

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

1906

- First attempt to drain Everglades by Captain Walter Holloway

1911

- Plantation area known as Everglades Drainage District
- A real estate and rice-growing venture is named Everglades Plantation Company
- Holloway Canal opens
- Sewell Locks, first lock built in Florida, open allowing water access to the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee

1915

- Broward County is created

1939

- Frederick C. Peters purchases 10,000 acres for \$25 per acre; land had been owned by the Everglades Plantation Company (origin of the city's name)
- Broward Boulevard is a two-lane road

1945

- Frederick C. Peters has a water control system designed for his property that is still in use today
- Peters hires famed architect Russell Pancoast to assist him in creating a city master plan.

1946

- Florida Legislature creates Old Plantation Water Control District to provide water management improvements

City of Plantation Historical Time Line

1947

- First homes built by Chauncey Clark; property valued at \$200 an acre
- Two hurricanes completely flood the area

1948

- Population reaches 36
- 12 homes in the area
- Gene Carter, son of Ann and Claude Carter is first child born in Plantation
- Plantation Community Church is formed, services held in Frederick C. Peters office

1949

- Plantation Woman's Club founded on February 28th
- Plantation Homeowners Association founded by Dr. Abram Hoffman
- 40 homes in the area
- Fred T. Peters and his wife Chris move to Peters Farm in Plantation

1950

- Population reaches 200
- Plantation Golf Course and Country Club built to encourage extension of Broward Blvd

1953

- April 30th Plantation incorporated as a city
- Ellsworth D. Gage appointed first Mayor by Plantation Homeowners Association (1953-55)

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Paul Stoner, Winslow Freeman, George Bartold, Walter Bartels and W.J. Perry Lohman are elected to the City Council
- First City Council meeting held on May 11th
- Broward Boulevard grows to a four-lane street
- Population reaches 475
- Old feed warehouse near the intersection of East Acre Drive and Broward Blvd is site of first city hall, first fire station and first police station
- Sunset Shopping Center opens (Broward & 441)

1955

- S. Robinson Estey elected Mayor (1955-59)
- William Babel, James P. Downton, Clark Baldwin, Paul Stoner and Winslow Freeman are elected to the City Council
- Plantation Police Dept. organized. City purchases a police car and hires one officer (Henry C. Donath)
- The first Village Bugle, a monthly newsletter, was published by the Plantation Homeowners Association
- A summer recreation program is begun and is considered a success as 129 children participate
- Olympic size pool added to the Plantation Golf Club property

1956

- City budget is \$34,000
- Frederick C. Peters donates land for site of new City Hall
- First Fire Association's BBQ held to raise funds for the Volunteer Fire Dept.
- First fire truck (Engine 1) purchased to service the City
- James Downton serves as Police Commissioner

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

1957

- William Babel, Winslow Freeman and Raymond L. Williams are elected to the City Council
- First industrial plant in Plantation - Airpax Products, Co. on Sunrise Blvd
- City of Plantation Volunteer Fire Dept. formed
- Richard Stephenson appointed Plantation's first Fire Chief (1957-58)
- In January, the Sunshine State Parkway (Turnpike) opens, Sunrise Interchange is officially named J.N. McArthur Interchange
- Plantation Community Church opens July 14th
- Parkway Christian Church opens

1958

- Population reaches 1,600
- There are 450 occupied homes
- A Pony League baseball program started for boys ages 13 –15
- Better Boys Bridge constructed
- Fire Station #1 built on Broward Blvd
- Frederick C. Peters gives ten acres to the school board to build the Berenice Todd Peters Elementary School
- Fred T. Peters appointed Fire Chief (1958 – 59)

1959

- James Ward Jr. elected Mayor (1959-71)
- James P. Downton, Howard Humphries and John Tiedmann are elected to the City Council
- First school, Peters Elementary School, dedicated on December 6th
- March, residents begin planning for the development of Fig Tree Park

