

Broward County History



A Timeline





BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Standing from left to right: Chip LaMarca – Nan H. Rich – Dale V.C. Holness – Michael Udine – Vice Mayor Beam Furr – Mayor Barbara Sharief – Mark D. Bogen – Steve Geller – Tim Ryan

A Broward County Historical Timeline

Introduction

History tells us that much occurred on the land that in 1915 became Broward County, Florida. About 2,000 years ago, the Tequesta hunted, gathered, and lived on the land. But by the mid-eighteenth century, they were gone. In the late 1700's, people from the Bahamas became the first known white settlers on the New River. Florida became a U.S. Territory in 1821 and other Americans settled in the area relying on fishing, salvaging, and farming. The First and Second Seminole Wars and the Civil War came and ended and forever left their respective historical marks. As the end of the 1800's draws nigh, what is to become Broward County can be seen taking shape.

We want to thank the Florida Humanities Council for its grant funding, making this project possible in celebration of Broward County's Centennial. It is the hope that this brief timeline will instill a sense of pride in the Broward County community and encourage you to dig deeper into your knowledge and understanding of the County's rich and incredibly entertaining history.



Stranahan House on New River

Source: Fort Lauderdale Historical Society

1893 Frank Stranahan arrives at the New River to operate a ferry and overnight camp for the new Lantana-Lemon City stage line. He opens a trading post and calls it “Fort Lauderdale.”

The Florida East Coast Canal (now the Intracoastal Waterway) begins surveying and dredging in the Fort Lauderdale area.

1896 The Florida East Coast Railway is completed to Miami, opening up South Florida for development. Small farming communities spring up adjacent to the railroad with pineapples, tomatoes, and winter vegetables. Many of Broward’s early African-American pioneers come as workers on the railway.

1899 The first two schools in what is to become Broward County open in Fort Lauderdale and Pompano. They are rustic, one room schoolhouses, and at the time, a part of the Dade County Public School system.

The first known church congregation forms in Pompano; many new churches are soon built in new towns along the F.E.C. Railway.



Dredging of the Everglades
Source: Broward County Libraries Division
Historical Archives

1901 The Stranahan House, home of pioneers Frank and Ivy Stranahan, is constructed by builder Ed King on New River in Fort Lauderdale at the site of the trading post. Today it is the oldest surviving structure in Broward County

1904 The small farming community of Dania (originally known as Modello and now known as Dania Beach) is incorporated, the first town to do so in what is now Broward County.

1906 Fort Lauderdale becomes the center of statewide attention when Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward begins his Everglades drainage project with the North New River Canal (off south fork of New River).

The first school for African-American children opens in a one room schoolhouse located north of Northwest Third Avenue and Broward Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

1907 The Hillsboro Lighthouse is illuminated at the Hillsboro Inlet.

1908 The citizens of the farming village of Pompano vote for incorporation. Local legend holds that its name was the result of a note on a map by surveyor Franklin Sheen—apparently a reference to a tasty fish he had eaten there.

1909 The first permanent settlers arrive to establish Zona, now Davie, the first town created out of former Everglades land. It is so named because many of the new residents are Americans formerly from the Panama Canal Zone.

The future Broward County’s first known Jewish settler, Russian immigrant Louis Brown, arrives in Dania. He later opens Brown’s Department Store on Main Street.

1911 People arrive in Fort Lauderdale by the thousands to participate in a lottery for not-yet “drained Everglades land” sold by Richard J. Bolles’ Florida Fruit Lands Company. The need for services like sanitation prompts citizens to incorporate March 27, 1911.

The *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* begins publication. It later becomes the *Fort Lauderdale News*, and finally the *Sun-Sentinel*.

1912 North New River Canal, South New River Canal, and the Hillsboro Canal are completed. People use the canal system for transport as well as drainage.

The Florida East Coast Canal (now the Intracoastal Waterway) is completed from Jacksonville to Miami.

1913 Fort Lauderdale business interests decide it is time to break away from Dade County. They join with citizens from Dania, Zona (Davie), and Hallandale to campaign for a new county. The state legislature approves the new county bill, despite opposition from many Miami groups such as the Board of Trade. With a provision that the vote in Hallandale and Dania (despite their relatively small populations) and Fort Lauderdale must also favor county-hood, the new county is defeated when the former communities vote against the proposal.

In October, the Dade County election features a referendum to enact prohibition in the county. Miamians, already attracting a tourist trade, want to go “wet,” but people in the northern part of the county join forces (whatever their personal preferences on the subject) to vote the county “dry.”

1915 Miamians rethink the entire idea of a new county, apparently, as do Hallandale and Dania, joined now by Pompano and Deerfield.

Broward County is successfully created out of southern Palm Beach and northern Dade Counties. It is named after the Father of Everglades Drainage, Governor Broward, who had died in 1910. The county seat is Fort Lauderdale. With a population of approximately 4,700, the new county encompasses 1,196.9 square miles, with a narrow habitable strip on its eastern edge. The rest is Everglades.

Dixie Highway is completed through Broward County, connecting the region with the rest of the nation and bringing thousands of new residents and tourists.

The first county courthouse opens in the former Fort Lauderdale School building located south of the New River on Andrews Avenue.

1916 Zona settlement renames itself Davie in honor of Robert Davie, a land developer who purchased a large tract of local reclaimed land.

1917 Many Broward County men leave to fight in World War I.

Fort Lauderdale, Pompano, and Hallandale all complete bridges from the mainland to the beach. The beach and tourism become significant economic engines in the county.



Dania Station, ca. 1919

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

The U.S. Coast Guard takes over the House of Refuge and starts patrolling the beach by motorcycle.

1918 The Florida State Supreme Court rules in favor of Fort Lauderdale and its citizens having dock rights to the downtown riverfront. (Years later this will facilitate the Riverwalk project.)

1919 The Broward Hotel, the county’s first tourist hotel, opens on Las Olas Boulevard and Andrews Avenue.

Idlewyld is the first of the islands off Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale to be developed from a reclaimed mangrove swamp.

Famous film director D.W. Griffith brings his crew and cast to Fort Lauderdale to film several silent films including the *Idol Dancer*. Local residents serve in the background as “island natives.”

