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Town of Jupiter

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Community Background Report

Town of Jupiter

Boundaries

North: Sargasso Way

South: Donald Ross Road

East: Atlantic Ocean

West: Florida Turnpike

Community Type: Municipality

History

A seacoast community, the Town of Jupiter is located 19 miles north of West Palm Beach and 89 miles north of Miami. The town is known for its beaches and other natural areas.

The area was originally named after the Hobe Indians, who lived in the area and along the Loxahatchee River. The town's name was misunderstood by a mapmaker, who recorded it as "Jove". This was later changed to "Jupiter", since "Jove" is the anglicized name of the Roman god Jupiter (Zeus in Greek mythology). After the area became known as Jupiter, a nearby municipality was named Juno Beach—after Jupiter's wife, the Roman goddess Juno.¹

At the turn of the 20th century Jupiter was a village of fishermen and animal trappers. The land boom of the 1920s was felt in Jupiter, as many new developments cropped up within the municipality. Jupiter incorporated in 1925. During the "roaring twenties" Jupiter was a hot spot for the illicit alcohol trade. Bootleggers used it as a hub to transport alcohol from the Bahamas, where it was legal, to the rest of Florida and the US. Jupiter of the 1920s is also famous for a notorious speed trap, located on Dixie Highway (now known as US Highway 1) on the way to Miami. The speed trap brought enormous amounts of revenue into the city budget, and was one of the reasons, along with high property taxes, that led a group of residents to challenge the municipality in the late 1920s and secede from it. The founders of Plumosis City, named after a fern that was grown as one of the area's chief exports, formed an "anti-Jupiter" movement in outrage over the town's speed trap scandal and financial mismanagement.²

Today, Jupiter is a town of nearly 45,000 residents, mostly residing in gated communities. The town's most notable landmark is the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, which was completed in 1860. Made of brick, it was painted red in 1910 since its original color had faded due to humidity. In 2004 Hurricane Jeanne sandblasted the paint from the upper portion of the

tower, and it was repainted using a potassium silicate mineral coating. The lighthouse is often used as the symbol for Jupiter.³

Community Dynamics

Jupiter's municipal government maintains a Town Neighborhood Services Agency, which fosters communication between the government and residents, and promotes the desirability of neighborhoods in Jupiter. It began as a pilot program with four neighborhoods and has grown to support over 20 communities. The agency provides organized neighborhoods with technical assistance and a matching grant program used for capital improvements. These services are attractive to existing and potential neighborhood organizations, as well as homeowner associations within Jupiter and in areas considered for annexation. Previous capital improvement projects have included street lighting, curb cuts, sidewalks, tree planting, benches, and traffic calming devices. In addition, the agency educates residents, in association with Florida Atlantic University, with a 'Citizen's Academy' that explores city government, neighborhood transportation and mobility issues. The Agency has been instrumental in developing overcrowding and nuisance ordinances. "Meet and greet" events and civic fairs, held as often as four times per year, are used to promote services and encourage residents to get involved in their neighborhoods.⁴ Some of the neighborhoods recognized by the Town Neighborhood Services agency are Riverside, Jupiter River Estates, Pine Gardens North, Pine Gardens South, Heights of Jupiter and Eastview Manor. The recurring neighborhood meetings take place in the Jupiter Town Hall.

Demographic Highlights⁵

Jupiter's population has been on the rise, and the trend is forecasted to continue.

In the years between 2000 and 2009 Jupiter's population grew by 13%. The population is forecasted to grow another 6% by 2014.

The overwhelming majority of residents in Jupiter are White and non-Hispanic.

In 2009 92% of residents of Jupiter classified themselves as White, 3% classified themselves as Black and 2% classified themselves as Asian. Only 9% of residents of Jupiter classified themselves as Hispanic. By 2014 Jupiter's White population is projected to decrease very slightly (from 92% to 91%).

The median household income in Jupiter is considerably higher than that for Palm Beach County.

In 2009 the median household income in Jupiter was \$74,922, while the median household income for Palm Beach County was \$62,114.

Most of Jupiter's residents speak English and are native-born US citizens.

In 2009 88% of Jupiter's residents spoke English and 90% were native-born US citizens.

The percentage of households in Jupiter with an income of \$100,000 and over is considerably higher than in Palm Beach County.

In 2009 35% of households in Jupiter had an income of \$100,000 and over, compared to 26% in Palm Beach County. During the same year, 12% of households in Boca Raton had an income of \$200,000 and over, compared to 8% in Palm Beach County.

More than 1/3 of residents of Jupiter have a college degree or higher.

In 2009 37% of Jupiter's residents had a college or graduate degree.

Many residents of Jupiter work in the finance, insurance, real estate/rental and leasing sector or the professional, scientific, management and administrative sector.

In 2009 9% of Jupiter residents worked in the finance, insurance, real estate/rental and leasing sector, the same percentage as in Palm Beach County. 15% worked in the professional, scientific, management and administrative sector, as compared to 13.5% in Palm Beach County.

Housing construction in Jupiter was extremely active during the 1980s.

Nearly 40% of all housing in Jupiter was built between 1980 and 1989. 23% of Jupiter's housing was built after 1999.

Transportation Trends⁶

Jupiter is directly accessible from Interstate 95, US Highway 1, and the Jupiter Inlet, and indirectly from the Florida Turnpike. The closest rail station is the Amtrak station in West Palm Beach, approximately 16 miles away.