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Bus service is extended west to the intersection of Broward Blvd. and US 441
- Frank Veltri appointed Fire Chief (1959-60)
- Hank Donath becomes Plantation's first Police Chief (1959-68)
- St. Gregory the Great Church formed on July 23rd, first mass held at Peters Elementary School cafeteria on August 15th

1960

- P.A.L. (Police Athletic League, in later years known as Plantation Athletic League) formed in February
- In September Hurricane Donna hits South Florida
- Plantation Junior Woman's Club (PJWC) founded
- PJWC plans first annual Cabaret show
- In March Plantation becomes eligible for home delivery of mail
- In the US national election, 1504 of the 1575 registered Plantation voters voted
- Robert Blakely appointed Fire Chief (1960 -62)
- City creates a Recreation Department
- Westgate Shopping Center, former Sunset Shopping Center, opens
- St. Gregory the Great School opens on September 6th

1961

- Samuel Hirsch Jr., Winslow Freeman and William Bergey are elected to the City Council
- The Plantation Library (established by the Plantation Woman's Club) opens in Room 24 of Peters Elementary School with Mrs. Helen B. Hoffman as chairwoman
- St. Gregory the Great Church dedicated on January 8th

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

1962

- Populations grows to 6,500
- Edwin Deicke donates \$100,000 for the expansion and renovation of Hoffman Building later renamed the Deicke Auditorium
- Doctors General Hospital opens in July
- First Girls' Softball team organized by Genevieve Veltri
- PAL field dedicated in October
- Robert Browning appointed Fire Chief (1962-63)
- The Greater Plantation Chamber of Commerce founded

1963

- Jack L. Carter and John Spellacy are elected to the City Council
- Community Center designed by Russell Pancoast is dedicated on May 11th
- The Plantation Library moves to the new Community Center
- City's motto "From the Wilderness, this City" is made official and a city seal is adopted
- Philip Ammann appointed Fire Chief (1963-67)

1964

- City purchases 12 acres of land from Frederick C. Peters for city facilities
- Frederick C. Peters dies on July 18th

1965

- Allen R. Gurley and Jack P. LaMarr are elected to the City Council
- Plantation Elementary School opens
- American Heritage opens Plantation school

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

1966

- Plantation General Hospital opens
- Plantation High School opens
- Plantation Park Elementary School opens
- In June plans are made for extending Sunrise Blvd. from US 441 to Plantation High School

1967

- John Spellacy and John B. Dye Jr. are elected to the City Council
- Arnold Schreiber appointed Fire Chief (1967-68)

1968

- Plantation Library opens new building
- James Flynn appointed Fire Chief (1968-75)
- Lawrence W. Sullivan appointed Police Chief (1968-74)
- Plantation Town Mall (now Plantation Towne Square) opens

1969

- Frank Veltri, Neil LaHurd and Winslow Freeman are elected to the City Council
- Motorola begins construction on facility in Plantation
- First Christmas Parade organized by the local Jaycees club is held on November 29th
- City begins “blue bag” garbage system in December
- Mirror Lake Elementary School opens
- Lago Mar Golf Course opens

1970

- Population reaches 23,000

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Gulfstream Land and Development Company purchases 5,400 acres for Jacaranda community development
- Plantation Middle and Tropical Elementary Schools open
- Friends of the Library founded

1971

- Jack L. Carter is elected Mayor (1971-75)
- John Gibbs and Donald King are elected to City Council
- Jacaranda Golf Course and Country Club opens
- Motorola facility opens at Sunrise Blvd. & University Dr.
- South Plantation High School Opens

1972

- Groundbreaking for Deicke Auditorium at Hoffman Park

1973

- Frank Veltri, Neil LaHurd and Michael G. Shayne are elected to the City Council
- Plantation City Hall is dedicated on December 2nd
- Deicke Auditorium dedicated on May 6th
- Melaleuca Isles and Plantation Acres are annexed into the City
- South Plantation Playing Field (now Pop Travers) opens
- Plantation Art Guild formed