1921 Developer Joseph W. Young begins a new development called Hollywood by the Sea.

Fort Lauderdale citizens stage a water-borne “rescue” when President-elect Warren G. Harding passes Fort Lauderdale on his yacht. They take him to the newly constructed Southside Golf Course located at the present site of the Fort Lauderdale-

Hollywood International Airport for a round of golf. He is so delighted he returns for another visit and the young town is thrust into the national news.

1922 Charley Rhodes begins the dredging of finger islands off Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale to create the Venice subdivision with all waterfront properties. This same technique is used by W.F. Morang to develop Rio Vista Isles. A New York investor, J.C. Turner, tells the *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, "Lauderdale should be called the Venice of America!"

Fort Lauderdale passes the first ordinance with a "color line" restricting black residents to west of the Florida East Coast Railway tracks.

Dr. James Sistrunk, one of the county's earliest African-American physicians, moves to Fort Lauderdale. He delivers over 5,000 babies during his years of practice. Later, Sistrunk Boulevard is named in his honor.

1924 The Stranahans sell land on Northwest Fourth Avenue to build a school for African-American students for \$1.00. This will become what is now known as the Old Dillard School.

The notorious Ashley Gang robs the Bank of Pompano. Shortly after, they meet a dramatic end in an ambush at the Sebastian Bridge.

1925 Florida's land boom is at its height. Real estate and tourism supplant farming as mainstays of the economy in parts of the county. Some downtown Fort Lauderdale properties jump fifty times their previous prices. A fifty foot lot on Las Olas Boulevard and Second Avenue with a \$25,000 shack sells for \$125,000. A forty acre ocean front Pompano Beach lot, which sold for \$30,000 in 1924, now sells in mid-1925 for over a million dollars. (By 1928-29, the price drops back to \$30,000.)

The F.E.C. town of Deerfield incorporates. Legend has it that it got its name from the many deer that once grazed near the Hillsboro River (now the Hillsboro Canal). In 1939, Deerfield becomes Deerfield Beach.

Floranada, a development project of the British American Improvement Association of which the (actual) Countess of Lauderdale is a member, incorporates north of Fort Lauderdale. The new town extends to the Atlantic Ocean and includes the village of Oakland Park.

Davie incorporates briefly; unanticipated taxes encourage the citizens to petition for the dissolution of the town in the next legislative session.



Joseph W. Young, Developer, 1921
Source: Broward County Libraries
Division Historical Archives

Joseph Young's "Hollywood by the Sea" development completes two hotels, a golf course, and a number of homes and business buildings. The Hollywood Beach Hotel, a huge multimillion dollar project nears completion. The city of Hollywood incorporates.

1926 Fort Lauderdale fathers look to the west where there is a limestone barrier to prevent salt water intrusion in the local water supply. The Dixie Water Plant (now the Peele Dixie Water Plant) is completed on West Dixie Highway (State Road 7/US 441).

Seminole matriarch Annie Tommie and her family abandon their camp on the North Fork of New River, and with urging from Ivy Stranahan, move to the new Seminole Reservation in Dania (now Hollywood). Annie's camp is the last in the city limits of Fort Lauderdale.

Lillie May Smith, the first woman to win a countywide office, is elected County Tax Collector.

More Jewish settlers have arrived in the county. The first Jewish service is held on September 17, 1926, in a rented space over a restaurant on Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.



1926 Hurricane – Boatyard on New River
 Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives, Mrs. Clyde Brown Collection

A few hours later, on September 18, the 1926 hurricane strikes. The Category 4 hurricane is huge, covering Broward and Dade Counties. The height of the storm is over nine hours long, causing 49 deaths and injuring 1,500 in Broward. The damage to South Florida is tremendous and strikes the death knell to the Florida land boom.

The first Pompano Race Track opens on Christmas Day despite the fact that all forms of gambling are illegal in Florida. In fact few horses ever race there; it is used for car races and other events, eventually closing.

1927 The second railroad system in southeast Florida, the Seaboard Air Line, is completed to Miami. It brings express passenger service from New York and other northern cities to Broward County. Today, this is the Amtrak (CSX) railroad track.

Fort Lauderdale limits beach access for African-American residents to an area north of city limits (later known as Galt Ocean Mile.)

The Land Boom bubble ends and many investors are bankrupt. Few tourists come to the area.

Fort Lauderdale earns the nickname “Fort Liquordale” due to the thriving smuggling operation between the almost deserted local beaches and nearby “wet” Bahamas and Cuba. Coast Guard Base 6 becomes the center of prohibition enforcement and locals hear gunfire echoing up and down the New River.

Federal agents arrest Broward County’s Sheriff, all his Deputies, Fort Lauderdale’s Assistant Police Chief and six police officers on conspiracy to violate prohibition laws. Later the charges are dropped.

Floyd and Jane Wray establish an orange grove known as Flamingo Groves at the western edge of Davie, joined by partners Frank Stirling and Clarence Hammerstein. It eventually becomes Flamingo Gardens, one of Florida’s oldest botanical attractions.

Fort Lauderdale opens a new upscale golf club, the Westside Golf Course, west of State Road 7/ US 441 in what is today Plantation. It boasts a handsome Francis Abreu designed clubhouse and the course serves occasionally as a landing spot for bootleggers’ planes. It later becomes the Fort Lauderdale Golf and Country Club.

The small beach community of Lauderdale by the Sea, established by Fort Lauderdale developer W.F. Morang, incorporates, but is abolished as a town in 1933.



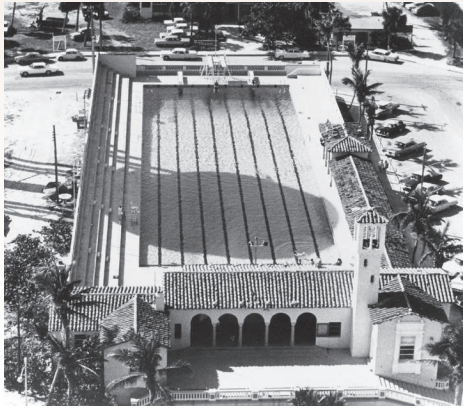
Flamingo Groves
 Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

Hallandale (now Hallandale Beach) originally founded as a community for Swedish Americans on Henry Flagler’s F.E.C. Railway, is incorporated. It is named for pioneer Luther Halland, one of its original settlers.

