The Library's overcrowded conditions make it currently impossible to adequately meet patron needs and expectations.

## Library Holds Cards, But Members Have Upper Hand

July 8, 1998. There are about 41,000 members of the Boca Raton Public Library and every one of them will probably be happy about the changes just announced regarding the library card renewal process.

It used to be that anyone wanting to renew their card needed to show two forms of identification to verify their address. Now, current members only have to show one piece of picture-identification. Non-members will continue to show two kinds of ID to get a card.

The library made the changes in response to the wishes of their patrons. Hilda Berliner, a Boca resident and library volunteer, said she knew that the management would listen to its patrons because they always do their best to keep their users happy.



## Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library Want You!



Library Friends Maria Schnorr, John Budd, Donna Fleck, Jim Fleck, Bernell Stein, Barbara Landwehr, and Ed Carter plan membership drive.

June 20, 1999. The Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library reorganized in March of this year following several years of inactivity. The Friends were first organized twenty years ago to provide a vital link between the Library and the community it serves.

Catherine O'Connell, Manager of Library Services at the Boca Raton Public Library has been a driving force behind the reorganization and is the Friends' Library liaison. The Friends' newly elected Board members are President Edward Carter, Vice-President Barry Scholnik, and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Fleck. The new Board of Directors consists of Donna Fleck, Joan Iler, Seymour Korn, Barbara Landwehr, Bernell Stein, and Toby Thompson.

The Friends' goals include

advertising the Library's facilities, collections, and services to the public. They also plan to create exciting programs for the public and attract guest speakers and authors to the Library. The newly reformed group has already begun its work by sponsoring the

kickoff of the summer youth reading program Club Cool, a fun-filled event that featured activities, crafts, and prizes.

The Friends are also planning a twentieth anniversary membership drive next month. A membership brochure outlining their goals and benefits is ready for distribution to Library patrons. The brochure also solicits financial contributions and requests for Library volunteers. Funds raised will enable the Library to build its collections and services to the benefit of Boca Raton residents. Annual memberships run from \$5 for students to \$150 for corporate sponsors and are a great opportunity for community residents to help their Library.

## 500,000 Items Loaned to Boca Library Patrons During the Year

November 13, 1999. The Boca Raton Public Library reached a milestone last month when it loaned its 500,000th item for the 98-99 fiscal year. It was the first fiscal year since the Library opened that it has loaned that many items. Boca Raton resident Tina Hazle and her two daughters Ebonie and Tara checked out the item to great fanfare, as music played in the background.

The surprised Library patrons also received a gift basket with a library shirt and restaurant gift certificate

among other items. Library assistant Les Breslauer and Library Board member Donna Fleck were also on hand for the celebration.

Library Manager Catherine O'Connell credited the rise in Library usage in part to new children's librarian Rebecca Domonokos. Domonokos has added new family programs and enjoyed great success with this year's summer reading program. O'Connell estimates that the Library serves approximately 1,000 patrons each day.



Library staff celebrate circulation milestone.

## Library Goes High-Tech with Self Checkout

December 5, 1999. Occasionally the lines at the Boca Raton Library are so long that patrons feel like they could finish the book before they reach the circulation desk.

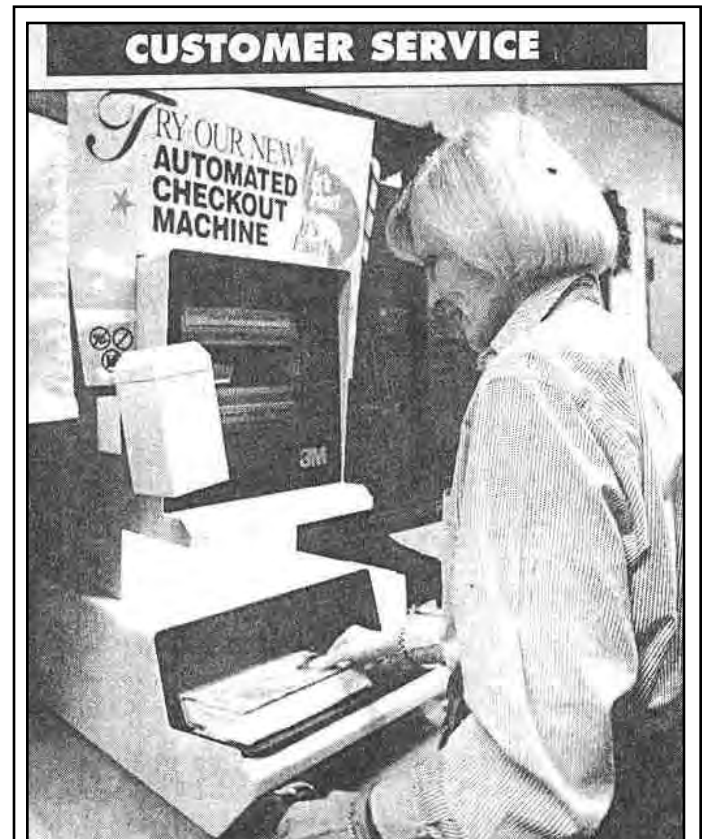
Hopefully those lines will be a thing of the past now that the Library has a new self-serve checkout system. The self-serve checkout system, the first of its kind in South Florida, was activated last month.