1974

- Plantation Historical Society founded in December by Genevieve Veltri, Dorothy O'Hare, Lois Brickhouse, and Marilyn King
- Bennett Community Hospital (now Westside Regional Medical Center) opens

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Fire Station #2, on 65th Ave, is dedicated on January 20th
- Non-fiction wing added to Plantation Library
- William E. Greene appointed Police Chief (1974-81)

1975

- Population 40,200
- City budget is \$4,229,569
- Frank Veltri elected Mayor (1975-99)
- Donald King, Thomas H. Armstrong and Ralph D. Merritt III are elected to the City Council
- American Express moves Southern Region Operations Center to Plantation
- Fire Station #3 built
- Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El is chartered by the state of Florida

1976

- Plantation declared a “Bicentennial City”
- City Fire Hydrants painted with patriotic themes
- A large tree, symbolic of the original Liberty Tree in Boston, dedicated to the principle of liberty, is planted at Plantation Liberty Tree Park
- Donald Vander Linde appointed Fire Chief (1976-79)
- Ramat Shalom congregation is formed

1977

- Neil LaHurd, Michael G. Shayne and Ralph D. Merritt III are elected to the City Council
- January 19th, snowflakes reported in South Florida including Plantation

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Covenant Village of Florida opens in former Valencia Retirement Center on Broward Blvd.
- The City and Broward County jointly acquired land that was once part of the Peters farm which would later become Plantation Heritage Park.

1978

- Broward Mall (now Westfield Broward) opens
- City Celebrates its 25th Birthday
- The Plantation Horse Arena is dedicated as part of the Birthday Celebration
- Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El opens first multi-purpose building on Pine Island

1979

- John Gibbs, and Thomas Armstrong are elected to the City Council
- Construction is started on Pine Island Park
- An addition is added to the Plantation Library
- 77 acres are purchased to build Central Park
- St. Gregory the Great Church destroyed by fire on September 14th

1980

- Population is 48,653
- The Plantation Historical Society's first museum is in a vacant room at City Hall
- Fire Stations #4 and #5 open
- Dick Steele appointed Fire Chief (1980-83)

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

1981

- Neil LaHurd, Ralph D. Merritt III and Larry Freilich are elected to the City Council
- Plantation Library is renamed the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library
- Tennis Center at Central Park opens on June 1st
- Morris Meek appointed Police Chief (1981-90)
- St. Gregory the Great Church is rebuilt and opens in March

1982

- Population reaches 50,000
- City budget is \$12 million
- Deicke Auditorium adds third bay
- First female firefighter joins Plantation Fire Dept.

1983

- John Gibbs and Rae Carole Armstrong are elected to the City Council
- Construction begins on a new Police Station
- Robert S. Pudney III appointed Fire Chief (1983-2010)
- Plantation Central Park opens
- International Sunshine Cup held at Tennis Center

1984

- First P.L.A.N.T. Awards
- Plantation Heritage Park opens (a Broward County park)

1985

- Larry Freilich and Martin Dishowitz are elected to the City Council

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Plantation Historical Museum opens on June 2nd
- Greater Plantation Chamber of Commerce dedicates new building

1987

- Rae Carole Armstrong and John Gibbs are elected to the City Council
- Construction begins on the Public Works Complex
- Veterans Park dedication ceremony

1988

- Fountains Shopping Mall opens (450,000 sq ft)
- Fashion Mall at Plantation opens (660,000 sq ft)
- Midtown District's Charter for a Safe Neighborhood Improvement District formed

1989

- Ralph D. Merritt III, Larry Freilich and Martin Dishowitz are elected to the City Council
- Interstate I-595 opens
- New Fire Station #3 on W. Broward Blvd. (replaces old station on 125th Ave)
- Robert S. Pudney III becomes first paid Fire Chief (1983-2010)

1990

- Population reaches 65,000
- City budget is \$64 million
- Central Park Elementary School opens
- C.E. Sharrett, Jr. appointed Police Chief (1990-2003)