Construction begins on the Federal Aid Highway (Federal Highway, US 1) through the county.

1928 Port Everglades, the county's long-hoped-for deep water harbor, opens as a joint project between the city of Fort Lauderdale and the city of Hollywood. President Coolidge is scheduled to set off the final blast clearing the port channel, but there is a power failure. The local engineer sets off the blast as 85% of the county's population cheers.

The Las Olas Casino Pool opens east of today's International Swimming Hall of Fame. It is the scene



Casino Pool in Fort Lauderdale

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

A new county courthouse is constructed at the corner of Southeast Third Avenue and Southeast Sixth Street. It is a beautiful towered structure designed by local architect John Peterman in the popular Mediterranean Revival style.

1929 The stock market crashes. In the Depression years, 25 percent of Fort Lauderdale homes are foreclosed upon for liens and taxes. About 80 percent of the vacant lots and 85 percent of nonfarm acreage in the city and outer environs are also lost according to N.B. Cheaney, an early businessman and town leader.

Driven by the failure of the bank of which he was director and his own ill health, Fort Lauderdale's founding father, Frank Stranahan, dramatically commits suicide in the New River. Businesses shut down so all citizens can attend his funeral.

The city of Oakland Park is incorporated on the heels of the dissolution of Floranada. The new town is known for its farms and meat packing plant and

is named for the oak trees that once stood near the plant.

Merle Fogg Airport, named after a local aviator killed in a plane crash, opens south of Fort Lauderdale after the closure of the Southside Golf Course.

Whiskey smuggler Horace Alderman, who murdered several federal agents in 1927, is hanged at Coast Guard Station #6. This is Broward County's only legal execution.

1931 President Roosevelt's Jewish Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, visits Fort Lauderdale on business for the Coast Guard. He is accepted at a local hotel, but his Jewish staff is not. He does not stay. The city becomes notorious for its "restricted" policies discouraging Jewish patronage at local hostelries and subdivisions.

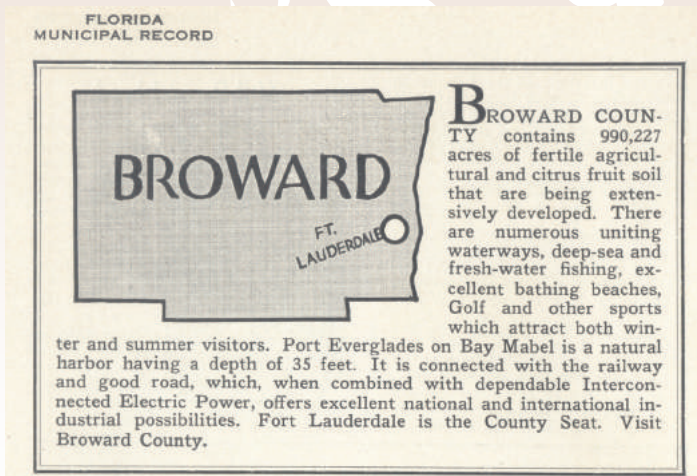


Broward County Courthouse 1928 Postcard

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

An 1870 monitor class naval ship, the Amphitrite, is reconfigured and arrives in Fort Lauderdale, mooring beside the Las Olas Causeway to become a novel floating hotel.

Broward County's Representative Dwight Rogers, encouraged by activist Ivy Stranahan, introduces a bill for a \$5,000 Homestead Exemption in the Florida legislature. It passes in 1933 and is implemented in 1934.



1930 Broward County Population

Source: Florida Municipal Record by Susan Gillis, Historian

The Hollywood Kennel Club is proposed by a Chicago group for a site just off Federal Highway in Hallandale. County residents vote overwhelmingly for the track, the first legal pari-mutuel betting facility in Broward.

1935 Black resident Reuben Stacy, accused of an attempted rape of a white woman, is lynched by a mob on Davie Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

The U.S. Treasury awards a contract for \$97,000 to build a new post office building at Southeast First Avenue and Second Street in Fort Lauderdale.

The Las Olas Casino Pool hosts the first Collegiate Aquatic Swim Forum. Athletes return to their campuses with glowing reports of Fort Lauderdale; this is considered by many to be the origins of the annual "Spring Break" phenomenon.

Captain Al Starts brings the first of his excursion boats, the *Jungle Queen I*, to the New River. Today the *Jungle Queen IV* is still entertaining visitors to Broward County.



Captain Al Starts, *Jungle Queen*

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

1936 The Berlin Olympics has two Fort Lauderdale citizens representing the U.S.A: Katherine Rawls, an international star, brings home a bronze metal and silver metal in diving and swimming; Les McNeece plays in the first exhibition baseball game.



Katharine Rawls, Olympic Swimmer, 1936

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

1937 Temple Emanu-El, the first Jewish Synagogue in Broward, opens at South Andrews Avenue and Southwest Eighteenth Street. Residents of Hollywood, Pompano, Boca Raton, and Fort Lauderdale are members of the congregation.

In January, it snows in Oakland Park and farmers lose their winter crops. Although not officially recorded, several citizens including Fort Lauderdale mayor Virginia Young, confirm this in the 1970s. The state legislature passes the Murphy Act to allow statutory forfeiture of lands for taxpayers in Florida to settle for lesser amounts of taxes and bring 600,000 land parcels back on active tax rolls.

The Lauderdale Beach Hotel, constructed in the swanky new Art Modern style, opens on Fort Lauderdale's beach.

1938 Broward General Hospital opens on South Andrews Avenue in the renovated Granada Apartments in Fort Lauderdale; African-American citizens are not admitted there.

Provident Hospital is opened in a small wooden house in northwest Fort Lauderdale by Dr. James S. Sistrunk. It remains as the only hospital in the county for African-American citizens until 1964, when Broward General is finally integrated.



