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Town of Bay Harbor Islands

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Community Background Report

County

Miami-Dade

Boundaries

North: EAST ISLAND - NE 103rd Street / WEST ISLAND - NE 103rd Street
South: EAST ISLAND - NE 91st Street / WEST ISLAND - NE 94th Street
West: EAST ISLAND - West Bay Harbor Drive / WEST ISLAND - West Broadview Drive
East: EAST ISLAND - East Bay Harbor Drive / WEST ISLAND - East Broadview Drive

Community Type

Municipality

History

Bay Harbor began as a vision and later a creation of Russian born immigrant, Shepard Broad. In 1945 he acquired two undeveloped mangrove islands. With personal funds and down payments from the sales of lots, Shepard filled the islands and watched Bay Harbor develop. Bay Harbour Islands occupy 0.4 square miles of land in northern Miami-Dade County. The town was incorporated in 1947. Shepard was elected as the first mayor and remained in this position until 1973. The first building permit in Bay Harbour Island was applied for on June 15, 1947.

In 1951 the broad Causeway was opened; this was important because it joined the islands to the mainland of northern Miami as well as neighboring communities. Bay Harbor has followed through with the zoning concept that Mr. Broad established years ago. The 103 acre west island is only open for single-family unit development. The 150 acre east island is open for multi-family dwellings and small business district that provides residents with goods and services selections.

Community Dynamics

Today the community's population is around 5,100. The Bay Harbor Islands population has remained about the same for the past 25 years, but the demographics are rapidly changing. The

demographic makeup is fairly diverse. Due to its population diversity the Bay Harbor Islands citizens interact more frequently with other cultures than members of the other gold coast communities.

Within the town residents can enjoy the green space areas. Three tennis courts are available for leisure play, private courses, and summer tennis camps. Bay Harbor prides itself on providing its community with services of larger municipalities while maintaining the small town touch and concern for each resident.

Sources

http://www.bayharborislands.org

http://www.city-data.com/city/bay-harbor-islands-Florida.html

Bay Harbor Building and Compliance Department (Personal Communication October 26, 2004)