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

1991

- Rae Carole Armstrong and Ed Weiner are elected to the City Council
- Cornerstone/Hartford's Cornerstone, Phase 1 opens
- Tara Park opens on February 23rd
- Plantation Fire Room at the Historical Museum opens October 20th

1992

- Hurricane Andrew, a Category-5 hurricane comes ashore in South Florida, mainly making landfall in Miami; however, some damage is reported locally

1993

- Martin Dishowitz, Ralph D. Merritt III and Larry Freilich are elected to the City Council
- Ron Jacobs is elected to Martin Dishowitz's Council Seat in a Special Election
- Kemper National Services opens operations in Plantation
- Deicke Park opens on October 10th
- Westside Regional Medical Center opens (formerly Bennett Community Hospital)

1994

- Population reaches more than 73,500
- Sunset Park opens October 18th

1995

- Rae Carole Armstrong and Jerry Fadgen are elected to the City Council

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Tennis Center at Central Park renamed the Frank Veltri Tennis Center

1996

- At the direction of Mayor Frank Veltri, the first city-operated Emergency Medical Service (EMS) begins under Fire Chief Robert Pudney
- Olympic Torch Run weaves through Plantation
- Plantation Towne Mall fire on September 7th is largest fire in Plantation's history

1997

- Population reaches 78,000
- Bruce Edwards, Lee Hillier and Ron Jacobs are elected to the City Council
- Central Park Training Pool and Hydro-Playground open on October 22nd
- Fire Station #6 on W Sunrise Blvd. opens

1998

- Fire Administration building and Firefighters' Memorial Park Dedicated

1999

- Rae Carole Armstrong elected Mayor (1999-2011)
- Mayor Frank Veltri retires after 24 years as mayor (6 terms)
- Jerry Fadgen and Ralph D. Merritt III are elected to the City Council
- Roller Hockey Courts at Central Park open January 27th

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Volunteer Park Community Center dedicated December 5th
- K-9 Unit added to Police Department

2000

- Population grows to 84,500 and is made up of 55 diverse cultures
- Plantation Elementary moves to new school site
- Ground broken for Jim Ward Community Center on site of old Plantation Elementary School
- Plantation Gateway Development District formed

2001

- Diane Veltri Bendekovic is elected to the City Council
- Ground broken for Happy Tails Dog Park
- Multicultural Garden opens in Park East community
- Plantation Tram, Community Bus Service begins October 1st

2002

- The Jim Ward Community Center opens January 12th
- Jack Carter Harmony Park opens on January 18th
- Happy Tails Dog Park opens on March 2nd
- Central Park is expanded to include new soccer fields and a new entrance on Cleary Blvd and 91st Ave
- Department of Landscape Architecture receives Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architect award for two projects: Multicultural Garden, located in Park East, and “Marge & Fred’s Guide to Proper Tree Care” brochure
- Parkway Christian School opens
- Midtown Conceptual Plan completed

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

2003

- Jerry Fadgen, Sharon Moody are elected to the City Council
- The City Celebrates its 50th Anniversary with an 8-day celebration in April
- Country Club Circle Linear Park opens May 31st
- City purchases Plantation Golf Course and Country Club (Golf Club of Plantation)
- Practice Tennis Wall constructed at Veltri Tennis Center
- Plantation Midtown District begins
- The City purchases the Elks Club property with the intent of expanding Liberty Tree Park
- Larry L. Massey appointed Police Chief (2003-2009)

2004

- Veltri Tennis Center expanded
- Camp Everglades at Volunteer Park opens December 21st

2005

- Diane Veltri Bendekovic, Bruce Edwards, Dr. Robert A. Levy are elected to the City Council
- Rico Petrocelli is elected to Bruce Edwards' Council Seat in a special election
- Hurricane Wilma hits Plantation on October 24th causing significant damage
- Plantation named one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance
- Skate Board Park opens at Central Park
- Plantation Equestrian Center opens April 2nd

