

Cutler Bay Population Grows Exponentially

After only two years as an official municipality of Miami-Dade County, the Town of Cutler Bay has reached a significant population milestone. The Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the University of Florida has estimated that the Town of Cutler Bay has 40,468 permanent residents.

The population spike is the largest the area has experienced in 40 years. In 2000, when the area was still known as Cutler Ridge, there were 24,781 residents recorded by the Census. Ten years prior to that, there were 21,268 residents.

Town officials are in the process of making their own estimate of Cutler Bay's population and will advise the BEBR of any inaccuracies.

The BEBR is the agency that the state uses for official population estimates. These numbers are very important because the State of Florida uses BEBR numbers to calculate certain revenues which come to Cutler Bay from the state. The more people we have the more money we will receive.



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Cutler Bay

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Newsletter

New Budget Provides Additional Services to Our Town

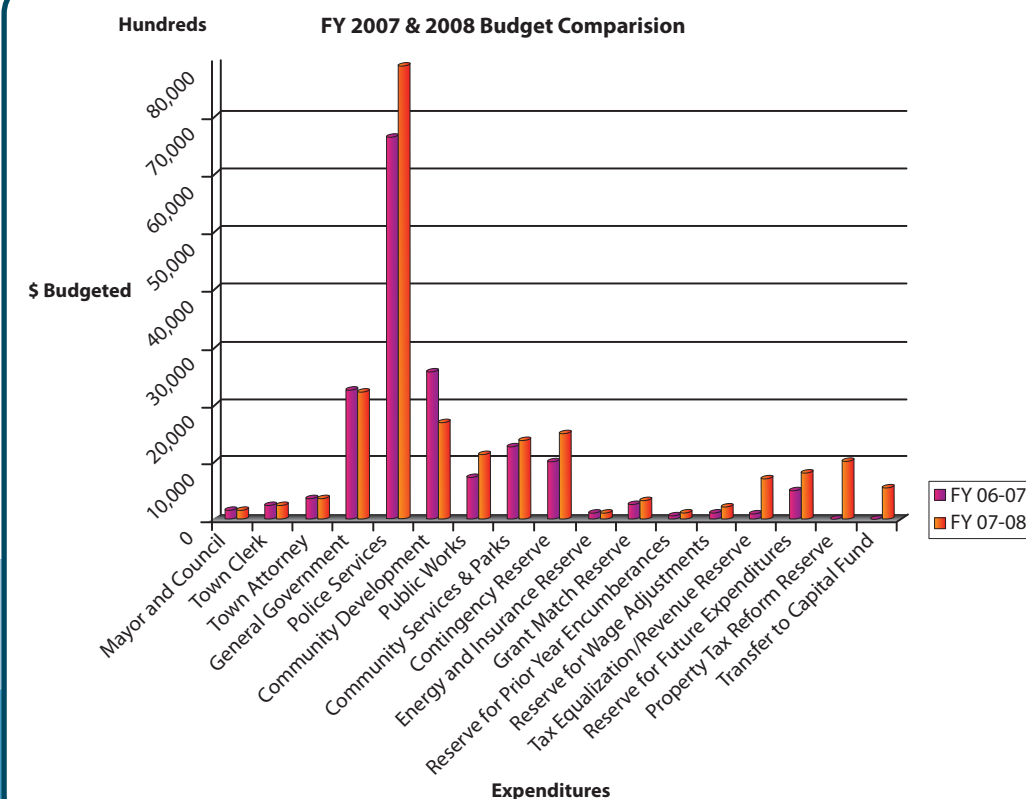
Taking community concerns into consideration, the Town of Cutler Bay approved a \$20 million budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year after the Council met at its Second Budget Hearing in late September.

The budget is based on a property tax rate of \$2.447 for every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value. That rate is the same as last year's rate and as the county's tax rate the same year that the town was created. Cutler Bay has never had a tax increase. The Legislature recognized that new municipalities need to have a substantial revenue stream to build the infrastructure, buy cars trucks and other equipment necessary to responsibly supply services to residents that expect certain things from their town. Cutler Bay was one of about 11 new municipalities exempted from the statewide property tax reform that mandated most municipalities to lower their property tax. However, Cutler Bay still has one of the lowest property tax rates of the 36 municipalities in Miami-Dade County. Go to page four to see how Cutler Bay compares to other municipalities in this regard.