Provident Hospital staff with Dr. Von D. Mizell and Dr. J.L. Sistrunk
Source: Fort Lauderdale History Center

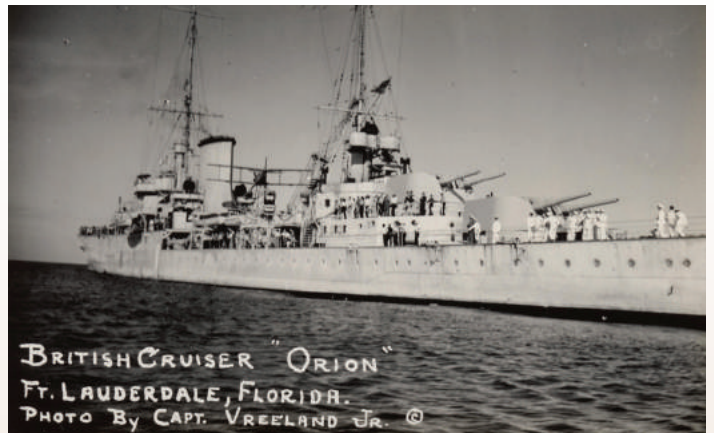
1939 Black millionaire John Hill II opens the Hill Hotel at Northwest Seventh Avenue and Fifth Street and the Windsor Club on Northwest Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. Visitors include jazz luminaries like Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald.

The exclusive beach enclave of Hillsboro Beach is incorporated but remains inactive until 1947, when citizens vote for a new charter. The name of the town and its signature lighthouse are derived from the Earl of Hillsborough, to whom large tracts of land were granted during the British rule of Florida.



ARAUCA, 1939

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives, Vreeland Collection



Orion, 1939

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives, Vreeland Collection

A German freighter, *Arauca*, seeks sanctuary at Port Everglades from the British cruiser *Orion*, and becomes a local tourist attraction. The merchant marines aboard the *Arauca* are eventually interned at the Broward County Courthouse jail, and later Ellis Island, before being returned to Germany at the end of the war.

The newest State Farmers Market opens in Pompano after much lobbying at the state and federal level. It is constructed by the WPA and provides employment for many local citizens.

The beautiful Gulfstream Park horse race track opens in Hallandale.

1940 Circus owner Clyde Beatty establishes a Jungle Zoo at an old rock pit in Victoria Park near East Sunrise Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. It becomes one of the county's earliest and most successful tourist attractions.

Dixie Court housing project for African-American citizens opens at Northwest Ninth and Eleventh Avenues and at Northwest Second and Fourth Streets in Fort Lauderdale. The Doctor Kennedy homes for white citizens opens on Broward Boulevard the following year.

Hugh Taylor Birch deeds his beachfront property and home in Fort Lauderdale to the state of Florida for use as a park. Today Birch State Park is one of the state's best known recreation areas.

1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the U.S. enters World War II. The people of Broward County are quickly drawn into the war effort.

1942 Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station is established at Merle Fogg field. Three main runways and a control tower are built, along with barracks to house future pilots. The approximately one thousand acres contain 217 buildings. There are

satellite airfields around the county.

Allied merchant ships are attacked by German submarines off the Florida Coast. The Navy establishes a sub chasing base at Port Everglades.

County citizens endure blackouts, curfews, and food and supply rationing. Locals man aircraft spotting towers throughout the county for the Aircraft Warning Service.

The Lauderdale Beach, Tradewinds, and Hollywood Beach Hotels become secret training schools for radar and range -finding equipment.



World War II Ends, 1945

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

A Military Affairs Council establishes a Service Men's Center on Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale run by local volunteers. Thousands of military men come from area bases to relax and socialize.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill takes a break from war meetings at an oceanfront bungalow in

Hillsboro Beach. Cap's Place, a former gambling establishment and longtime restaurant, delivers food to the visitor.

1943 Dooley's Basin and Dry Dock in Fort Lauderdale produces P-T boats, mine sweepers, and sub chasers for the military. Many local factories are converted to war-related production.

1945 World War II ends. Thousands of new veterans formerly stationed in South Florida return with their new families to make Broward County their permanent home.

On December 5, five TBM Avenger torpedo-bombers comprising Flight 19 disappear on a training flight from the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station. Their disappearance remains without explanation today, and serves to create the mystery of the “Bermuda Triangle.”

The Dade Broward Mosquito Control Division uses the pesticide DDT experimentally in the Hollywood business section marking a revolution in pest control technology that will impact the lives of all future Broward County residents.

Illegal gambling establishments are already a flourishing business when mobster Meyer Lansky purchases the Colonial Inn in Hallandale and turns it into an exclusive and notorious nightclub/casino. It is closed in 1948, but illegal gambling facilities (outside the legal pari-mutuel tracks) remain common throughout the county.

1946 Residents of the oceanfront area east of Pompano decide to incorporate as Pompano Beach. Both municipalities merge in 1947 to form the City of Pompano Beach.

A federal court overturns the seven month school year for African-American students in Fort Lauderdale. Dillard students begin a nine month school calendar. North county students will have to wait until 1952 for a full nine month school year.

1947 The Fort Lauderdale Police Department hires two African-American officers.

A Naval Air landing strip during WWII, West Prospect Satellite Field, becomes Fort Lauderdale Municipal

Airport. In 1963, the name is changed to Executive Airport.

Two hurricanes on top of a rainy season results in the “Flood of 1947.” Most of southeast Florida is under water. New River overflows in downtown Fort Lauderdale and Pompano catches the brunt of the second hurricane with tornadoes taking out concrete block homes.

Lauderdale by the Sea, a beach town wedged between Pompano and Fort Lauderdale, incorporates. Its primary attraction is Anglin’s Pier at what is today Commercial Boulevard.

Wilton Manors, originally established as a Fort Lauderdale development by Edward J. Willingham in 1925, is incorporated. It is known as the Island City because it is surrounded by the South and North Forks of the Middle River.

1948 Broward County assumes control of the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station field (Merle Fogg Field) and opens the Broward County International Airport. In 1959 it is renamed the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

1949 The Central and Southern Florida Flood District is established—now the South Florida Water Management District.

Hacienda Village, a small community consisting primarily of the Hacienda Flores trailer park and Mayor Red Crise’s home, is incorporated at the crossroads of State Road 7/US 441 and State Road 84. In its heyday, it boasts 133 residents and 27 police officers; most of the village’s revenue comes from speeding tickets.



