1-1-2011

Town of Lantana

Recommended Citation

Community Background Report

Boundaries

North: City of Lake Worth
South: Hypoluxo Road and portions of the Town of Hypoluxo and San Castle
East: Intracoastal Waterway and Hypoluxo Island
West: West of Interstate 95 (I-95)

Community Type:

The Town of Lantana is a coastal community boarded by the City of Lake Worth on the North, the Town of Hypoluxo on the South, and Hypoluxo Island on the east. It is mostly a residential municipality with some commercial and light industrial uses. [1]

History

Originally a fishing community, the Town of Lantana was founded by Captain Morris Benson. Though he was not the first to settle in the Lantana area, Lyman and his family were instrumental in the growth and development of the town. Lyman arrived from Canada in 1884, followed by his family in 1887. They filed for a homestead of 160 acres and built a house on the land. The house still stands at 300 East Ocean Avenue, but it has been transformed into a restaurant. Lyman named the area Lantana Point, after a flower plant that grew abundantly in the area.[2]

Lyman operated the town's post office, as well as the General Store and Trading Post. He also owned and operated a freighter used to run supplies from Jacksonville to Lantana. [3] Another Lyman enterprise was the Lantana Fish Company. In the early 1900s, gathering and selling oysters became the town's most important industry.[4]

At the time of its incorporation in 1921, Lantana was one square mile with 100 residents. Today, the Town of Lantana has a year round population of over 10,000 residents. [5]

Community Dynamics

Since its founding, the Town of Lantana has grown from one square mile to 2.8 square miles. Primarily developed as a residential community, the town has commercial and light industrial

uses.[6] The town also has a variety of green spaces and recreational facilities, including 31 acres of public grounds, which includes parks, a sports complex, a nature preserve, and an eight-acre municipal beach with 745 feet of ocean frontage.[7]

The community tends to be younger and have a lower income than Palm Beach County. Its residents are diverse and include whites, Blacks and foreign nationals from Haiti, El Salvador, Cuba and other Latin American, Caribbean, and European nations, some of whom do not speak English. Given the diversity of the community, outreach efforts should take into account language barriers.

The Town of Lantana provides most municipal services, including police, parks and recreation, water and wastewater services, solid waste collection, public works, marine safety, and road improvements. However, they contract Palm Beach County to provide Fire Rescue service.[8]

The municipality has a strong focus on neighborhood programs and services. This is reflected in the **Comprehensive Neighborhood Enhancement Program (CNEP)** instituted in 2000. Managed by the Department of Development Services, the program is designed to facilitate formation of neighborhood associations and offers technical advice in helping neighborhoods establish goals for infrastructure improvements, beautification, code compliance, crime watch, traffic concerns, and other issues. The town has 10 CNEP neighborhoods which are listed below:[9] (To see a map of the neighborhoods, visit http://www.lantana.org/page.asp?PageId=251)

- Sea Pines
- Lanatana Pines
- Ocean Walk
- North Broadway
- East Ocean Avenue
- Lantana Heights
- Southwinds
- Lantana Heights West
- Lantana Cove
- Ocean Breeze

In order to stimulate economic growth and redevelopment, the Town of Lantana is focusing on several key initiatives. As indicated in the *Town of Lantana Florida Comprehensive Plan 2009*, the town is encouraging mixed-use development in designated districts, including an industrial and waterfront district.[10] Special focus will be given in the next few years to develop the Mixed-Use Industrial District into an industry cluster that helps to attract jobs. The town is also seeking to implement the Downtown Master Plan, which includes an eco-tourism activity area, improvements to Bicentennial and Sportsman's Parks, and increased parking capacity.[11] (To see a map, visit: http://www.lantana.org/page.asp?PageId=395) Another major initiative is the replacement of the County's Ocean Avenue Bridge.[12] The new bridge will have a higher center span to reduce the number of bridge openings for passing boats and increased width for greater safety in accommodating pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

In addition, the Town of Lantana is actively seeking to annex land to the community. According to County records, the municipality annexed 12.30 acres on a volunteer basis during the period of October 2011 to September 2012. [13]

Public facilities in the community include the Lantana Library and the AG Holley State Hospital. Palm Beach County public schools include: Lantana Elementary; Lantana Middle; Royal Palm School, and Santaluces Community High. There are also four churches within the Town of Lantana: Maranatha Bible Church; Holy Spirit Catholic Church; Church of the Holy Guardian Angels; and First Baptist Church.

Demographic Highlights

The population of Lantana has increased since 2000. The 2010 Census reported that Lantana's population grew from 9,437 in 2000 to 10,423 in 2010, an increase of 10.4%.[14]

Lantana's population is mostly white, with Blacks making up the second largest group. In 2010, whites made up 69.27% of the population. Blacks represent the second largest racial group, with 21.97% of the population.[15]

The Town of Lantana has a younger population than Palm Beach County as a whole. In 2010, 13.83% of the town's population was 65 or older, compared to 21.6% for Palm Beach County.[16]

The level of educational attainment in Lantana is lower than in Palm Beach County. Approximately 51% of the town's residents had some college education, a college degree or graduate degree, compared to 60.13% for Palm Beach County as a whole.[17]

Education	Study Area	%	County	%
With a Degree or Some College				
Doctorate	91	1.23%	11,103	1.19%
Professional	76	1.03%	28,863	3.10%
Master	339	4.59%	68,815	7.40%
Bachelor	872	11.82%	186,552	20.07%
Associates	645	8.74%	73,088	7.86%
Some College	1,738	23.55%	190,510	20.49%
	3,761	51.0%	558,931	60.13%
High School or Less				
High School	2,137	28.96%	248,302	26.71%
Below High School	1,482	20.08%	122,361	13.16%
	3,619	49.04%	370,663	39.87%
Total	7,380	100%	929,594	100%