The Town appropriated the funds for programs in highest demand by its residents. The Town's parks will benefit from a Parks Master Plan, which was approved in this years budget; the budget also included \$5,000 for a Youth Summit, which was held Dec. 1 at Cutler Ridge Middle School, and \$15,000 was granted to partner with the Economic Development Council of South Miami-Dade in an effort to promote commercial development in the Town's charretted areas. A tree-planting program was created to begin the process of replacing the trees that were knocked down during Hurricane Andrew.

Additional monies were granted to the communications efforts, which keep residents informed of activities and upcoming issues to be addressed by the Town Council. The Cutler Bay Policing Unit will receive additional funding as well. The new money will go toward paying for three additional officers, radar trailers to continue the Town's efforts to reduce traffic accidents as well as the purchase of four unmarked vehicles. The Cutler Bay Policing Unit was responsible for a 20 percent crime rate reduction since August 2006.

With the passing of this budget, the Town of Cutler Bay has ensured the fiscal health of its citizens and the Town next year and for many years to come due to the substantial funding dedicated to various contingency or savings accounts. To see a copy of the budget, you can visit the Town of Cutler Bay's Website at www.cutlerbay-fl.gov.





Message from the Mayor

In a place that has, for so long, been on the outskirts of metropolitan Miami, it is hard to envision our Town in the future as something different than it is today. The U.S. has grown. South Florida has grown. And, while many of us pine for the good old days before traffic became what it is today, we seldom look at our own impact on that issue.

The problem that pulls on us with growth, is that it seems to have always started with the next house that got built after our own. It's the next suburb to the south or west. The obvious part, when we think about it on a regional scale (the way growth happens) is that it's a wave that ripples out from a central point. Which ring of that ripple should be the last? It depends on which ring your house is located.

Or mine. I live in a neighborhood that is walled in, with no sidewalks and I have to add my four tires to Old Cutler Road whenever my refrigerator is out of soda. But my house, like yours, is my home and for 15 years it has been a sanctuary for me, just as yours most likely has for you and your family.

So, what about those other, newer rings? There is an option, according to planners, growth experts and environmentalists. First, decide where the growth stops. That's been done, through the County's Urban Development Boundary. At least for a while, the line has held as County and regional planners have advised the County's elected officials that there is still enough room inside the boundary to accommodate people. "Those people" have had the audacity to be born and grow up and imagine life as we know it. They may be your son or daughter or employee. One thing is for sure: they exist.

About those findings on the development boundary: they conclude that there is ample opportunity to infill in more appropriate places without needing to push out further. One such place, concluded by planning experts long before we became a Town, was along transit routes and near major road corridors: places like the area around Southland Mall.

Because of that, the area, now one of the largest asphalt-fields in the region and hardly a well-functioning Town Center, was provided with more intense density and yes, height. At the same time, it was decided that a planning charrette should be held to devise a plan that would regulate that density as a human environment. That sea of asphalt's growth slowly evolves into something much better than a regional automobile magnet and contributes to providing that infill to hold the line protecting the Everglades.

And, it gets better. Imagine if we have the vision to take that growth and make it one of, if not the greenest, most environmentally advanced Town Centers in the country. Imagine buildings that can actually provide more electricity than they consume. Roofs that cool the air above them with native plants lining their surfaces replace the surface area of former empty parking lots and absorb runoff.

It can happen. In November, three of our Council Members, our Town Manager and I attended the Greenbuild conference in Chicago. We learned first hand by interviewing city administrative officials and touring municipal accomplishments including the roof of the Chicago City Hall building. We saw buildings all around that northern city that have answered the demands of our time to do their part for this planet's health and we came back inspired to do our part.

In the very near future, I will be telling you more about Cutler Bay's emerging vision to be a leader in better regional growth and greener construction. Our existing neighborhoods are our homes. Our future neighborhoods just may be our salvation.

I am reminded by World War II recruiting posters with images of a child saying, "Dad, what did you do in the war?" Let's make sure that when the next generations ask us that about climate change and the health of our planet, our answer is that we were leaders.

• The Town of Cutler Bay's Parks and Recreation Department is offering **School Recess Programs** at Cutler Ridge Park for Teacher's Workdays and the Winter and Spring breaks. The program features indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, swimming, field trips and more. For more information, please call 305-238-4166.

• The Deering Estate will be holding a series of **art classes**, including Oriental Brush Painting: The Art of Sumi-E. To register, please call 305-235-1668 ext. 233.

• The Town of Cutler Bay is offering an **After School Care Program** at Cutler Ridge Park every weekday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The program includes homework assistance, active games, quiet games, field trips arts and crafts and swimming. For more information, call 305-238-4166.