The machine looks like an ATM. It first scans the patron's library card to make sure it's current and that there aren't any outstanding fines. Then the patron slides each book across a sensor that registers the item to the borrower. A receipt is then printed up listing each book and its due date.

Customers seem to love the new system. Barbara Yospe

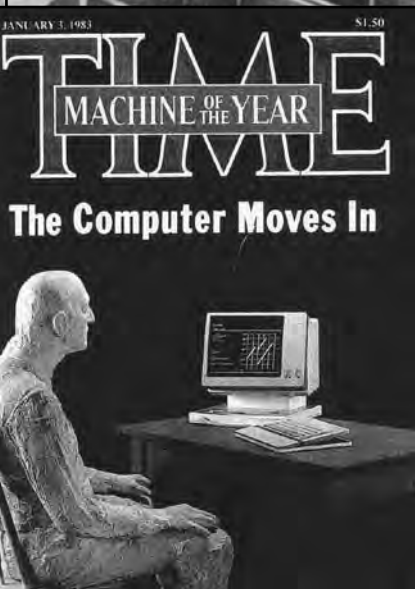
used it for the first time last week and said it makes checking out books at the library much more efficient and convenient.

Only books can be checked out through the new machine; CDs, audio books and other materials must still be taken to the circulation desk.



Barbara Yospe tries out the new automated check-out machine at the Boca Raton Public Library.

## What Happened to the Card Catalog?



## City Council to Consider Many Library Options

January 4, 2000. It's a new year but an old problem. The Boca Raton Library has run out of room and more and more residents are calling on its services.

Next week, part of the business before the City Council will be how to create a new plan that will take into account what patrons want in their library.

Options remain wide open as

to whether or not the city should construct a new library, add on to the present building, or construct small branch libraries around the city. Councilwoman Wanda Thayer said, "Finding out what the public wants is a critical step."

The city hopes to be able to have a vote on a new library referendum this fall.

## Boca Residents Provide Input on Library Expansion Plans

September 20, 2000. Boca Raton needs a larger library, and this time city officials are asking the public what they would like to see in a new facility.

The library has been expanded twice and, in 1994, voters rejected a \$12 million bond issue. Now city officials are hoping more public involvement will ensure greater voter support for any future referendums.

To find out what residents want, the City hired Dubberly Associates of Atlanta to conduct a survey of Boca residents. The company conducted both form-based and telephone surveys focusing on what the public

wants and does not want from its library.

The group will now hold two focus groups at the library in order to share the survey results and gain further public input into the process. The first will be held this afternoon from 2-4 pm and the next on Thursday, September 21 from 6-8 pm. Preliminary results show that the public prefers to have one large library at a central location in downtown Boca Raton. Other wishes include more Internet access, the addition of computer training, quiet study areas, and children's programs.

## Technology Park, Cartoon Museum Possible Library Sites

May 15, 2002. Ongoing plans for the Boca Raton Public Library to open a second facility, in addition to rebuilding or renovating the existing facility, have led to numerous proposals for new site locations. Two emerging frontrunners are land the City purchased in 2000 at the T-Rex Technology Center on Yamato Road and the soon to close International Museum of Cartoon Art in Mizner Park.

The City Parks and Recreation Board has been recently considering proposals for the 300 acres of undeveloped land at the Technology Center. Among the areas the Board recommended to be set aside for athletic fields, a golf training center,

a police and fire training center, a dog park and cross country and bike paths were eight acres for a new library facility. The City Council will have final say on any site plans. City officials say it could be as long as a decade before any major development occurs.

The second leading candidate in discussions for a new library site is the building that housed the International Museum of Cartoon Art. The Community Redevelopment Agency is currently soliciting and studying ideas for the 50,000 square-foot facility. The building's owners, Beetle Bailey cartoonist Mort Walker and his wife Catherine, are asking \$3 million.

## Library Board Objects to Cartoon Museum Site

May 29, 2002. The Boca Raton Public Library Advisory Board appeared at yesterday's City Council workshop to express its opposition to a proposed plan to move the Public Library into the former International Museum of Cartoon Art. The board had earlier outlined their concerns in a three-page letter to Mayor Steven Abrams.

Advisory Board Chair Florence Mangus stated that the most pressing

concerns were the lack of parking, possible costs, traffic and a lack of green space. Manager of Library Services Catherine O'Connell expressed similar concerns, noting that inadequate parking was one of the most critical problems facing the site. She also noted that the building's upper floors were not built to hold a weighty book collection and construction to fix the problems could be costly.