Wilton Manors Brochure Cover
Source: Broward County Libraries Division
Historical Archives

Coast Guard Base 6 on Fort Lauderdale's south beach becomes Bahia Mar Yachting Center, and Fort Lauderdale is hailed as "The Yachting Capital of the World."

1950 Longtime Broward Sheriff and Fort Lauderdale pioneer Walter Clark is interviewed on a new media, television, by the Kefauver Commission regarding local gambling and Clark's knowledge of it. Clark is later indicted for possession of slot machines but is acquitted.

The city of Fort Lauderdale opens Sunland Park, later J.C. Carter Park, for African-American residents on Sunrise Boulevard.

War Memorial Auditorium, made possible by a community fund raising effort, opens in Holiday Park in Fort Lauderdale. WMA hosts operas, concerts, flower shows and the graduation of almost every high school in the county for years to come.

1953 Air conditioning revolutionizes Broward County development affecting architecture, building density, and luring new full time-- rather than seasonal-- residents.

Plantation is incorporated west of State Road 7/ US 441 on the site established by founder and cattleman Frederick Peters. Plantation's name is inspired by the Everglades Plantation Company, the name of the original land owners. Early property owners also referred to their large lots as "plantations."

Lazy Lake, Broward County's tiniest municipality, is incorporated around a former quarry in the middle of Wilton Manors. The village begins with thirteen homes on thirteen acres.

The Dania Jai Alai fronton opens on Dania Beach Boulevard featuring the fast paced Basque court game and legal pari-mutuel betting.

Mackey Airline begins service to the Caribbean Islands from the Broward County Airport.



Mackey Airlines

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives, Broward County Aviation

1955 Broward is Florida's second largest dairy county; this status will rapidly change as development pushes westward.

Margate is incorporated by developer Jack Marqusee west of Pompano. Marqusee actually constructs large ornamental gates at the entrance to his development on Margate Boulevard near State Road 7/ US 441.

Miramar incorporates as a bedroom community on former dairy lands at the south end of the county. Although its name means "look to the sea," it is in fact landlocked.

1956 Lighthouse Point incorporates west of the Intracoastal and northeast of Pompano Beach. It is named for the nearby Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse (actually situated in the town of Hillsboro Beach.)

1957 The Sunshine State Parkway, today the Ronald Reagan Turnpike, officially opens as the first super highway into South Florida.

1958 Fort Lauderdale tennis coach Jimmy Evert opens the Holiday Park Tennis Center and the city becomes a tennis mecca.

1959 The city of Lauderhill incorporates. Developer Herb Sadkin plans to name his new community "Sunnydale," but New York Times reporter and good friend William Safire suggests that "Sunnydale" sounds like a Brooklyn suburb. Safire suggests the term "hill" to go with "dale." When Mr. Sadkin confirms that there are no "hills" in Lauderhill, Safire suggests, "There are probably no dales in Lauderdale either." Thus a new city is named.

Cooper City, originally the Wacico Groves (short for the Walsh Citrus Company) west of Davie, is incorporated. It is named for founder Morris Cooper.

The village of Sea Ranch Lakes located north of Lauderdale by the Sea, incorporates. The town is named for the original Sea Ranch Cabana Club on the beach, a resort established by R.H. Gore and family in 1939.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida opens a new attraction known as the Okalee Indian Village on State Road 7/ US 441 just north of Stirling Road in Hollywood.

1960 The Junior College of Broward County, today Broward College, opens to students in the rustic former buildings of the World War II era Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station, located on the western portion of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The first class boasts 701 students. In 1963, it relocates to the site of Forman Field, a former wartime auxiliary airfield located in Davie.

The city of Pembroke Pines, originally known as "West Hollywood," is incorporated on the site of former dairy lands.

A beach movie entitled "Where the Boys Are" is filmed in Fort Lauderdale and premieres at Fort Lauderdale's Gateway Theatre in December. Many local citizens serve as "extras" in the film.

1961 Three months after the premier of "Where the Boys Are", 50,000 college students invade local beaches in the phenomenon known as "Spring Break."



Sunshine State Parkway Brochure

Source: Broward County Libraries
Division Historical Archives

The small town of Pembroke Park incorporates in South Broward. It is known for its nurseries, trailer parks, and quarries.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida gains official recognition by the federal government. It encompasses the Hollywood, Big Cypress, Immokalee, and Brighton Reservations with tribal headquarters located in Hollywood.

Lauderdale Lakes incorporates, a community of single family homes at the intersection of State Road 7/US 441 and Oakland Park Boulevard. A man made hill, trees, and small lake create a semi-rural atmosphere. All are long since replaced by asphalt and speeding cars.

Bowing to the incredible westward expansion of population, the Town of Davie is incorporated.

Developer Norman Johnson incorporates his development known as Sunrise Golf Village west of Fort Lauderdale. To lure investors, he constructs the "Upside Down House," which serves as an area tourist attraction.

On July 4, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President Eula Johnson and civil rights activist Dr. Von D. Mizell lead the first of a series of "Wade Ins" at Fort Lauderdale Beach to integrate the public beaches.



Source: Susan Gillis, Historian

1962 A major expansion of the county courthouse is completed, resulting in the demolition of the original bell tower and the "wrapping" of the additions with turquoise colored curtain walls characteristic of the era.

The Cuban Missile Crisis impacts locals when Port Everglades hosts army and navy troops while serving as a potential staging area for military action further south. Area school students practice "duck and cover drills" in anticipation of a nuclear attack.

Baseball's legendary New York Yankees make Fort Lauderdale their new Spring Training headquarters at the new Fort Lauderdale Stadium aka "Yankee Stadium."

1963 North Lauderdale is incorporated where green beans and tomatoes once grew. It gains national prominence for the use of solar energy in its new homes. Residents are slow to come, however; the first city elections aren't held until 1969.

Tamarac is incorporated after developer Ken Behring establishes a "new way of life" in Tamarac Lakes, a community with a clubhouse and recreational amenities available for a small fee. The town gets its name from the Tamarac Country Club (later the Oak Tree County Club) adjacent Tamarac Lakes in Oakland Park.



