

HIGHLAND BEACH

<http://www.highlandbch.com/>

LOCATION

Town of Highland Beach
3614 S. Ocean Boulevard
Highland Beach, FL 33487
Telephone: 561-278-4548 FAX: 561-265-3582
E-mail: Town of Highland Beach General E-Mail

The Town of Highland Beach is located in the southern portion of eastern Palm Beach County, which is in the southeastern part of the State of Florida. The Town encompasses 0.6 square miles and is bounded in the north and northwest by the City of Delray Beach and on the south and southwest by the City of Boca Raton. The Atlantic Ocean lies adjacent to the Town on the east and the Intracoastal Waterway lies to the west. The Town's "main street" is a beautiful tree-lined stretch of Florida's state road A1A.

HISTORY

It was here that in the 1200-1300's inhabitants made their home - the eight foot tall Caloosa Tribe. What a place this was! Imagine, if you can, complete wilderness and swamp with the old Spanish River hidden from the roar of the Atlantic to the east. Here, food was in abundance: fish, wild animals, fruit, sweet potatoes. Fresh water was found at the base of the tree trunks, and from streams back in the bush, with salt water everywhere for boating, fishing and swimming.

During the 1500-1600's, pirates and buccaneers made the area their home. Here the living was easy; safety from storms and pursuit and easy access to plunder the gold-laden galleons of old Spain.

In the 1800's, the barefoot mailmen carried mail from Palm Beach to Miami, walking the entire distance along the sandy beach where at intervals were crude structures known as refuge houses. Food consisted of hard biscuits and coffee carried in the mail sack, fish caught in the ocean, and oysters clustered at the roots near the water, together with sweet potatoes, wild oranges and small bananas. Palm fronds were used as "plates".

Over the centuries, huge green turtles slowly made their way from the waters to the beach to lay their eggs. The birds and pirates would devour the eggs, and the men would slaughter the turtles for food. The turtles still come to the beach to lay their eggs today, but are strictly protected by law. The beach was a treasure of relics from ships broken by storms...legend has it that a load of coconuts washed ashore started the growth of our palm trees; there were casks of lard, kegs of wine, enough fittings to build a complete house. During this period, the first Seminole Indians came to these shores from Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia.

It wasn't until 1896, when Henry Flagler completed the East Coast Railway, that civilized progress began. People traveled in greater numbers and established homes where swamp and jungle had once existed. In the early 1900's a group of Japanese emigrated to Florida and settled just west of the Intracoastal Waterway, naming their little community Yamato. Here they successfully raised pineapple and vegetables.

The history of present day Highland Beach began in 1949 when it was incorporated with 21 free voters for two prime reasons. First, a fresh water supply was imperative as there was salt intrusion in the existing wells. Neighboring communities were not amenable to

supplying water from their wells, therefore funds were required to build a water plant. Secondly, the residents at that time heard rumors that a trailer camp was contemplated in the area, which did not meet with their approval. The name "Highland Beach" was chosen because at that time the land rose 20 to 25 feet above high tide, relatively higher than other portions of the dune crest in the area. Land values in 1945 were \$45 a foot, including the land opposite on the Intracoastal, as that was considered valueless because of the swamp and mangroves. In 1950, it sold for \$125 a foot, excluding the west parcel. Presently, the value is in excess of \$80,000 a "front" foot!

POPULATION

Highland Beach is a residential community with a year round population of approximately 4,100 which increases to approximately 8,500 during the winter months by residents who list their northern homes as their official place of residence. Residents are composed of approximately 80% retirees and 20% persons employed or engaged in business enterprises in Palm Beach and Broward Counties.

EVENTS

N/A STRICTLY RESIDENTIAL

ATTRACTIONS

N/A STRICTLY RESIDENTIAL, NO PUBLIC BEACHES, TENNIS COURTS, OR COUNTRY CLUBS. EVERYTHING IS PRIVATELY OWNED.

SCHOOLS

Depending on the address, children will attend schools in either Boca Raton or Delray Beach.

HOSPITALS

Boca Raton Community Hospital
800 Meadows Road
Boca Raton, FL 33486
561-955-7100
www.brch.com

Bethesda Memorial Hospital
2815 South Seacrest Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL 33435
561-737-7733
www.bethesdaweb.com

Delray Medical Center
5352 Linton Blvd.
Delray Beach, FL 33484
561-498-4440
www.delraymedicalctr.com

PARKS AND RECREATION

There is no Parks and Recreation Department in Highland Beach. Contact Delray Beach Recreation at 561-243-7250.

The roughly three mile stretch of beach in the Town of Highland Beach provides our residents with a place to relax and recreate.

TRANSPORTATION

Palm Beach International Airport
1000 Palm Bch Intl Airport
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
(561) 471-7450
pbsso.org

DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Hagelmann (561-278-4548)
Vice Mayor Asselta (561-278-4548)
Commissioner Zwick (561-278-4548)
Commissioner Newill (561-278-4548)
Commissioner Trinley (561-278-4548)
Town Manager (561-278-4548)
Town Clerk (561-278-4548)
Finance Director (561-278-4548)
Building Official (561-278-4540)
Building Inspector (561-278-4540)
Chief of Police (561-266-5800)
Library Director (561-278-5455)
Public Works Director (561-243-2084)

UTILITIES

Comcast Cable 561-266-2278
Highland Beach Water Treatment 561-243-2084

Public Works Department

The Town of Highland Beach owns and operates its own Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment facility, which was completed and went on-line in October 2004. The Town's raw water supply comes from a 1,000 foot deep well, drawing water from the Floridan aquifer. Treated water is stored in a 300,000 gallon above ground storage tank and a 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank before eventually being released into the Town's water distribution system. Approximately 1.3 million gallons of water are treated by the Town's Water Plant each day.

The sewer system is also owned and maintained by the Town, which includes over 8 miles of sewer lines and five sewer pumping stations. Wastewater is pumped to Delray Beach, where it is transported further to the South Palm Beach County Wastewater Regional Treatment Plant where it receives tertiary treatment and is pumped into the ocean through Delray Beach outfall, terminating at an eighty foot depth approximately

one mile offshore.

The Town of Highland Beach currently services approximately 560 utility customers. Water meters are read every other month and residents are billed for two months of service at a time. Billing for Utility Services is handled by the Town's Finance Department.

The Water Treatment Plant is operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is staffed by seven full time employees. Questions about the Town's Water Treatment facility or Public Works Department may be directed to the Public Works Director.[Back to the top]

FPL: 561-994-8227

Water Department: 561-278-4548

Sewer: 561-278-4548

Garbage: 561-278-4548

Recycling: 561-278-4548

Phone company: AT&T/BELLSOUTH 561-780-2500

Cable: Comcast: 800.266.2278

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www.waterfrontandwaternews.com