



# THE STARTING LINE

NATHAN BENDERSON PARK

FALL 2016

## IN THIS EDITION

- Introducing SANCA's New President & CEO
- Upcoming Events
- Construction Update
- Volunteer of the Year and Month Program
- Community Outreach
- WRCH Update



## Meet SANCA's New President & CEO Robert J. Sullivan, CFE

Bob came to the area from Wichita Falls, Texas, where he managed the Multi-Purpose Events Center (MPEC) for the past eleven years. In addition to managing MPEC and its arena, convention center, horse exhibition center, and memorial auditorium, Bob was also responsible for the management of the Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Prior to Wichita Falls, Bob had been in senior management roles in a variety of communities and venues including the Cow Palace in San Francisco, Sheffield Arena in Sheffield, England, Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View, California, and the MetroCentre in Rockford, Illinois.

**R**obert J. Sullivan is no stranger to the Sarasota-Bradenton area. His decision to move here a few years ago was largely due to Nathan Benderson Park and the opportunities it provided to his wife, Pat, who is an avid kayaker.

Today, as SANCA's new commander-in-chief, Bob brings more than thirty-five years of experience managing venues both nationally and internationally. These venues have staged a wide variety of athletic events including international sporting activities, amateur and professional hockey programs, arena football and indoor soccer, along with high school, college, and professional basketball programs. Not only does his impressive resume cover the sporting aspect of event management, but it also boasts vast experience with the concert industry, presenting events from Seinfeld to Lollapalooza on stages seating five hundred people to festivals exceeding three hundred thousand attendees.

He is eager to tap into his extensive experience to take Nathan Benderson Park to the next level. His vision is to bring an exciting variety of events that will have appeal to a broader audience. Already attracting the rowing community as a world class rowing facility, Bob's goal is to reach not only sports enthusiasts, but to draw in an audience and participants from all walks of life to NBP; from young families in the local community to cultural buffs to international visitors and everything in between. His mindset that public venues are designed to provide an array of activities that enhance the quality of life and economic opportunities for the citizens and businesses in the community is something we all can embrace. We look forward to more exciting things to come at NBP under his leadership.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 5-6**

NBP Rowing Festival

**November 12**

Walk to End Alzheimers

**November 19**

Duathlon Regatta/Run

**December 10**

Sarasota Crew Intrasquad Regatta

**December 17**

NBP Movie Night

**February 10**

NBP Movie Night

**February 10-March 5**

Circus Sarasota Winter Show

**February 18**

American Youth Cup I

**February 18**

Superhero 5k

**February 19**

Sarasota 10 5m/10m Run

**February 25-26**

Sarasota Invitational

**March 4**

SMA Spring Festival

**March 5**

WRCH Chalk Festival

**March 11**

USRowing/FISA/Agitos Foundation

International Para Rowing Development  
Regatta

**March 11-12**

Sarasota-Bradenton ITU Triathlon

**March 18**

Southeastern Guide Dogs 5k/10k

**March 18**

NBP Movie Night

**March 19**

Pedal for Pups/Doggie Bones Run

**March 24-26**

Cirque Des Voix

**March 25**

American Youth Cup II

**March 26**

SW FL Battle of the Gym's Triathlon

**March 31- April 1**

FIRA Rowing Regatta

**April 1**

FSRA West District Championships

**April 2**

Storm Challenge Triathlon

**April 8-9**

FSRA Sculling Championships

**April 16**

Crosspointe Easter Sunrise Service

**April 28**

Sunshine State Conference

Championships

**April 29-30**

FSRA Sweep Championships



# CONSTRUCTION

## Nathan Benderson Park Finish Tower



- Five story building
- Breezeway stair landings
  - Public restrooms
- Observation platform
  - Welcome center

*The Finish Tower will house the SANCA offices and provide opportunities for community events*

**Projected Completion:**  
Winter 2017

## Playground

- Fenced in area
- Rubberized ground covering
- Shade trees surrounding the facility
  - Structures for various ages
- Close proximity to the new restroom



**Completion:**  
November 2016



# VOLUNTEERS

## Volunteer of the Year and Month Program

SANCA has announced the launch of the Volunteer of the Year and Volunteer of the Month programs that recognize commitment to the organization and the park. These programs showcase the support within the community and encourage volunteerism at the park for upcoming seasons.

Volunteer of the Month will be announced at the conclusion of the last event taking place each month.

Volunteer of the Year will be announced before the start of the new event season which takes place on October 1st. The selected volunteer will be recognized with a highlighted spot in our Fall Newsletter. This year, our volunteer of the year is William Hoegel!

Another new aspect of the volunteer program is that volunteers will be recognized throughout the year based on hours worked at park events.