Reminder

Local Business Tax License renewals were due on October 1, 2007, and Burglar Alarm Registration renewals were due on November 1, 2007. If you haven't done so already, please send the renewals along with the renewal fees to Town Hall (or feel free to stop by to drop it off). If you have any questions, please give us a call and we would be more than happy to assist you with your renewal.

Town Events

Road Improvements Proposal One Step Closer to Reality

The Citizens Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) has recommended a resolution to the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners that would award the Town of Cutler Bay \$20 million toward much-needed road improvements.

The CITT – charged with the oversight of transportation and transit projects in the County – unanimously voted to recommend a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners that will allow for construction on Old Cutler Road from SW 97th Avenue to 87th Avenue on and Caribbean Boulevard from Coral Sea Road to SW 87th Avenue.

Under the resolution, this stretch of Old Cutler Road would be resurfaced. The project would also include enhancing the existing bike path, providing storm water drainage, pavement markings and signage, street lighting and intersection improvements. It will also include building the traffic calming circles on Old Cutler Road at 97th Avenue and SW 87th Avenue.

The current plan for Caribbean Boulevard includes reconstructing the existing two lanes and adding a center turn lane and a painted median, providing sidewalks and storm water drainage, pavement markings and signage, street lighting and intersection improvements.

In February 2007, the Town of Cutler Bay passed a resolution to recommend to the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department to remove the SW 87th Avenue road-widening project and reallocate the approved \$20 million toward the Old Cutler Road and Caribbean Boulevard Roadway Improvement projects.

The resolution will now go to the full Board of Miami-Dade County Commissioners for a final decision.

The Town of Cutler Bay Serious About Ensuring Public Safety

From the smallest infraction to the largest felony, the Cutler Bay Policing Unit is cracking down on crime in the Town. And, proof that their plan is working is shown in the results.

Crime as a whole is down 20 percent in Cutler Bay from last year. Specifically, armed robberies are down 27 percent, assaults and batteries are down 93 percent, commercial burglaries are down 43 percent and auto theft is down 20 percent from last year.

The unit also writes an average of 2,000 traffic tickets a month. Cutler Bay Policing Unit Commander Richard Pichardo says the high number of traffic tickets is in response to the complaints received from the town's residents wishing to have speed limits enforced for neighborhood safety.

"Traffic concerns are the most received complaint from the community," Pichardo said. "As such, we are extremely proactive in our enforcement efforts."

But, the enforcement does not stop with traffic concerns. At one point in August, there were 30 arrests during a two-week period for Quality of Life concerns. Major Pichardo explained that the arrests were preventative in nature. He and the rest of his squad were sending a message to the rest of the residents of Cutler Bay that our police force is very efficient in its duties.



"The arrests that we have been initiating are related to loitering, minor thefts and ordinance violations," Major Pichardo said. "The goal is to inform the criminals that the Town will not tolerate any violations of the law."

In order to continue reducing crime rates in Cutler Bay, the Police Department aims to stay on top of those Cutler Bay residents and visitors who break the law. Their aim is to ensure safety within the town's borders.

"We will be conducting ongoing operations based upon crime trends and community concerns," Pichardo said. "Also, we will continue to conduct community based events, such as crime prevention seminars, at local home owner associations and crime watch meetings."

Cutler Bay Improves Its Technology

One of the key responsibilities of government – especially local government – is to provide guidance to its citizens. On the heels of its population explosion, the Town of Cutler Bay has decided to make sure it has a customer service system capable of handling the increased volume.

The Town of Cutler Bay has switched from Better Places – the Town’s old citizen request and complaint tracking system – to the GovQA Citizen Request System on its website (www.cutlerbay-fl.gov). The Citizen Support Center is designed to serve as a one-stop destination for all Cutler Bay residents seeking information on their Town.

Your Government

- Mayor
- Vice Mayor
- Town Council
- Town Manager
- Town Clerk
- Town Attorney
- Town Charter

Town Departments

- Finance
- Parks & Recreation
- Planning & Zoning
- Police
- Public Works

Government Services

- Agendas & Minutes
- Building & Permitting
- Code Compliance
- Code of Ordinances
- Employment
- Forms
- Garbage Collection
- Business Tax License
- Additional Resources
- Bids/RFPs/RFQ

Your Community

- Town History
- Town Map
- Town Newsletter
- Town Parks
- Town Schools

Citizen Support Center

Find Answers
Find answers by entering a phrase, word, or question.
Search for:

Ask a Question
Send a message to a customer support agent with specific questions.

Make a Service Request
Click above to make a specific service request.