Eula Johnson, NAACP President

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives



Dr. Von D. Mizell

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives



Coral Springs Covered Bridge

Source: Coral Springs Historical Advisory Committee

Parkland is incorporated at the northern county limits. Citizens fight to maintain a low density rural lifestyle where horses are a common site.

Coral Springs, a project of the Westinghouse-owned Coral Ridge Properties, incorporates in northwest Broward. Prospective residents are lured by the “Homes of the Future” showcasing Westinghouse appliances. An old fashioned covered bridge on Northwest Ninety-Fifth Avenue off Wiles Road, the only covered bridge on a public road in Florida, serves as a symbol for the new city.

1964 Jose Gonzalez, Jr. becomes the first Hispanic Broward Circuit Court Judge and first judge appointed to serve in the 17th Judicial Circuit.

Nova University of Advanced Technology, a private college focused on the sciences, opens on East Las Olas Boulevard. Soon it relocates to a site in Davie adjacent the Junior College; today it is known as Nova Southeastern University.

Horse fancier Frederick Van Lennep opens a new horse racing facility, Pompano Park Harness Track, just south of the original 1920s racetrack.

1965 The state legislature establishes the Downtown Development Authority, an improvement taxing district charged with the revitalization of decaying downtown Fort Lauderdale. The DDA also holds the power of eminent domain. Its radical master plans results in the demolition of much of the historic downtown; many of the sites sit as empty lots throughout the 1970s.

Fort Lauderdale replaces the aging Fort Lauderdale Casino Pool with what becomes the International Swimming Hall of Fame complex, a world class aquatic center.

1966 In Dania, Boisy Waiters, Sr., becomes the first elected African-American official in Broward County.

1967 Coconut Creek, which grew from a ca.1958 development amidst the cow pastures and farmlands of western Broward, incorporates. In the 1960s, each new lot is graced with the city's namesake coconut palm.

Sunrise Golf Village becomes an independent city in January, separating from its original developers. In 1971 citizens vote to shorten the name to "Sunrise."

1968 The famous Cunard liner, the Queen Elizabeth, comes to Port Everglades as a tourist attraction. Attendance is not as hoped and she leaves the county in 1971.

1970 Fort Lauderdale NAACP attorney, George Allen, wins a suit for the "complete desegregation" of Broward County schools on behalf of his two young



W. George Allen, Esquire
Source: Broward County Libraries
Division Historical Archives

sons. By August 1971, the federal appeals court orders mandatory busing to achieve integration.

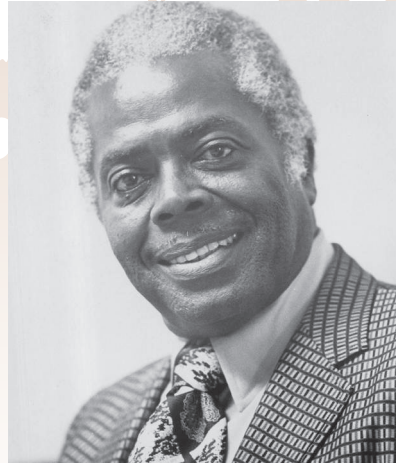
Markham Park, the county's largest regional park, is dedicated in honor of long time county tax assessor Robert Markham. The park hosts a small zoo until 1982.

1971 The Broward County Commission approves a \$4.02 million grant to develop a countywide transportation system merging the South Broward Transit Authority and Beach Transit to form the Broward County Transit Authority. Sixteen new buses increase the fleet to 49 vehicles. This yields new routes and a new name, Broward County Transit.

Topeekeegee Yugnee Park, named for the Seminole word for "meeting place," opens at the site of a former rock pit in Hollywood. Most residents know it simply as "T-Y Park."

A group of friends from the Coral Ridge Yacht Club and Fort Lauderdale Yacht Club decorate their boats and journey up and down the Intracoastal Waterway to celebrate the Christmas season—the origins of Fort Lauderdale's well known Winterfest Boat Parade.

1972 Thomas J. Reddick, one of the first black lawyers in the county, becomes the first African-



Judge Thomas J. Reddick
Source: Broward County
Libraries Division Historical Archives

American Circuit Court Judge in Broward.

The 1905 New River Inn in Fort Lauderdale is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the first National Register listing in Broward County.

1972 The Broward County Historical

Commission is created by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners at the urging of Judge L. Clayton Nance.

Lethal yellowing, a disease of the ubiquitous Jamaican Tall coconut palms, first appears in Broward County. The disease eliminates every single one of the trees, forever changing the face of the county.

Grand Prix Race-O-Rama, a go-kart racetrack featuring a penny arcade and miniature golf course opens in Davie on State Road 7/US 441. In 1984 it is relocated to Dania Beach off I-95, where it becomes one of the county's top tourist attractions. It closes in 2015.



Ann Kolb, former Broward County Commissioner
Source: Broward County Libraries
Division Historical Archives

1974 Anne Kolb, an award winning journalist, becomes the first female elected to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

The Broward County Library System, forged from the Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale municipal libraries, officially opens for business. The library's

priority is to meet the needs of the rapidly growing western communities of the county; Lauderdale Lakes is quick to join the system.



Kathleen C. Wright becomes the first African-American elected to the Broward County School Board. A former teacher at Dillard High School, she is known for championing opportunities for black students in the school system.

Kathleen C. Wright
Source: Broward County Libraries
Division Historical Archives

The state opens the Broward Beach Recreation Area south of Port Everglades at the site of Fort Lauderdale's former beach for African-American citizens. In 1976, it is renamed John U. Lloyd Park, in honor of the thirty-five-year-long county attorney who died in 1975.

1975 The Broward County charter goes into effect, bringing home rule to the county. Previously, state legislative approval was required for all local bills affecting change in county government. The new charter also expands the commission from five to seven members and establishes a strong administrator form of government and a countywide land use planning agency.

The county acquires River Bend Park on the North Fork of New River. In 1979, it is renamed Delevoe Park in honor of the Reverend Samuel Delevoe, one of Fort Lauderdale's first African-American police officers, civil rights leaders, and community activists.

1976 Interstate 95 is completed through Broward County and the population influx shifts from Fort Lauderdale to the growing western portions of the county.

1977 Local citizens witness the first recorded snowfall in Fort Lauderdale history. Physical

education teachers hit the fire alarms so the students could see the snow.

