

Town of Golden Beach

County

Miami-Dade

Boundaries

North: Massini Avenue

South: Terracina Avenue

West: Intracoastal Waterway

East: Atlantic Ocean

Community Type

Municipality

History

Golden Beach is a town in the northeastern corner of Miami-Dade County, just south of Broward County. The municipality occupies .42 square miles of land on a barrier island that separates the Intracoastal Waterway from the Atlantic Ocean. The entire town is about one mile from north to south, and four blocks from east to west. It is bordered to the south by the City of Sunny Isles Beach, to the west by the City of Aventura, and to the north by the City of Hallandale Beach in Broward County. Golden Beach is known as a very affluent community of luxurious homes. Several celebrities, including Bill Gates, maintain houses here. High-rise construction and commercial development are not permitted within the town's boundaries.

In the late 1920s, two brothers, R.W. and Henry G. Ralston, founded Golden Beach. The Ralston brothers and their associates in the "Golden Beach Corporation" spent millions of dollars clearing the mangrove swamps and hauling in fill to build up the land. Three islands and the peninsulas in between them were formed in the Intracoastal Waterway, on the west side of the filled land, with a bridge leading onto each island.

The Town of Golden Beach was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature of the State of Florida in 1929. When they were originally developed, ocean-front plots sold for \$7,500 and other plots to the west sold for \$2,000. In this initial phase, the islands and peninsulas were still being developed and were not offered for sale until later.

In the early 2000s, Golden Beach spent \$48 million on capital improvements. Power, cable, and phone lines were all moved underground, new water lines were laid, and a comprehensive storm water system was installed. Street lighting was upgraded, and sidewalks were added. Renovation and reconstruction of the town's bridges ensured their integrity and durability. As of 2023, plans were in the works to roll out a one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art security system and motion detectors that would monitor the shoreline as well as the roadways within town. The municipality has a private beach with an Italianate loggia and eight parks for residents. Park facilities can be reserved for a rental fee.

Golden Beach has a town council form of government, with a mayor and a town manager. Council meetings and municipal events appear in a monthly calendar on the municipal website's home page, and there is a link for viewing council meetings live. Meeting agendas and minutes are available, as well as a video archive of past town council meetings.

Community Dynamics

As of 2020, Golden Beach had a population of 586. The median age was 46 and the median household income was \$250,001. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Golden Beach declined from 659 to 586, a decrease of 11.1%. At the same time, the median household income rose from \$193,000 to \$250,001, an increase of 29.5%. Regarding ethnicity in 2020, 52.7% of the population was White non-Hispanic, 42.8% was White Hispanic, 2.05% was Asian, 1.88% was Multiracial Hispanic, and .512% was Other Hispanic. None of the households in Golden Beach reported speaking a non-English language at home as a primary language, and 83.4% of the population were US citizens. As of 2020, 46.4% of the residents of Golden Beach were born outside the US, which is much higher than the national average of 13.5%. In 2019, the percentage of foreign-born citizens was 49.9%, indicating that the rate has been decreasing. In 2020, the median property value was \$2,000,000 and the homeownership rate was 94.3%.

Business Landscape

The Town of Golden Beach does not permit commercial activity within its boundaries and is zoned entirely for residential use. The median residential property value was \$2 million as of 2020.

Transportation Characteristics

Highway A1A/Ocean Boulevard is the main transportation artery of Golden Beach, running north and south through the length of the town. This section

of A1A is one of the most notorious speed traps in the Miami area. There is only one intersection with traffic lights on this stretch of roadway, where the east-west street known as The Strand meets A1A. Miami-Dade Transit bus line #28 runs on A1A here, with multiple stops. Golden Beach has three bridges, linking each of its Intracoastal Waterway islands on the west side with the larger barrier island to the east. The Verona Avenue bridge leads to the South Island, the Strand bridge leads to the Central Island, and the Navona Avenue bridge leads to the North Island.

According to DATA USA 2020 statistics, most people in Golden Beach drove alone to work, with an average commute time of 26.1 minutes. The average car ownership was two cars per household.

Sources

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