For more information on how you can volunteer, contact Sarah Kupiec at, Sarah@sanca.us.

## 2016 Volunteer of the Year

Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. (SANCA) would like to congratulate

**WILLIAM HOEGEL**

for being chosen as Nathan Benderson Park's 2016 Volunteer of the Year!

Where are you from and how long have you been in Sarasota?

*36 years in Sarasota, from Pittsburgh originally*

How long have you been volunteering at Nathan Benderson Park?

*Since 2009*

What is your favorite aspect about the park?

*Accessibility to the community and the economic impact to the region*

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

*Being part of giving back to the community*

What is your favorite event or memory from your time spent as a volunteer?

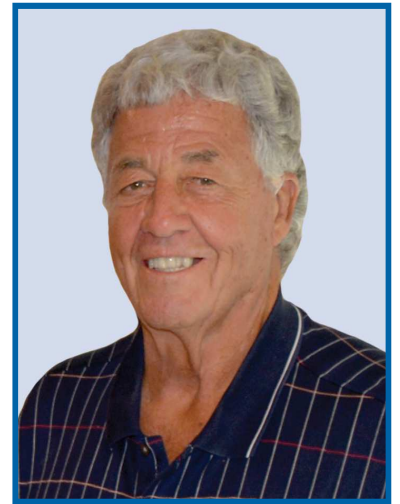
*Helping with event setup and parking*

Why would you encourage someone to volunteer?

*To be helpful to others and it is enjoyable to give everyone a chance to help if they want to be a part of bringing together good events. People don't realize that a park like this has such big needs and must have volunteers to be successful*

What is one word you would use to describe volunteering at the park?

*Involvement...being helpful to others*





# COMMUNITY

## PROGRAMMING

### Equipment Rentals

- Single and double sit on top kayaks
- Stand up paddleboards (SUP)
- Single scull rentals

*Rentals are available for \$15 per hour*

### Learn to Row

#### **Learn to Row 101: Introduction to Sculling**

- Fundamentals of rowing in Singles and Doubles
- Sculling (two oars)
- Learn the tools necessary to transition into sweep rowing

#### **Learn to Row 201: Introduction to Sweep Rowing**

- Fundamentals of sweep rowing (one oar)
- Learn to row as a team in larger boats (4+'s and 8+'s)

*Private lessons are also available*

### Dragon Boat Paddle

NBP offers Dragon Boat 101 and Dragon Boat 201. These courses are designed to give beginners the opportunity to learn the basics of Dragon Boat Paddling and learn to become part of the NBP Dragon Boat Program after the completion of Dragon Boat 201.

### Youth Aquatics Camps - Thanksgiving and Holiday

For ages 10-18, these camps are designed to teach the basics of kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, rowing, RC sailboating, boater's education and more!

For more information and to sign up for any NBP program or rental opportunity, contact the Program Department at [programs@sanca.us](mailto:programs@sanca.us) or visit:

[www.NathanBendersonPark.org/programming](http://www.NathanBendersonPark.org/programming)

## OUTREACH

### Community Youth Development

In September, Nathan Benderson Park was a sponsor for the CYD 11th Annual Leadership Breakfast, held at their new home location, the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota County. This event honored Senator Vern Buchanan and his wife Sandy, along with Superintendent Lori White for their work within the local community. The event brought a spotlight upon the SRQVolunteers program and Star Leadership Training.





# NEWS

## 2017 World Rowing Championships



In less than a year, for the first time since 1994, the World Rowing Championships will return to the United States.

On Friday, September 23rd, government officials and community members joined together at the site of the 2017 Championships, Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota-Bradenton, Florida, to recognize the monumental day.

At the One Year Kick-off event, spectators heard remarks from local leaders and Olympic gold medalist rower Amanda Polk, who spoke about the significance of the Championships returning to the United States.

“I can tell you that the women and men of the United States rowing team are absolutely ecstatic to have this event on our home turf,” Polk said.

In addition, “Vortex,” a sculpture designed by internationally-renowned artist Malcolm Robertson, was unveiled with a time clock counting down the days to the international regatta. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn about purchasing tickets and official merchandise, volunteering, and all of the exciting events and programs that will take place leading up to and during the Championships.

The 2017 World Rowing Championships will take place in Sarasota-Bradenton, September 23-October 1, 2017. With 40,000 in attendance, and 1,700 elite, world class athletes on hand from more than 60 countries, Florida’s Suncoast is expected to see an economic impact of \$25 million.

Be a part of welcoming the world - volunteer, get involved, and purchase your tickets at [www.wrch2017.com](http://www.wrch2017.com)



### NBP Sponsors:

The Nathan Benderson  
**Community Park**  
Foundation



### Annual NBP Partners:



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