The tables below illustrate projected transportation trends in the Town of Jupiter:

Average household transportation costs:

2009: Town, \$9,923.69/County, \$9,162.52

2014: Town, \$12,174.40/County, \$11,276.10

Average household transportation costs for public transportation:

2009: Town, \$688.10/County, \$607.69

2014: Town, \$879.62/County, \$783.55

Forecasted travel time to work for the employed population, 2014:

Work at home: Town, 7 percent/County, 5 percent

Less than 15 minutes: Town, 25 percent/County, 20 percent

15-29 minutes: Town, 37 percent /County, 37 percent

30-59 minutes: Town, 27 percent /County, 31 percent

60+ minutes: Town, 5 percent /County, 7 percent

Forecasted means of transportation to work for employed individuals, 2014:

Work at home: Town, 7 percent/County, 5 percent

Car, Truck, Van to Work: Town, 91 percent / County, 92 percent

Public Transportation to Work: Town, 0.2 percent / County, 1 percent

Other Transportation to Work: Town, 2 percent / County, 2 percent

Forecasted number of vehicles per household, 2014:

No vehicles: Town, 3 percent / County, 6 percent

1 vehicle: Town, 35 percent / County, 41 percent

2 vehicles: Town, 49 percent / County, 42 percent

3 vehicles: Town, 11 percent / County, 9 percent

4+ vehicles: Town, 2 percent / County, 2 percent

Transportation services and projects in the Town of Jupiter:

Jupiter's Transit-Oriented Development Master Plan

In January of 2008 a transit-oriented development (TOD) charrette was held at the Jupiter Community Center to determine the locations of future transit stations in the town of Jupiter. The event, organized by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, featured the work of a design team and was open to discussion and comments from the town's citizens. Many residents, business owners, local government staff and elected officials were present at this event, which is why the plan is known as the "Citizen's Master Plan". For more information about this plan and its implementation please contact Jupiter's Planning and Zoning Department at pzinfo@jupiter.fl.us or (561)741-2291. ⁷

Special Events⁸

The town of Jupiter maintains a calendar of events at http://www.jupiter.fl.us/town_calendar/. Below is a sampling of recurring events:

Lighthouse Starry Nights—Learn the history of the Jupiter Lighthouse while getting a lighthouse keeper's view of the night sky. Relax on the lighthouse deck after the tour (90 minutes, \$25 per person). For more information go to <http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org> or call (561)747-8380.

Lighthouse Sunset Tour—Witness the workings of a lighthouse watchroom. See the Jupiter Light turning on to illuminate the night sky after enjoying the spectacular sunset views (75 minutes, \$15 per person). For more information go to <http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org> or call (561)747-8380.

Jupiter Jubilee—This free annual hometown festival takes place in February, featuring a children’s adventure park, live music and entertainment, a local business fair, an art show and much more! The Jubilee takes place at the Jupiter Community Center at 210 Military Trail, and a free trolley shuttle is available from the Jupiter High School parking lots. For more information go to <http://www.jupiter.fl.us/jubilee> or call (561)741-2575.

Holiday Boat Parade at the Riverwalk—The parade takes place in December and is sponsored by the town of Jupiter and the Marine Industry Association of Palm Beach County. A special parade previewing event with food, music and festivities is offered at the beautiful waterside Events Plaza along the Jupiter Riverwalk. For more information call (561)741-2623.

Turtle Trot 5K Run—This annual 5K takes places in May, following a route from Carlin Park along A1A to the scenic Jupiter Inlet and back. There is an entry fee, and a t-shirt giveaway for runners. For more information call (561)741-2400.

The town of Jupiter also publishes **Jupiter Times**, a quarterly e-newsletter which lists information about what is happening in the town. Jupiter Times is accessible at <http://www.jupiter.fl.us/towntimes/> .

Business Landscape

Some of Jupiter’s major employers are Florida Power and Light (Headquarters), the Jupiter Medical Center, the Jupiter Beach Resort, Walgreens Distribution, the Scripps Research Institute, SimplexGrinnell / Tyco International and GE Medical Systems.⁹ The top employment sectors are education, health and social services (18 percent), professional, scientific, management and administrative (15 percent) and retail trade (11 percent).¹⁰ The Scripps Research Institute holds a major presence and influence in the commercial community of Jupiter. The town relies primarily on the Jupiter Medical Center for its medical needs, as the next closest hospitals are 18-20 miles away (Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach and Martin Memorial Medical Center in Stuart). Jupiter Medical Center features a new outpatient rehabilitation center for cancer patients in addition to a sleep center and a women’s diagnostic center.

Sources

¹ Town of Jupiter History Timeline. <http://www.jupiter.fl.us/neighborhoods/>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Town of Jupiter Neighborhood Services Homepage. <http://www.jupiter.fl.us/neighborhoods/>.

⁵ Unless otherwise noted, all statistics in this section downloaded from <http://www.simplymap.com>.

⁶ Unless otherwise noted, all statistics in this section downloaded from <http://www.simplymap.com>.

⁷ Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Jupiter Transit-Oriented Development Charrette. http://www.tcrpc.org/departments/studio/jupiter_tod/jupiter_tod_home.htm.

⁸ Unless otherwise noted, all information in this section is available at http://www.jupiter.fl.us/town_calendar/.

⁹ Palm Beach County Business Development Board. <http://www.bdb.org>.

¹⁰ SimplyMap. <http://www.simplymap.com>