My CUTLERBAYFL
Login here to check the status of your questions.
E-mail Address:

Most Frequently Asked Questions

#	Description	Department
1	Test	General
2	I have property in town that I rent out to tenants. Do I need to notify the Village?	Community Development
3	How do I report Graffiti?	Community Development
4	How long are Council member terms?	Mayor & Council
5	How do I get an item placed on the Council agenda?	Mayor & Council
6	What can I burn in my backyard?	Community Development
7	When do I need a building permit?	Community Development
8	What are the rules and guidelines around yard/garage sales?	Community Development
9	Are there any watering restrictions in summer?	Community Development
10	Do I need a building permit for a fence around my house?	Community Development

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Cutler Bay Town Hall is a Drug-, Alcohol-, and Tobacco-Free Workplace

Service Request: Click to access the Citizen Support Center, Residents can use this link to report code violations, pot holes, flooding, graffiti and other concerns directly to the Town..

Find Answers: Residents can enter keywords to get answers to specific common questions from all Town Departments.

Ask a Question: Click here to send a specific question to any Town Department and get an answer back from a member of the staff of the department specific to your concern. In addition to answering questions with text, staff can include links, attachments, calendars and any other information in an answer.

Make a Service Request: Residents can use this link to report code violations, pot holes, flooding, graffiti and other concerns directly to the Town.

My CUTLERBAYFL: The system also gives citizens the opportunity to own log-ins to create a consolidated view of their individual requests for information and service, making it easier for residents to keep track of their own questions and requests – a service many residents requested.

Most Frequently Asked Questions: The system is powered by a database that collects administrative information as well as citizen information and processes it centrally. This allows the system to update the answers to questions on the administrative side in order to give residents the most current information. It also provides the most frequently asked questions to save time for residents.

Miami-Dade Municipality Population

Figures compiled by the BEBR

Aventura	29,451
Bal Harbour	2,973
Bay Harbor Island	5,208
Biscayne Park	3,320
Coral Gables	44,404
Cutler Bay	37,103
Doral	32,541
El Portal	2,552
Florida City	9,195
Golden Beach	942
Hialeah	228,344
Hialeah Gardens	20,476
Homestead	43,167
Indian Creek Village	59
Islandia	6
Key Biscayne	11,464
Medley	1,288
Miami	391,355
Miami Beach	92,145
Miami Gardens	107,579
Miami Lakes	27,292
Miami Shores	10,456
Miami Springs	13,723
North Bay Village	5,794
North Miami	59,734
North Miami Beach	40,688
Opa-Locka	15,487
Palmetto Bay	25,142
Pinecrest	19,530
South Miami	10,528
Sunny Isles Beach	18,121
Surfside	5,635
Sweetwater	14,281
Virginia Gardens	2,371
West Miami	5,744

Miami-Dade County Millage Rates

Golden Beach	8.5
Biscayne Park	8.34
Opa-Locka	8.0084
Islandia	7.9671
Indian Creek	7.929
Florida City	7.75
Miami	7.2999
Miami Shores	7.14
El Portal	7.0312
Miami Springs	7
North Miami	6.7943
West Miami	6.7376
North Miami Beach	6.6905
Hialeah	6.54
South Miami	5.881
Medley	5.7513
Miami Beach	5.6555
Coral Gables	5.478
Homestead	5.1585
Miami Gardens	5.1488
Hialeah Gardens	4.909
North Bay Village	4.3434
Surfside	4.25
Virginia Gardens	4.0816
Bal Harbor Islands	3.6565
Sweetwater	3.2786
Key Biscayne	2.699
Miami Lakes	2.4795
Doral	2.447
Cutler Bay	2.447
Sunny Isles	2.3979
Palmetto Bay	2.3736
Bal Harbour	2.2874
Unincorporated M-DC	2.0416
Pinecrest	1.95
Aventura	1.7261



Historic State of the
Town Address Reminds
Residents 'The Town is Strong'



Residents, local leaders and Town staff gathered to celebrate Cutler Bay's first State of the Town Address at Regal Cinemas in Southland Mall on September 25, 2007.

In the Town's milestone address, Mayor Paul Vrooman listed the Town's many accomplishments and reflected on the events of the past year including the first day Cutler Bay's Policing Unit took to the streets and the more than 40 tons of debris removed from the streets by the Town's Public Works Department.

Mayor Vrooman was introduced by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, and School Board Member Evelyn Greer joined the festivities by guiding the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Resident Kelley Kessell, wowed the crowd by expertly performing the "Star-Spangled Banner."