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

2006

- Park East Trailhead dedicated on February 4th
- The Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club opens with an invitation only dinner on April 21st and a grand opening to the public, complete with a walking tour of the Preserve Linear Park, on April 22nd
- The Shade Brigade, a tree advocacy group, is formed
- A groundbreaking ceremony for the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library's new Multipurpose Room and Book Sale room is held on February 13th
- Plantation begins broadcasting on its own radio station: 1620 AM.
- Police Department is expanded
- The first annual City Calendar is previewed

2007

- Sharon Moody and Jerry Fadgen are elected to the City Council
- The Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library's new Multipurpose Room and Book Sale Room opens on January 27th
- Country Club Park opens March 10th
- Plantation's Central City Linear Park Trail is recognized as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System in February
- Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary
- Westfield Group purchases Broward Mall for a multi-million-dollar renovation
- The Plantation Historical Museum expansion groundbreaking is held on November 7th

2008

- West Regional Library opens on October 26th

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Plantation named “100 Best Communities for Young People” by America’s Promise Alliance
- Plantation Historical Museum expansion opens on September 18th

2009

- Diane Veltri Bendekovic, Dr. Robert Levy and Pete Tingom are elected to the City Council
- The newly expanded Liberty Tree Park opens in September and is renamed Rae Carole Armstrong Liberty Tree Park
- On May 8th the new Public Works Fleet Maintenance Facility opens
- Howard Harrison appointed Police Chief (2009 -

2010

- City’s annual budget is \$77,901,707
- Construction on the new I-595 Express Project begins February 26th
- Plantation Woods at Plantation Community Center opens June 25th
- Happy Tails Dog Park is named one of the “Top 10 Dog Parks in the United States” by Petside.com
- Plantation once again named “100 Best Communities for Young People” by America’s Promise Alliance
- Joe Harris appointed Fire Chief (2010 – 2013)

2011

- On March 8th Diane Veltri Bendekovic is elected Mayor (2011-2019)
- Ron Jacobs, Lynn Stoner and Sharon Moody are elected to the City Council
- “Nature in the Woods” opens at Plantation Woods
- Plantation is named “100 Best Communities for Young People” for the 4th time

City of Plantation Historical Time Line

- First issue Plantation Now! E-newsletter sent in May

2012

- City's population is 84,955
- Plantation Community Center, built in 1963, is demolished
- City converts structure at water treatment plant into IT Bunker

2013

- Chris Zimmerman and Jerry Fadgen are elected to the City Council
- City begins 60th Anniversary celebration on February 7th with publication of Images of America: Plantation, a pictorial history book written by Plantation Historical Museum curator Shirley Schuler
- Laney Stearns appointed Fire Chief (2013 – 2018)
- April 30th City of Plantation turns 60
- Deicke Auditorium renovated, reopens September 19th

2014

- February 4th, Plantation Historical Museum unveiled the Everglades Diorama.
- Plantation Tram ends service
- November 4th residents vote to keep Strong Mayor form of government, to require candidates for Mayor and Council to reside in the City for one year prior to the opening of the qualifications period for elected office, and to move City Elections from March to November
- Plantation Historical Society celebrates its 40th Anniversary 2015
- Mayor Diane Veltri Bendekovic is reelected
- Lynn Stoner is automatically reelected
- Peter S. Tingom elected to the City Council

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

- Yellow Dot program approved. It is designed to save resident lives by helping first responders efficiently gather medical information in the critical moments following an emergency.
- Fashion Mall property is sold at auction for \$37.7M (Building has been vacant since 2007 after incurring damages from Hurricane Wilma in 2005)
- Plantation Historical Museum opens World War II exhibit. (Initially to end in June, the exhibit was extended until October due to popular demand)
- Lenovo, new owners of Motorola, announced Plantation-based Motorola Mobility will close (some Motorola operations will remain in Plantation)
- Magic Leap, an augmented reality startup company, announces new headquarters in the former Motorola Mobility location.
- Plantation Historical Museum & Society opens the 30th Winter Wonderland holiday exhibit. 3000 people visit to see the displays.