Lantana's average income per capita is below that of Palm Beach County as a whole. The average per capita income in Lantana is $25,515, compared to $33,610 for Palm Beach County as a whole.[18]

Approximately 24.22% of the total population of Lantana is living in poverty, compared to 16.48% for Palm Beach County as a whole.[19]

Lantana has a higher percentage of renter-occupied units than Palm Beach County as a whole. Approximately 46.88% of the total housing units in Lantana are owner-occupied and 34.3% are renter-occupied. In Palm Beach County, 58.46% of the occupied housing units are owner-occupied and only 23.43% are renter-occupied.[20]

Approximately 18.56% of Lantana's residents identified themselves as Hispanic.[21]

Place of Birth, Nationality, and Language Spoken at Home

Place of Birth [22]

Born in Florida	3,624	35%
Born in Different State	3,756	36%
Born in Puerto Rico or abroad to American parent(s)	370	4%
Foreign Born	2,642	25%
Total population	10,392	100%

Foreign Born Population: Top Ten Places of Birth[23]

Haiti	890	34%
El Salvador	329	12%
Cuba	133	5%
Guyana	115	4%
Poland	106	4%
Yugoslavia	76	3%
Jamaica	76	3%
Mexico	66	2%
Italy	59	2%
Guatemala	56	2%

Language Spoken at Home[24]

Language	Population 5 Years and Over	%	Speak English Less Than Very Well	%
English only	6,149	62%		--
Language other than English				
Spanish	1,554	16%	803	50%
Other Indo-European languages	1,863	19%	660	41%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	57	1%	44	3%
Other languages	225	2%	95	6%
Total Population 5 years and over	9,848	100%	1,602	100%

Transportation Trends

The figures below provide key transportation indicators for the Town of Lake Park:[25]

Housing units with vehicles available:
Lake Park   3,814 (91.59%)
Palm Beach County   490,820 (93.82%)

Mean (Average) Vehicles per households:
Lake Park   1.45
Palm Beach County   1.54

Means of Transportation to work:

	Lake Park	Palm Beach County
Carpool	16.69%	11.15%
Drive Alone	73.44%	78.66%
Public Transport	0.92%	1.55%
Motorcycle	0.04%	0.27%
Bicycle	0.15%	0.59%
Walking	3.2%	1.69%
Other	0.47%	1.16%
Work at Home	1.45%	4.92%

Special Events

The Town of Lantana organizes several events during the year. Some of the venues used for the events include: Bicentennial Park; Lantana Town Hall, and Lantana's Sports Complex. Below is a list of major events organized by the Village.

Lantana Lou Day – Each year on February 2, Lantana observes its own version of Groundhog Day with Lou Day. The event is named after former Lantana councilman Lou Canter, who used to dress as Neptune and emerge at 7 am on the town's public beach to proclaim six more weeks of glorious "snowbird" weather. The event includes food and refreshments and music.

Lantana Fishing Derby – This fishing extravaganza includes a kick-off party, fishing tournaments for both adults and children, and a banquet. The event takes place over several days in mid-May.

July 4th Celebration – The event includes fireworks and food vendors and is held in Bicentennial Park.

GreenFest – The indoor/outdoor GreenFest event features presenters and displays on eco-friendly living, green technology vendor exhibits, family fun, and free food. It takes place near the end of October at the Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Circle.

Winterfest & Holiday Parade -- At the beginning of December, Lantana celebrates with a parade and a variety of other festivities. The event takes place at Lantana's Sports Complex.

For more information on the above events, visit the city's event calendar at: http://www.lantana.org/calendar.asp?PageId=235 or http://lantanachamber.com/.

Business Landscape

The top five employers in the Town of Lantana are mostly in the county government and health care sectors. The largest employer is the School District of Palm Beach County, followed by Palm Beach County, Tenet Healthcare Corp., Florida Power & Light, and Intercostal Health Systems.[26]

Although the above organizations account for most of the employment in Lantana, the town's economic base depends on commercial ventures from retail and service oriented businesses mainly located along the town's commercial corridors and the Industrial Park properties.[27]

A noteworthy employer in Lantana is the A.G. Holley Hospital, which specializes in the treatment of tuberculosis (TB), and is a facility of the Florida Department of Health. The hospital serves all counties within the state, and is central to the state's TB Control Program. It is the only free-standing tuberculosis hospital remaining in the US.[28]

In order to help create jobs and help businesses become more energy efficient, Lantana has partnered with the Greater Lake Worth and Greater Boynton Beach Chambers of Commerce and an EcoCity Partners team on an energy-saving finance effort called the "GreenBiz Energy Collaborative Program". Businesses are encouraged to complete energy efficiency or renewable energy projects on their buildings and facilities, using program financing. The program is

funded with a Florida Clean Energy Grant.[29] In addition to this effort, the Town of Lantana is seeking to implement its Downtown Master Plan and develop the Mixed-Industrial District in the coming years.

Additional Resources

- **Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan** by the Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning, and Building Department Planning Division**:** http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pzb/planning/comprehensiveplan/tableofcontent.htm

- **Town of Lantana Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2011** by the Town of Lantana: http://www.lantana.org/files/FY11_CAFR.pdf

- **Town of Lantana Comprehensive Plan, 2009** by the Town of Lantana: http://www.lantana.org/files/Final%20Amended%202009%20Comp%20Plan.pdf

- **Town of Lantana Downtown Master Plan** by the Town of Lantana: http://www.lantana.org/page.asp?PageId=395

Sources

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[28] Lantana Chamber of Commerce. Community Resources. Healthcare. Retrieved March 2012, from http://lantanachamber.com/index.php/community--resources/healthcare

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