

1-1-2011

Village of Wellington

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/mpo_palmbeach

Recommended Citation

"Village of Wellington" (2011). *Palm Beach County*. 15.
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/mpo_palmbeach/15

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the MPO Community Background Reports at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Palm Beach County by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.

Community Background Report

Village of Wellington

Boundaries

North: Southern Boulevard
South: Southwest 60th Street
East: Florida Turnpike
West: Flying Cow Road

Community Type: Municipality

History

The Village of Wellington occupies 31.4 square miles in the western part of Palm Beach County. The village is located 69 miles north of Miami and 16 miles southwest of West Palm Beach. The community is known for its parks, high quality education and various equestrian activities.

In 1951 several tracts of land were purchased by Charles Oliver Wellington, a successful accountant and investor from New York. Shortly thereafter the State of Florida passed legislation that created the Acme Drainage District to provide drainage and flood control, since the area was frequently under water. Charles Oliver Wellington became the first Chairman of the District, and another prominent figure, Arthur William ‘Bink’ Glisson, became the General Manager. The District was successful in draining the land and transforming the area into fertile farmland, which began to grow many crops, with as many as 2,000 acres planted in strawberries.¹

C.O. Wellington served as chairman of the Acme Drainage District until his death in 1959. After Wellington’s death, his son Roger became the new chairman and began to develop portions of the property in order to pay for estate taxes. Major construction began when the first large tract of land, 7,400 acres, was sold to the Investment Corporation of Florida (ICOF) in 1971. In 1972 ICOF and Alcoa Aluminum formed a joint venture to begin the construction of a new community. Eventually the land ended up in the hands of Lennar Homes, which built many homes in the area while it was still unincorporated.²

In November, 1995 Wellington was incorporated through the efforts of a determined group of residents, who succeeded in a referendum to establish Wellington as an independent municipality. On Wellington’s 15th anniversary as a municipality, December 31, 2010, Wellington’s City Hall officially opened.³

Today the Village is an affluent and well-planned suburban community, recognized as the winter equestrian capital of the world. In 2003 the Village of Wellington was voted by CNN one of the top ten places to live in the United States.⁴

Community Dynamics

In keeping with its goal to plan, enhance and promote a year-round world class equestrian community, Wellington has an elaborate system of trails nearly 57 miles long. This trail system provides residents of Wellington with multiple recreational opportunities, including hiking, biking, running and equestrian activities.⁵

Wellington's municipal government has created a "Go Green Team", which consists of staff members from various departments. The mission of this team is to ensure that Wellington develops as an environmentally responsible community. The team provides leadership, professional recommendations and education on an enhanced recycling program, a green procurement policy, and other policy initiatives. Some examples include the "go paperless" initiative, the installation of LED lighting in outdoor parks, the use of native plants for landscaping, the use of reclaimed water for irrigation, and LEED-certified municipal facilities.⁶

Demographic Highlights ⁷

The population of Wellington has grown rapidly in recent years, and the trend is forecasted to continue.

In the years between 2000 and 2009 the population of Wellington grew 26%. It is forecasted to grow another 11% by 2014.

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

In 2009 87% of residents of Wellington classified themselves as White, 6% classified themselves as Black, and 3% classified themselves as Asian. Only 14% of residents of Wellington classified themselves as Hispanic. By 2014 Wellington's White population is projected to decrease very slightly (from 87% to 84%).

The median household income in Wellington is considerably higher than in Palm Beach County.

In 2009 the median household income in Wellington was \$96,269, while the median household income for Palm Beach County was \$62,114.

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

In 2009 82% of Wellington's residents spoke English and 85% were native-born US citizens.

Nearly ½ of Wellington's households had an annual income in excess of \$100,000 in 2009.

In 2009 48% of households in Wellington had an annual income of \$100,000 or more. 13% of Wellington's residents had an annual income of \$200,000 or more.

Nearly ½ of Wellington’s residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher.
In 2009 41% of Wellington’s residents had a college or graduate degree.

Special Events

The Village of Wellington maintains a calendar of special events on its website. For more information about community events please visit <http://www.ci.wellington.fl.us/>, click on Community→Calendar, or call the Cultural Program and Facilities representative at (561)753-2484. Below is a sampling of special events listed on the website as of March, 2011.