2016

- Fashion Mall is demolished.
- Plantation General Hospital granted future move to Nova University
- Jerry Fadgen and Mark Hyatt elected to City Council (first election held since moving from March to November)
- Voters approve \$60M Bond Referendums to improve areas and projects relating to Public Safety, Public Works and Parks & Recreation.
- Plantation Volunteer Fire Department celebrates 60th Anniversary at annual BBQ at Pine Island Park.
- Magic Leap opens its 260,000 square-foot facility.

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

2017

- Broward County brings back Pioneer Day
- August 19th, Grand Opening of new Plantation Community Center
- Hurricane Irma makes landfall September 10th on the Florida Keys as a Category 4 hurricane and continued as a weakened storm across the state into late evening on September 11th. The hurricane caused considerable damage to Plantation.
- American Express consolidates offices and moves headquarters to new location. Vacant property will become a mixed-use area with apartments and restaurant.

2018

- City of Plantation turns 65!
- “Plantation Walk” construction begins at site of the Fashion Mall; it will feature 700 apartments and 200,000 square feet of retail, restaurant, and office space.
- February 24th, Plantation Historical Museum opens Celebrating 65th Years: The City of Plantation exhibit.
- March, Mayor Diane Veltri Bendekovic announces retirement at end of current term
- May, Council Member Jerry Fadgen dies suddenly; his council seat remains vacant until the November election.
- October, First Trunk or Treat held at Plantation Community Center.
- October 6th, The Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library holds a special event Celebrating 50 Years on Fig Tree Lane
- November, Lynn Stoner is elected Mayor of Plantation (2018 - 2022)
- November, Plantation Council members Denise Horland, Nick Sortal, and Erik Anderson are elected
- City’s population reaches 94,291

City of Plantation

Historical Time Line

2019

- July 6th, gas explosion at vacant pizza shop injures 23 people and damages nearby businesses and houses.
- November, Plantation Volunteer Fire Association holds its 63rd Annual Barbecue.
- Don Todd is named Fire Chief (2019 -
- December, Plantation Historical Museum's 34th Winter Wonderland Exhibit welcomes its 5,000th guest since opening in November.
- December 7th, first Annual Light Up City Hall event

2020

- National 2020 Census begins.
- Plantation Parks and Recreation launches various social media campaigns that showcase the city's various parks and recreational amenities including historical photos.
- February 4th, Councilman Mark Hyatt dies suddenly; his council seat remains vacant until the November election.
- March 3rd, Plantation Historical Museum opens A Journey Through Our Archives exhibit.
- March 18th, City buildings close to the public along with all Broward County parks due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- April, City of Plantation Council meetings take place virtually over Zoom.
- City of Plantation hosts food distributions on specific days during Pandemic
- May 28-29th, the final lowering of the flag occurs over Plantation Fire Station 1 (E Broward Blvd & Turnpike) and demolition begins.
- June 11th, construction begins of the new Fire Station No. 1 (original

City of Plantation Historical Time Line

Station was the 25th station built in Broward in 1958).

- July 4th, Independence Day celebrations change to a drive-by parade and a livestream of fireworks.
- July 15th, Park East Park is closed due to an aggressive nesting hawk. (Federally protected bird)
- September, Plantation Fire Department releases their first bi-weekly podcast series.
- October, City of Plantation launches new website.
- October 26th, Parks & Recreation Dept. receives accreditation from Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies(CAPRA)
- November, Council members Jennifer Andreu, Nick Sortal, and Timothy Fadgen are elected.
- November, Plantation Volunteer Fire Association cancels their 64th Annual Barbecue due to Covid-19.
- November 7-9th, Tropical Storm Eta (31st storm in 2020) causes flooding in South Florida; many streets flood throughout the city.
- Fire Chief Don Todd named “Chief Officer of the Year” by the Fire Chief’s Association of Broward County
- December, Plantation Historical Museum showcases its 35th Winter Wonderland Exhibit virtually
- December, most City buildings remain closed to the public (appointment only) due to the Covid-19 Pandemic