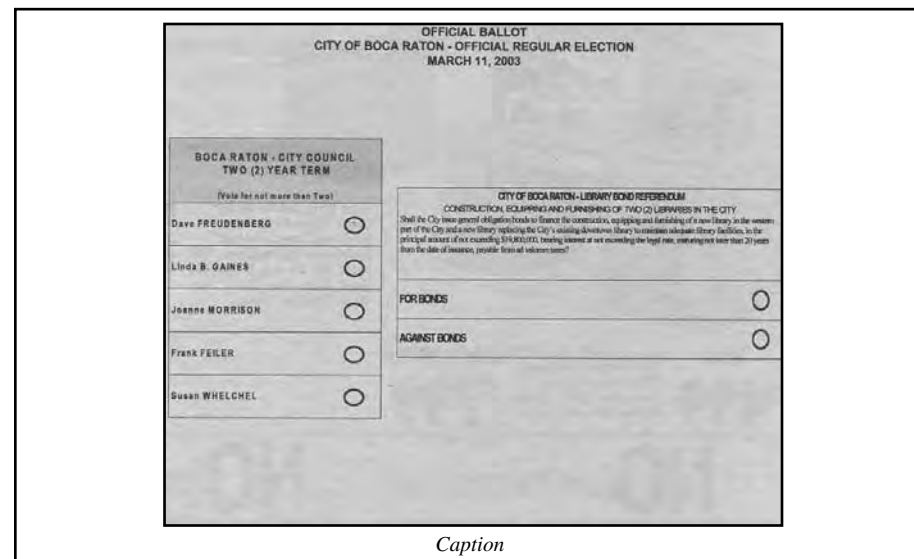
## Just Say 'Yes' to Library Expansion!

February 23, 2003. Boca Raton Public Library employees want to ensure that voters turn out and support the bond issue for library expansion. They want to avoid the fate of a similar bond issue in 1994 that failed by a mere 88 votes. This time, voters were surveyed to see what they wanted (and didn't want) in their library. Library workers are wearing buttons and encouraging patrons to vote 'yes' come Election Day.

The Library also sent a promotional mailing to all registered voters and will have volunteers stationed at the Library's entrance in the weeks leading up to the election. A promotional video is airing in the Library as well as on public access station cable Channel 20. As you drive around town, you will also spot campaign signs paid for by the Friends of the Library.

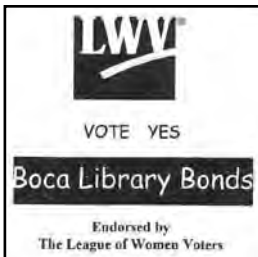
The City is also involved, with various officials joining Library Director Catherine O'Connell in speaking at club and civic group meetings. Mayor Steven Abrams went door to door in many neighborhoods to distribute promotional brochures. A conceptual artist's rendering of the future downtown library by architects Harvard Jolley Clees Toppe is on display.

The public is also invited to two community meetings on the bond issue: Wednesday, February 26 at 7 pm at Patch Reef Park Community Center and Thursday, February 27 at 7 pm at Boca Raton Community Center. Representatives from the City, the Library, the Library Advisory Board, and the Friends of the Library will be on hand to answer questions. There will also be a brief video presentation and refreshments.



Caption

# Promoting a New Library



**SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY**

Did you know...

The March 11 election will have a referendum question to provide new libraries for Boca Raton.

A larger Downtown Library of 52,500 sq. ft. will be built on or near the current site and a Western Library of 28,500 sq. ft. will be built on the Boca Technology Center property.

**What will the new libraries have?**

The new libraries will focus on those things residents said were most important:

- Space for children
- More space for materials
- More programs for children and teens
- Quiet study area
- State of the art technology

Both will have adequate, convenient parking.

**How much will this cost?**

The total bond is \$19,800,000. In addition, the City has a commitment for one \$500,000 State grant and will receive another \$500,000 grant this year. Private fund-raising will cover additional costs.

The annual cost for a \$200,000 household with a Homestead Exemption will be \$24... less than the cost of a hardbound book.

**VOTE March 11**

*expand your horizons*

@ Boca Raton Public Library

[www.bocalibrary.org](http://www.bocalibrary.org)

Caption



**Western Library**

*expand your horizons*

@ Boca Raton Public Library

[www.bocalibrary.org](http://www.bocalibrary.org)

# Promoting a New Library

City of Boca Raton

**IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION**

March 11, 2003:  
**THE QUESTION ON THE BALLOT WILL ASK:**

Shall the City issue general obligation bonds to finance the construction and equipping of two (2) libraries in the City to replace inadequate library facilities, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$19,800,000, bearing interest at not exceeding the legal rate, maturing not later than 20 years from the date of issuance, payable from ad valorem taxes?