Iron Horse Freedom Motorcycle Ride – This annual event takes place in March and is open to all motorcycle enthusiasts. After meeting at the Wellington Community Center, riders start on Southern Boulevard, head west to Canal Point, and continue counterclockwise around Lake Okeechobee.

Earth Day Celebration –Celebrate Earth Day at the Wellington Amphitheater! The event takes place in April and features environment-oriented programs and vendors.

Egg Hunt –An egg hunt for the little ones is held annually at Village Park on a Saturday in April.

Memorial Day Parade –The annual Memorial Day ceremony and parade takes place in May at Veteran’s Memorial on the corner of Southshore and Forest Hill Boulevard.

Relay for Life – This marathon event, held at Village Park, benefits the American Cancer Society and takes place in March.

Patriot Memorial Ceremony and Remembrance Weekend – Wellington commemorates the ten-year anniversary of 9/11 on the weekend of September 9-11, 2011.

Transportation Trends⁸

The Village of Wellington can be accessed indirectly via the Florida Turnpike and many smaller surface roads. The primary access is from State Road 7, Southern Boulevard, and Lake Worth Road.

Wellington has received \$3 million in federal stimulus funds to resurface Forest Hill Boulevard from Southern Boulevard to the Turnpike, and to add/update sidewalks, lighting, drainage, bike lanes and signs.⁹

The tables below illustrate projected transportation trends in the Village of Wellington:

Average household transportation costs:
2009: Village, \$10,704.80/County, \$9,162.52
2014: Village, \$13,089.50/County, \$11,276.10

Average household transportation costs for public transportation:
2009: Village, \$788.40/County, \$607.69
2014: Village, \$1025.93/County, \$783.55

Forecasted travel time to work for the employed population, 2014:
Work at home: Village, 8 percent/County, 5 percent
Less than 15 minutes: Village, 17 percent/County, 20 percent
15-29 minutes: Village, 21 percent /County, 37 percent
30-59 minutes: Village, 43 percent /County, 31 percent
60+ minutes: Village, 10 percent /County, 7 percent

Forecasted means of transportation to work for employed individuals, 2014:
Car, Truck, Van to Work: Village, 89 percent / County, 92 percent
Public Transportation to Work: Village, 0.45 percent / County, 1 percent
Other Transportation to Work: Village, 2 percent / County, 2 percent

Forecasted number of vehicles per household, 2014:
No vehicles: Village, 1 percent / County, 6 percent
1 vehicle: Village, 23 percent / County, 41 percent
2 vehicles: Village, 57 percent / County, 42 percent
3 vehicles: Village, 15 percent / County, 9 percent
4+ vehicles: Village, 5 percent / County, 2 percent

Business Landscape

During the fiscal year 2008-2009 the Village of Wellington collected \$16,021,022 in property taxes. According to the Commission Amended Budget for 2008-2009, Wellington also collected \$3,551,200 from franchise fees and \$3,232,478 from licenses and permits. In order to meet rising economic expectations, the Village Council has implemented a number of fiscal initiatives to spur economic growth throughout the village. Among these plans are the Vision 2022 Strategic Plan Initiative and the Economic Development Initiative, which encourage fresh approaches toward a new economic model that embraces sustainable growth.¹⁰ The top employment sectors are education, health and social services (23 percent), professional, scientific, management and administrative service (12 percent), finance, insurance, real estate and rental/leasing (11 percent) and retail trade (10 percent). In the Village of Wellington there was 7 percent unemployment in 2009.¹¹

Sources

¹ Village of Wellington. About Us. <http://www.ci.wellington.fl.us/community/about-wellington.html>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Village of Wellington. Equestrian Community. <http://www.ci.wellington.fl.us/community/equestrian.html>.

⁶ Village of Wellington. Wellington's Going Green Initiative. <http://www.ci.wellington.fl.us/community/going-green.html>.

⁷ Unless otherwise noted, all statistics in this section downloaded from <http://www.simplymap.com>

⁸ Unless otherwise noted, all statistics in this section downloaded from <http://www.simplymap.com>

⁹ Stimulus Tracker: A Palm Beach Post Project. <http://stimulus.palmbeachpost.com/>.

¹⁰ Village of Wellington. Financial Services Department. <http://www.ci.wellington.fl.us>.

¹¹ SimplyMap. <http://www.simplymap.com>.