The county's Land Use Plan mandates the first major stage expansion of the county park system. Voters approve a \$73 million bond issue for the parks. The Fort Lauderdale Strikers become the county's first professional soccer team, calling Lockhart Stadium home until 1983.

The county opens Tradewinds Park on the site of the former McClean Ranch in Coconut Creek. It becomes known for the adjacent attraction, Butterfly World, and its annual Holiday Fantasy of Lights.



Holiday Fantasy of Lights, Red Bear and Baby Bear
Source: Broward County Parks and Recreation Division

1978 State and federal grants of \$7 million enable the Parks and Recreation Division to embark on a 10 year build-out program. Secret Woods Nature Center opens on the South Fork of New River in Dania Beach.

1980 The U.S. Census reports a population of over 1 million in Broward County.

Deerfield Island County Park, accessible only by boat, opens in Deerfield Beach at the county line.

Downtown Fort Lauderdale's anchor store, Burdine's, moves to the Galleria, a mall created around the old Sunrise Shopping Center. Broward County government, desperate for space, purchases the old Burdine's building and remodels it as a Governmental Center.

1981 Winterfest, a holiday boat parade, begins in Fort Lauderdale, gaining national television recognition.

1982 West Lake Park opens, a three mile stretch of mangrove estuary and uplands west of the Intracoastal in Hollywood. In 1996, the Anne Kolb Nature Center, named for a County Commissioner and environmental activist, opens at the park.

Quiet Waters Park opens on the site of a former borrow pit (rock pit) in Deerfield Beach. It is known for Splash Adventure, a children's water playground.

1983 Treetops Park, located on what was once Pine Island in Davie, opens in 1983. Pine Island is the site of the historic Seminole ceremonial grounds as well as pre-Columbian archaeological sites. It was at Pine Island that soldiers from Fort Lauderdale clashed with the Seminoles at the Battle of Pine Island Ridge in 1838 during the Second Seminole War.

1984 Nick Navarro is the first Hispanic to be elected as Broward County Sheriff.

Broward County Parks and Recreation Division opens the 97 acre Plantation Heritage Park on land donated by Mr. & Mrs. Frederick C. Peters.

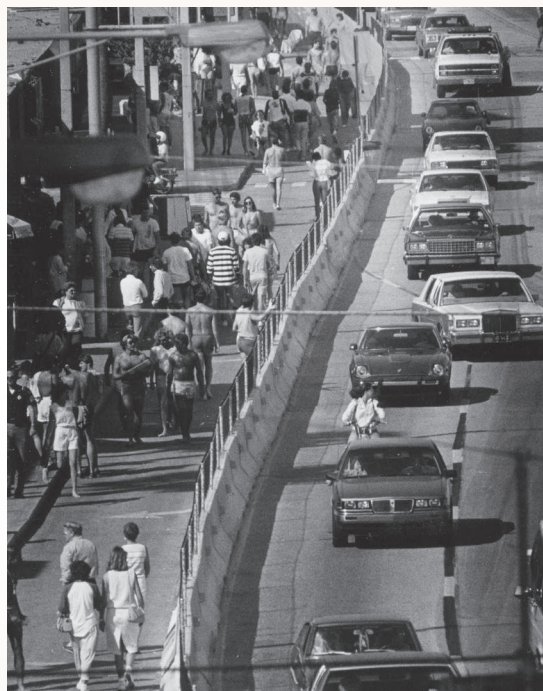
Drivers have the last laugh when the notorious speed trap, Hacienda Village, is dis-incorporated; I-595 is constructed right through its small heart. The rest of the village is absorbed by the town of Davie.

1985 Spring Break brings 350,000 students to Fort Lauderdale. Alcohol excesses and public nudity provoke a crackdown by city officials. Mayor Robert Dressler goes on national TV to announce that Fort Lauderdale no longer wishes to host Spring Breakers.

1986 Fort Lauderdale's Museum of Art moves to a glamorous new building designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes at Las Olas Boulevard and Andrews Avenue.

1987 Snow falls on Las Olas Boulevard as Bob Hope hosts his annual nationally televised Christmas Special from Fort Lauderdale to highlight the Winterfest Boat Parade.

1988 John Fiore is elected to Wilton Manors City Council, the first openly gay city official in the County. He is elected mayor in 2000.



The Wall-Spring Break, 1986

Source: Broward County Libraries Division Historical Archives

The 110 Tower, the tallest building in two counties, opens opposite the Broward County Courthouse complex.

1989 The county uses \$75 million from a bond issue for environmentally sensitive lands to purchase and enhance the best remaining natural area sites. The Parks and Recreation Division assists in identifying 1,100 acres of natural areas, purchasing negotiations, restoration, preservation, and maintenance for future public use and benefit.

Brian Piccolo Park, a sports oriented park and velodrome, opens in Cooper City. Its

namesake was a 1961 St. Thomas Aquinas graduate who played for the Chicago Bears and was famously depicted in the 1971 movie Brian's Song.

The popular television reality shows COPS debuts; the first season focuses on the Broward Sheriff's Office. I-595 opens, linking Broward County's Port Everglades with I-75 and becoming a vital east-west artery for suburban commuters.

1990 Broward County Transit opens a new central bus terminal in downtown Fort Lauderdale as its main hub featuring a landmark stairway by the trendy architectural firm, Arquitectonica.

1991 The Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center opens at Port Everglades. Constructed at the cost of \$48 million, it covers seventeen acres.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts opens its multi-venue theater and entertainment complex at the west end of Riverwalk on Fort Lauderdale's New River. The first performance is a national tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*.

The Broward County School District employees relocate from a series of portable-like structures south of the Fort Lauderdale Police headquarters to a glamorous glass high rise office building on Southeast Third Avenue and Sixth Street. The building is officially the Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building, named for the former school board chairwoman killed in a 1985 airplane crash.

1992 Hurricane Andrew's outer storms cause twenty million in damages in Broward and leave a dozen residents homeless due to storm related fires. Broward becomes the base of operations to shuttle supplies to devastated parts of Dade and Monroe Counties that received the brunt of the hurricane. A massive exodus from South Dade fills Pembroke Pines and other Broward communities with many thousands of transplanted families.