For Bonds:   
Against Bonds:

*expand your horizons*  
@ Boca Raton Public Library



City of  
**Boca Raton**



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For Bonds   
Against Bonds

### **LIBRARY BOND REFERENDUM**

On December 10, 2002, the City of Boca Raton City Council unanimously approved a referendum to be held on March 11, 2003, for the approval of \$19.8 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction, equipping, and furnishing of two libraries, for the purpose of maintaining adequate library facilities in the City of Boca Raton.



*expand your horizons*

@ Boca Raton Public Library

*Promotional pamphlet used to promote bond referendum.*

## **Voters Say 'Yes' to Library Expansion**

*March 12, 2003.* The \$19.8 million bond issue to build two new library facilities passed by an overwhelming majority in yesterday's elections despite low voter turnout. Over 70 percent of voters were in favor of the bond. The City will repay the \$19.8 million loan plus \$9.9 million in interest over a 20-year period.

The average cost increase for residents will be \$24. Library Services Director Catherine

O'Connell remarked that that is less than the cost of one hardcover book. The two new facilities should be completed by 2008 and will provide more space for children's programs, computers, and quiet study areas among other features desired by the Library's patrons.

# Thank You Boca Raton!

We want to bring you the best possible library service!  
Our new buildings will allow us to do just that.  
Thanks for your continued support.

*Cathy O'Connell and the Staff of the Boca Raton Public Library*

*Library thank you note to voters for approving bond issue.*

## Sticking with Stucco

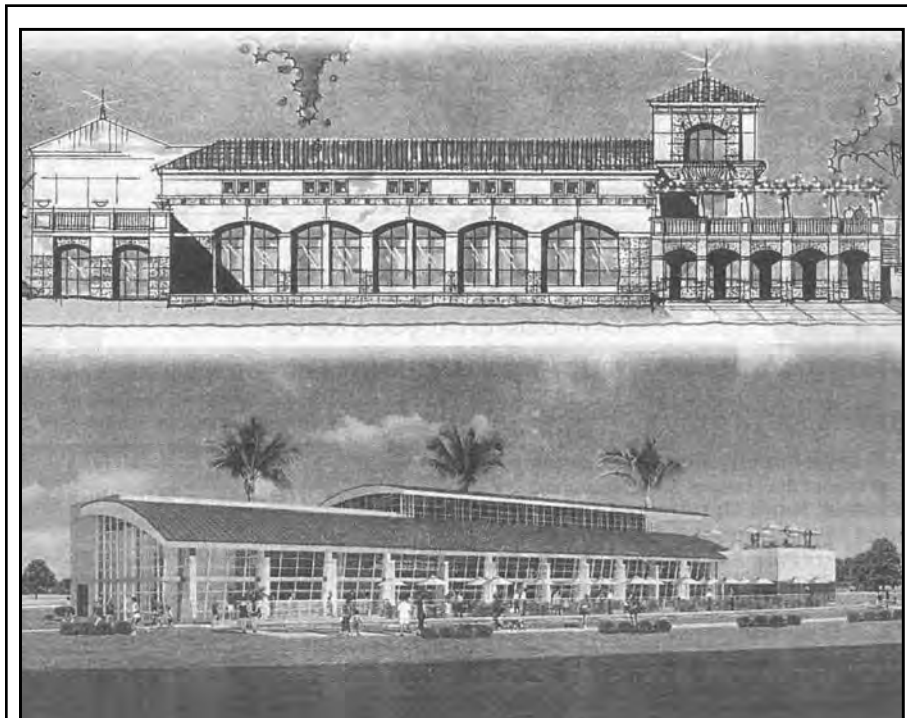
July 30, 2003. There was some good-natured verbal jousting at the City Council meeting this week over what the new Spanish River Boulevard library will look like.

Mayor Steven Abrams had originally wanted a modern design to fit in with the buildings already existing in the area. Councilman Dave Freudenberg and Deputy Mayor Susan Welchel were on the other side of the issue and pushed for

a Mediterranean-style Mizner look.

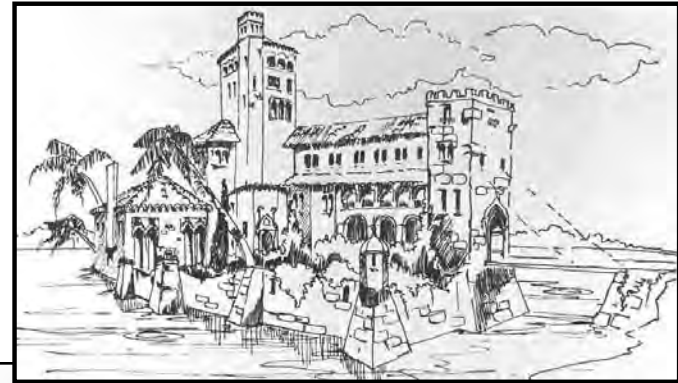
Fortunately, Harvard Jolly Clees Toppe architects had come up with both designs and, by the end of the meeting, the Spanish-look design was selected.

The new library is part of a \$19.8 million bond approved by voters in March. Also included is new construction or enlargement of the downtown library.



