



# THE STARTING LINE

NATHAN BENDERSON PARK

WINTER 2017

## IN THIS EDITION

- Ronald A. Balducci Playground and Event Garden
- Upcoming Events
- Construction Update
- Volunteer of the Month
- WRCH Update
- Community Outreach

## Ronald A. Balducci Playground

Families in the Sarasota-Bradenton Community have a new playground to enjoy now that the Ronald A. Balducci Playground and Event Garden at Nathan Benderson Park has officially opened. Located on the northern end of the park, the playground is the newest addition to the Sarasota County park, which already offers so much to residents.

Named in memory of Ronald A. Balducci, the playground will be a fun gathering place for parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, extended families, and friends. It will be open daily during regular park hours and the pavilion will soon be available to rent for birthday parties and special events.

“The addition of the Ronald A. Balducci Playground and Event Garden adds one more element to the extraordinary facilities that make up Nathan Benderson Park”, said Robert J. Sullivan, president and CEO of SANCA, the non-profit that manages NBP. “Staff is already developing programming ideas incorporating the playground and event garden for this coming year.”



The Ronald A. Balducci Playground and Event Garden grand opening. Seen here cutting the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony are (l. to r.): Gina and Shaun Benderson, Sarasota County Parks Director, Carolyn Brown, and Sarasota County Commissioner Carolyn Mason. The park, named for Gina Benderson's late father, will be open daily during park hours.

5851 Nathan Benderson Circle | Sarasota, FL 34235  
[www.NathanBendersonPark.org](http://www.NathanBendersonPark.org) | 941-358-7275

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## February 4

Run for the Sun 5k

## February 10

24hr World Record Paddle

## February 10

NBP Movie Night - *Zootopia*

## February 10-March 5

Circus Sarasota Winter Show

## February 18

American Youth Cup I

## February 18

Superhero 5k

## February 25-26

Sarasota Invitational Regatta

## March 4

SMA Spring Festival

## March 5

Chalk the Park

## March 11

USRowing/FISA/Agitos Foundation Int'l

Para Rowing Development Regatta

## March 11-12

Sarasota-Bradenton ITU Triathlon

## March 18

Southeastern Guide Dogs 5k/10k

## March 18

NBP Movie Night - *Secret Life of Pets*

## 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 Gyms Triathlon

## March 31- April 1

FIRA Rowing Regatta

## April 1

FSRA West District Championships

## April 8-9

FSRA Sculling Championships

## April 15

My Hometown Fest

## April 16

Crosspointe Easter Sunrise Service

## April 28

Sunshine State Conference

Championships

## April 29-30

FSRA Sweep Championships

## May 6

Promise Walk for Preeclampsia

## May 13

American Athletic Conference Rowing

Championships

## May 20

SUP & Run 5k

## May 27

American Youth Cup III

## June 3

Suncoast International Dragon Boat

Festival and SRDBA Championships

## June 7-11

USRowing Youth Nationals

## June 9

Sunshine State Games



# 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







# VOLUNTEERS

## Volunteers of the Month

### October 2016

Susan McGregor



**What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

*No two events are the same - an opportunity to learn about a variety of activities.*

**Why would you encourage someone to volunteer?**

*A volunteer has the opportunity to work with the professional and dedicated SANCA staff in the execution of world-class events. Camaraderie with fellow volunteers*

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

*A privilege.*

### November 2016

Charlie Mills

**What is your favorite aspect about the park?**

*For me, the rowing programs.*

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

*Being able to be involved with the rowing programs that are so important to the park and a wonderful experience for the competitors.*

**Why would you encourage someone to volunteer?**

*I am a Rotarian and I am used to giving back to the community so this is an opportunity for anyone to do just that...and have fun.*

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

*Exciting!*



### December 2016

Sophia Mongillo



**What is your favorite aspect about the park?**

*My favorite aspect is the way that several people from our community, even people from different places in the world, come together because they share a common passion.*

**Why would you encourage someone to volunteer?**

*Volunteering is something everyone should experience themselves because it is giving back to your community without expecting anything back in return, which feels great, and it teaches you a lot!*

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

*Inspirational.*



# NEWS

## 2017 World Rowing Championships

As part of the Sarasota County Library System's "One Book, One Community" program, the 2017 World Rowing Championships Host Committee is pleased to welcome the author of the New York Times best-seller, *The Boys in the Boat*, to Sarasota-Bradenton.

Daniel James Brown will speak at and attend a luncheon hosted by the World Rowing Championships Organizing Committee from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at Fete Catering and Ballroom in Lakewood Ranch. Brown will also attend a separate event hosted by Sarasota County Libraries that evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Venice Performing Arts Center.

"It's really exciting to have him here and to engage rowing fans and book lovers in our community," said Meredith Scerba, the executive director of the 2017 World Rowing Championships. "Brown's book is inspiring and we are confident that those who read it will be intrigued to learn more about the sport of Olympic rowing and our international regatta in 2017."

Brown's novel tells the story of the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team and their 1936 Olympic triumph over the German rowing team in Berlin. Brown grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and attended the University of California at Berkeley. He taught writing at San Jose University before becoming a technical writer and editor in Silicon Valley and at Microsoft. He now writes novels full-time outside of Seattle. He lives with his wife, two daughters, and an assortment of cats, dogs, chickens and honeybees. When he is not writing, he his birding, gardening, fishing, reading American history or chasing bears away from the beehives.

Brown's visit to Florida's Suncoast is part of a year's worth of legacy and awareness programming hosted by the World Rowing Championships. The programming is aimed at enhancing the local community through a variety of events.

Tickets for the luncheon range from \$100-\$900 and can be purchased at:

[www.WRCH2017.com](http://www.WRCH2017.com)

**BEHIND THE SCENES WITH AUTHOR,  
DANIEL JAMES BROWN**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

VIP Meet & Greet 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM  
Luncheon: 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM  
Fête Catering & Ballroom

*The Boys in the Boat* book cover image

2017 world rowing championships Sarasota-Bradenton Florida, USA logo

*To purchase tickets visit [www.wrch2017.com/programming](http://www.wrch2017.com/programming)*



# 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 work to become part of the NBP Dragon Boat Program.

### Summer Youth Aquatics Camps

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!

**Week 1: May 29-June 2**

**Week 2: June 12-June 16**

**Week 3: June 19-June 23**

**Week 4: June 26-June 30**

**Week 5\*: July 3-July 7**

**Week 6: July 10-July 14**

**Week 7: July 17-July 21**

**Week 8: July 24- July 28**

**Week 9: July 31-August 4**

**Week 10: August 8-August 11**

**Week 11: August 14-August 18**

**For more information and to sign up for any NBP program, camp, 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)**

Home of the:



### NBP Sponsors:



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