County citizens vote overwhelmingly to abolish the independent Port Everglades Commission that had overseen the port since its inception. In 1994, operations are handed over to Broward County government where they can be easily scrutinized by the public.

Broward County renames Washington Park, one of the last of the neighborhood parks operated by the county, for Lafayette Hart, Washington Park Civic Association leader who fought for the establishment of the park.

1993 City commissioners cut the ribbon opening the Riverwalk linear park on the north side of New River in Fort Lauderdale.

Homelessness reaches an all-time high in Fort Lauderdale. Tent City, a large temporary shelter,

develops just north of Broward Boulevard between the main bus station and city hall. The shelter causes a stir for downtown businesses and travelers.

1995 The Broward County Board of County Commissioners passes an ordinance prohibiting discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and real estate transactions based on sexual orientation.

The former school building for African-American children in Fort Lauderdale, "Old Dillard School," is rehabilitated and opened as a museum and cultural center by the county school board.

The village of Lazy Lake goes on the market for \$15 million. There are no takers.

1996 The Arvida development of Weston is incorporated as the westernmost city in the county. It is known for its upscale homes, golf course, and significant archaeological sites.

The Broward County Library is named 1996-1997 "Library of the Year" by Library Journal.

Blockbuster Viacom relocates from Fort Lauderdale to Dallas, creating a void in the downtown business district.

The Florida legislature passes a bill, at the county delegation's urging, requiring all unincorporated areas in the county to be absorbed into neighboring cities by 2010.

The National Car Rental Center, now the BB&T Center, opens in Sunrise. It serves as home base for the Florida Panthers ice hockey team and as a new venue for concerts and events.

1999 Broward County creates a domestic partnership registry and extends health care benefits to domestic partners of county employees.

The Homeless Assistance Center opens on Sunrise Boulevard and Northwest Seventh Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. Its capacity for 200 people and strict curfews limits its use by homeless residents.

2000 Southwest Ranches, a community located on the edge of the Everglades known for its horse ranches and semi-rural lifestyle, incorporates rather than be annexed into Pembroke Pines.

The U.S. Census reports a County population of 1,623,018.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners expands from seven to nine members, with single member districts.

The Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Referendum authorizes \$400 million to preserve and reclaim remaining natural areas and to restore the aging park system. This system includes nearly fifty regional parks, nature centers, and neighborhood parks with almost 6,500 acres hosting an estimated 8.5 million visitors per year.

2001 The county opens Snake Warrior's Island Natural Area in West Davie. The site is named for legendary Seminole warrior Chitto Tustenuggee and is one of the earliest documented Seminole sites in the eastern Everglades.



Snake Warrior's Island Natural Area in Davie
Source: Broward County Parks and Recreation Division

2002 AARLC, the African-American Research Library & Cultural Center, opens on Sistrunk and Northwest Twenty-Seventh Avenue just west of Fort Lauderdale. In 2002, it is one of only three of its kind in the nation.



African-American Research Library & Cultural Center
Source: Broward County Libraries Division

2004 County Commissioner Diane Wasserman-Rubin becomes the first Cuban-American mayor of Broward County.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida opens the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, one of the county's principal tourist attractions, in northwest Hollywood. In 2007, the Tribe acquires the Hard Rock International franchise.

2005 The city of West Park incorporates the long time neighborhoods of Carver Ranches, Utopia, a portion of Miami Gardens, and Lake Forest. It is named West Park because it lies west of Pembroke Park.



2005 Hurricane Wilma damages Broward County School Board Building
Source: Photo by Susan Gillis, Historian

On October 24, Hurricane Wilma strikes leaving massive damage of \$20 billion and almost universal power outages. The Broward County School Board building in downtown Fort Lauderdale (constructed pre Hurricane Andrew) is impressively damaged, stripped of most of its glass

windows. Wilma is the most severe storm to hit Broward County in over seventy-five years.

2006 Ken Keechl is the first openly gay individual to be elected as County Commissioner. He becomes Broward's Mayor in 2009.

County Commissioner Josephus Eggelletion, Jr., becomes the first African-American to serve as Mayor of Broward.

2007 Six new articulated county buses include onboard internet access.

2008 The decline in the national economy begins to affect Broward County as the number of housing foreclosures and job loss begins to increase.

2010 Fox network chooses the small town of Pembroke Park as headquarters for its new TV drama *The Glades*, the first scripted series to be filmed in Broward County.

2011 County Commissioners vote unanimously for an Equal Benefits Ordinance, requiring companies doing business (contracts of \$100,000 or more) with Broward County to provide domestic partners with benefits equal to those of married employees.

2012 Everglades Holiday Park, located on US 27 at the edge of the Everglades in Southwest Ranches, comes under the auspices of Broward County Parks and Recreation. Featuring airboat roads and television celebrities "The Gator Boys," it is one of the top attractions in the State of Florida.

A groundbreaking is held for the newest version of the Broward County Courthouse, west of the current courthouse. It is to be a twenty story structure with an estimated cost of \$213 million.

2014 The Aviation Department opens the South Runway at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport

2015 Broward County celebrates its centennial year!



Produced by Broward County Libraries Division
Researched and Edited by Betty Whatley Cobb and Susan Gillis



Kelvin Watson, Director
Broward County Libraries Division

Broward County Library welcomes you to a new age of education, culture and entertainment services.

With 38 locations, Broward County Library occupies more than one million square feet. Within that space each day, 33,265 people utilize a library, 30,577 items are checked out, 1,073 people attend a library cultural program, 7,841 people use a library computer, 7,120 reference questions are answered, 16,144 books are checked out, 98 people attend a computer class and 178 job seekers receive assistance.

In addition to print materials, library customers may access many resources online from wherever they choose, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, streaming movies, music, online classes and portions of the Broward County Historical Archives.

Many artifacts and other items related to Broward County history can be viewed at the Main Library. The African-American Research Library and Cultural Center also features special cultural and historical collections that are in the process of being digitized for community access and preservation.

Broward County Library is your window to a world of discovery, creation, learning and more! We invite you to visit the library in person or online, and explore the wealth of cultural, educational and recreational opportunities that await. For more information, visit us at Broward.org/Library.



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1915 - 2015



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