*A comparison of the two architectural styles being considered for the new Boca Raton Public Library building.*

## The Mizner Architectural Tradition



## New Western Library to be Built First

July 31, 2003. The Boca Raton Public Library's new western facility will be the first to be built under the \$19.8 million bond voters approved for the Library's expansion in the recent March election. The City Council has unanimously approved borrowing the \$19.8 million and has selected a site for the western facility. It will be located at the Technology Center at Boca Raton, located near Spanish River Boulevard.

The City Council has chosen the architectural firm of Harvard Jolly Clees Toppe to design the facility. The firm created two designs, one in a modern style and one in the barrel-tile and stucco Mediterranean style inspired by famed Boca Raton

architect Addison Mizner during the land boom of the early 1920s. The Council unanimously approved the Mediterranean design.

The new library will be located near a lake and feature two outdoor terraces and large arched windows to showcase the beautiful view. It will also contain a café, a gift shop, a glassed-in study room, several computer labs, wireless Internet access and more space for programs.

The City plans to award a construction bid for the western facility in December, with construction to begin early the following year. The proposed opening date is summer of 2005.



Architect's rendering of new library building.

## Library Considers Offering Naming Rights

December 11, 2003. The City is currently discussing the possibility of selling naming rights to its two new Libraries or to components, such as book collection rooms, in a creative effort to raise funds. In 2003, voters approved a \$19.8 million bond issue to finance construction of the two facilities, but an additional \$10 million is still needed.

Offering naming rights has become a common practice for

sports arenas and is not unheard of for cultural institutions. It offers a unique fundraising opportunity as well as a way to encourage and recognize generous donors. The City is suggesting \$5 million as an appropriate amount for the naming rights to one of the libraries, although exact details would most likely be negotiated with the donor. City Council would ultimately have to approve any name change.



Library Manager Catherine O'Connell would like to name the new library after you.

## Boca Raton Library is 'Going West'

*February 16, 2004.* The city will break ground for the new western library on April 2. The ground breaking will begin the expansion of the public library system in Boca Raton.

Voters approved a \$19.8 million bond issue last March that will allow the city to build the new library in T-Rex Park off Spanish River Boulevard. There will also be a new library downtown.

The library at the Spanish River Boulevard location will serve outlying parts of the city and provide expanded children and adult programs as well as new services and technologies.

No site has been chosen yet for the new downtown library, but City Manager Leif Ahnell says that building one at an off-site location would be the best solution.



*Recreation Services Director, Mickey Gomez, points out the proposed site for the new Boca Raton Public Library building.*

## City Breaks Ground for Spanish River Library

*April 3, 2004* Boca Raton officially broke ground on the new Spanish River Library construction project in a ceremony held at the site yesterday. A clown named Mr. Funnybones was on hand to welcome attendees to the festivities.

Mayor Steven L. Abrams, along with Members of Council and Library Advisory Board Members, wielded the ceremonial shovels. Mayor Abrams also addressed the enthusiastic crowd.

## City Approves Plans For Expansion of New Western Library

*December 15, 2004.* The new western Boca Raton Public Library on Spanish River Boulevard will be larger than originally planned. On December 14, the City Council approved new plans to expand the facility's original 28,500 square-foot design. The expansion will add approximately \$223,000 to the project's initial cost, but Mayor Steven Abrams stated that the voter-approved \$19.8 million bond issue will cover the added expense.

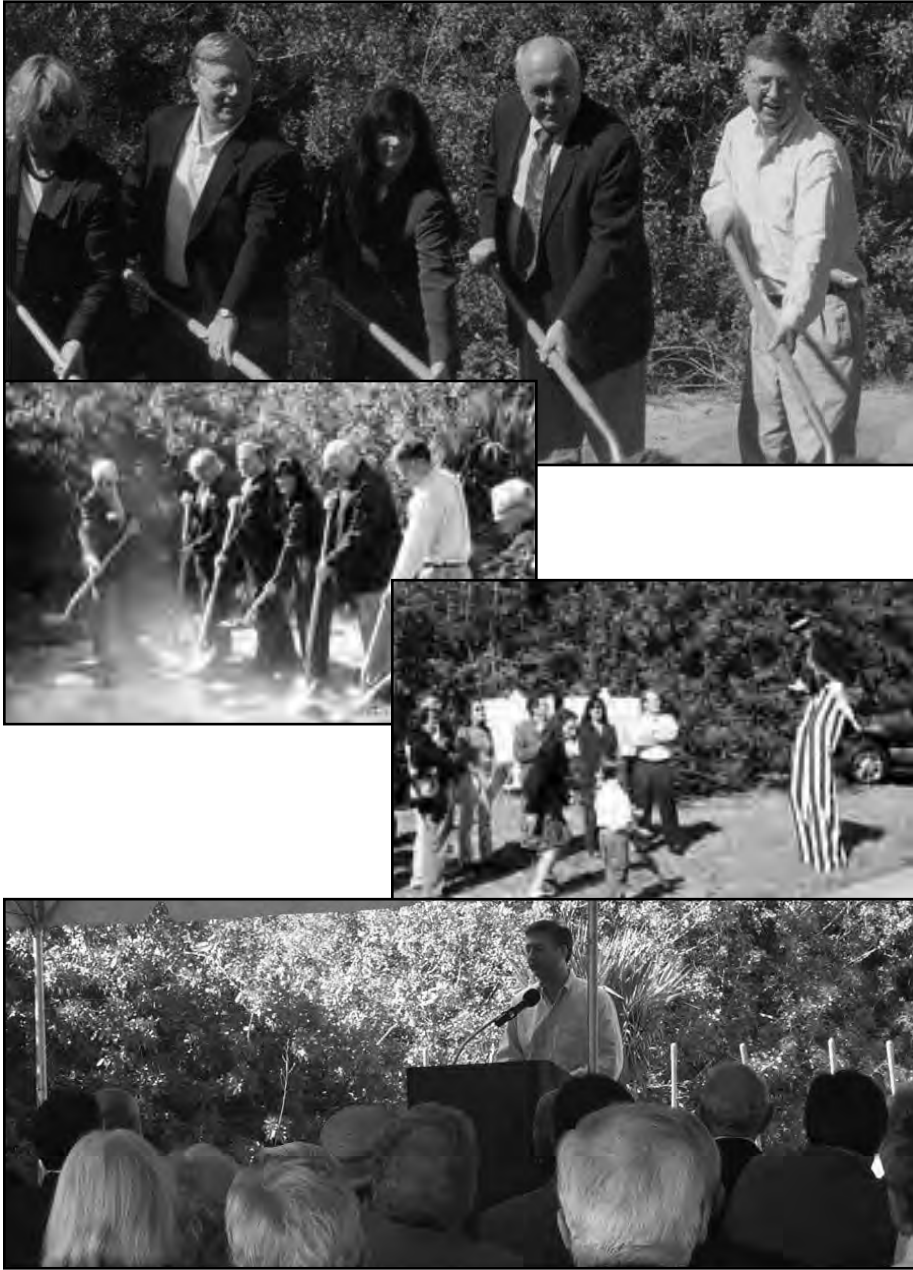
The new plan will feature an additional 12,000 plus square feet of indoor space and an additional 14,500 square feet of outdoor

space. The Library will add outside rooftop terraces that allow patrons to sit outside on sunny days and a footbridge to connect the Library grounds with the nearby Pondhawk Natural Area.

The additional space would also provide a fundraising opportunity, as it could be rented for parties and events. The facility will add dressing rooms, catering facilities, and a space for a valet parking stand to accommodate such events.

Groundbreaking has been set for April 2, 2005 with a projected opening date sometime in 2006.

## Groundbreaking



Caption

## Hot on the Trail

July 8, 2005. A group of ten young Boca Raton residents has formed the Boca Blue Group. Their objective is to make the Spanish River Boulevard library more than just a book depository.

The group wants the building and grounds to be showplaces so that people can make a day of it when they visit the library. They hope there will be trails, playgrounds, a boardwalk around the lake and paddleboats.

The Boca Blue Group presented their plans to the City Council and impressed the members. City Councilwoman Susan Whelchel was especially pleased with the fact that their well-researched presentation even included the financing.

This is the first project proposed by the group whose name was chosen to symbolize water and who want to increase the use of water resources in Boca Raton.

## City Council Approves 'Land Swap' for Downtown Library Site

November 10, 2005. After a lengthy, and sometimes contentious, public hearing this Tuesday, the Boca Raton City Council approved a property trade to obtain a site near the existing downtown Library on which to build a replacement facility. The deal with Glades/Rox LLC marked the end of a two-year odyssey to find a suitable site for the new facility. The City did not want to raze the existing Library and rebuild on the same site, as this process would include closing the Library during construction.

Glades/Rox LLC owns the 6.5-acre parcel where the Causeway Lumber Yard once stood, just a few blocks north of the downtown Library. The City will obtain this site for the new Library. In addition, Glades/Rox will sell 9.7 adjacent acres to Paramount Group for 55 single-family and 37 multi-family units, which will be known as Library Commons.

Glades/Rox will then purchase two parcels of city-owned land for \$2.65 million. Some members of the public attending the hearing felt that the City was not receiving a fair price for the land and felt that the two parcels should instead be put out to bid.

City Manager Leif Ahnell expressed the Council's approval of the plan by noting that the two sites to be sold to Glades/Rox are smaller and located along busy roads, so they are less desirable sites that a new Library would have to "horseshoe" into to fit. Money from the land sales would help in the purchase of the Causeway site, since the original bond issue approved for constructing the new Library did not include funds for land purchases. The deal would also avoid the lengthy court battle that would inevitably result from the City acquiring the Causeway site through eminent domain.

## City Selects Location for Downtown Library

*December 28, 2005.* In his 2005 year-end report to Boca Raton residents, Mayor Steven Abrams noted that the City has chosen a location on which to build a new downtown facility for the Boca Raton Public Library. The City Council has

voted in favor of acquiring the old Causeway Lumber site close to the current library's location on which to build a new downtown library. In addition to the land, the City will also receive \$2.7 million from the seller.



*Caption*

## City Closes Deal for Downtown Library Site

*January 30, 2006.* City Manager Leif Ahnell announced that the City has closed their deal with Glades/Rox LLC for the parcel of land where the old Causeway Lumber Yard once stood. The City acquired 6.5 acres and will get another half-acre with the abandonment of a portion of Second Street. Ahnell stated that the closing paves the way for the City to begin planning the construction of a new downtown Library facility on the site. The closing was not challenged and went smoothly.

The City is already meeting with Paramount Group, who plans to build an adjacent housing community known as Library Commons, about plans to raze several buildings that currently stand on the site. The City will fence off its portion of the site when demolition is finished. No timetable has been set for the beginning of construction. The current Library facility, located near the Causeway site and diagonally across from City Hall, may become a municipal annex.

## Hurricanes Hinder Western Library Project

*March 24, 2006.* The recent series of active hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005 have plagued the construction of the new western site of the Boca Raton Public library. In September of 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne both hit southeast Florida within weeks of each other.

Then, in October of 2005, Hurricane Wilma struck the southwest Florida coast and quickly crossed the state, exiting near Jupiter as a category two storm. The recent storms damaged the construction site and led to shortages of both materials and laborers.

## Legal Dispute Delays Western Library Construction

*March 24, 2006.* Construction of the new western library has come to a virtual halt due to a series of delays, cost overruns and a dispute between the City of Boca Raton and South Florida Construction Services (SFCS), the contractor hired to build the new facility. Both sides have expressed a number of grievances and have been unable to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement. Both have held the other responsible for the series of delays that have struck the project almost from its inception.

The delays and active hurricane seasons have resulted in cost overruns due to the rise in costs for construction materials. The City has refused to pay for rising material costs because it claims that SFCS should have locked in contracts for materials and prices at the project's inception.

SFCS claims that the City caused

some of the delays through actions such as not conducting needed environmental surveys in a timely manner, not hooking up electricity and water at the construction site quickly enough and making last-minute changes to the original design. The contractor also claims that the City has refused to provide time extensions or pay for additional work not covered under the original contract.

The City ultimately fired SFCS, which filed suit against the City in Palm Beach County Circuit Court. The new library is approximately 75% completed and the City will soon begin looking to hire a new construction company to finish the job. Once a new contractor is in place, the City hopes to complete the new facility by the spring of 2007. The dispute will not affect ongoing plans for the new downtown facility.

## City Selects Contractor to Complete New Western Library

February 21, 2007. The Boca Raton City Council has approved a \$5.7 million contract with Boca Raton-based general contractors Kaufman Lynn, Inc. to complete the new Spanish River Library. The Company has successfully completed a number of local construction projects in the past. They are currently working on several other City projects.

The western library project is already more than a year behind schedule due to a dispute between the City and former contractors South Florida Construction Services (SFCS). The City fired SFCS and is currently trying to recoup money through the bond company that guaranteed the project's completion.

The building is approximately 75% completed. Kaufman Lynn will

finish the work, most of which is to be done on the interior. They will also need to repair damages to the roof and stucco that occurred due to incorrect application or weather damage. Workers should be on site within a few weeks and work should be completed in approximately eight months.

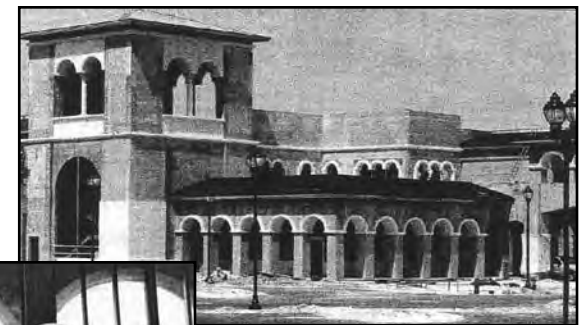
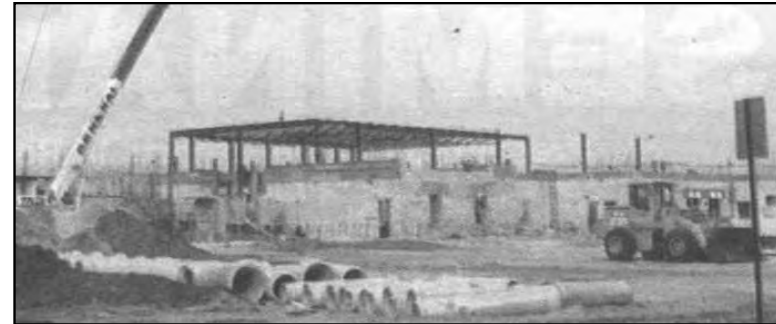
The added construction costs will be covered through money left in the original construction fund as well as money set aside for operating expenses for the new library. The City has budgeted that money since its original target opening date of the fall of 2005 but it has not been used.

Kaufman Lynn will also be working on the new downtown library facility on Northwest Second Street, which is currently in the design phase.



*Construction of new library to be completed soon.*

## Construction of the Spanish River Library



## **Boca Shows Off Construction Site of New Library**

May 23, 2007. City officials invited media and elected leaders to tour the new Spanish River Boulevard Library building today. It took a bit of imagination to see the facility as it will appear when finished, but it was obvious that the building is being built with users' needs in mind.

There will be a checkout area near the main entrance. The first floor is lined with two-story windows and will hold a children's computer lab and story-time room that overlooks the lake. Another computer lab,

a quiet study area and a meeting room for 150 people are planned for upstairs.

Teens will have a room just for themselves with books, music and comfortable furniture. Patrons will be able to order a cappuccino in the café and a second-floor terrace looks out over Pond Hawk Natural Area.

Right now jackhammers and other noises fill the air, but completion is not far off and the dream of having a second library is almost accomplished.

## **Library Friends Open Used Book Store**

July 25, 2007. Talbott Realty has donated space at 374 E. Palmetto Park Road to the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library for use as a used-book store. The location is on the south side of Palmetto Park, one block west of the Intracoastal and next to the Tin Muffin Café.

According to Jan Johnson, bookstore committee chairperson, the store is accepting donations Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm during July and August. Parking is available in the rear of the store and the driveway is directly east of the building. For information and pickup service, you can call 561-394-9686.

All types of books in good condition are acceptable, as are non-time-sensitive magazines such as *Architectural Digest* or *National Geographic*.

The Friends are presently pricing and sorting books, but expect the store to be opened in September. The exact date will be announced and there will be special opening events. The store will probably remain in that space until the early part of 2008.

Proceeds from sales will be used for the needs of the library system.

## **Boca Library Friends Donate \$14,000 for Audio Books**

November 21, 2007 The non-profit organization Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library presented the City Council with a check for \$14,000 at the Council's recent workshop. The donation is earmarked for the purchase of audio books for both the downtown library and the new Spanish River Library, set to open in January of 2008. The Friends raised the money through donations and through sales at their recently opened used bookstore located at 374 E. Palmetto Park Road.

The audio books come with a small, self-contained easy-to-use player. Patrons use headphones purchased at the Library for a small fee to listen

to the book. Collection development librarian M.J. Beasley, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Library, stated "These new audio books bridge the gap between books on CD and books that can be downloaded from the Internet, making audio books available to more people."



*A library patron using the nifty new audio-book player.*

## **Date Set for Opening of Spanish River Library**

November 20, 2007. The new Spanish River Library will hold its long anticipated grand opening on January 12, 2008 at 10:00 am. The City of Boca Raton constructed the two-story Mizner-style Mediterranean stucco building as part of a \$19.8 million bond issue to build two new library facilities that voters approved in March of 2003. A new downtown facility will be constructed near the current facility at 200 NW Boca Raton Boulevard

over the next several years, giving the City two new libraries to meet the needs of its growing population.

Construction on the Spanish River Library began with a groundbreaking ceremony in April of 2005. The facility has a meeting room, large glass windows with views of the adjacent pond, and outside rooftop terraces among other features. Library personnel and City officials will be on hand for the opening day festivities.

## Boca Moves Ahead with Plans for New Downtown Library

December 9, 2007. The architectural firm Bermello Ajamil and Partners of Miami has completed the preliminary site plan for the new downtown Boca Raton Public Library. Boca Raton city officials met with representatives of the firm to discuss the plan. Bermello Ajamil and Partners are designing the new facility in association with Michael Graves & Associates.

The City projects that the new downtown library will be completed and opened to the public in December of 2009.



## Reference Staff Compiles Library History

December 15, 2007. Boca Raton Public Library reference staff members Richard Kuster, Marcella Trevino, Margaret Wendy, and Jane Engel have been busy compiling a history of the Boca Raton Public Library. The work, entitled *A Chronicle of the Boca Raton Public Library 1923-2007*, will be published as an edition of the Boca Raton Historical Society's Spanish River Papers. The Chronicle provides a fitting tribute to the way the Library has served the Boca Raton Community over the years as the City prepares for the grand opening of its new Spanish River Library.

The authors chronicled the Library's many changes over the years, from its 1923 founding by the Woman's Club of Boca Raton through the opening of the Spanish River Library in 2008. The Chronicle's lively and informative articles are based on extensive research in local newspapers, such as the *Boca Raton News* and the Boca Raton Historical Society's archives, as well as personal interviews. The authors also selected and scanned photographs depicting various events in the Library's history to supplement the work's chronicle-style articles.

## The Spanish River Library



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