

The high life on Bayshore

Those bodacious buildings that line that beautiful boulevard? We size up the perks and main players of all 15.

By Times Staff

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They afford stunning vistas of Hillsborough Bay and bird's-eye views of joggers, bicyclists and parading Gasparilla pirates. They also have one of Tampa's most coveted addresses: Bayshore Boulevard. Bayshore began sprouting condominium towers in the 1960s, forever changing the skyline of mostly single-family homes. Since then, thousands of people have taken up residency in more than a dozen high-rises along Tampa's most scenic street. And more keep coming. The Alagon and Bellamy are the newest, fetching prices in the seven digits. The buildings have personalities as varied as the residents themselves. Here is a snapshot of 15 condo towers along Bayshore, from Platt Street on the north to Gandy Boulevard on the south.

Parkside at One Bayshore

Address: 275 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR Built: 2005

Stories: 17

Units: 103

WHAT THEY SELL for: \$450,000 to \$2.2-million

Amenities: Pool terrace, two workout facilities, conference and game room, 24-hour security

WHO LIVES THERE: Sherrill Hudson, chairman and chief executive officer of TECO Energy.

OF NOTE: "We're on Bayshore, but feel like we're downtown urbanites because we can walk across the bridge to Jackson's, the convention center or the (St. Pete Times) Forum," says Jim Walters, a Smith & Associates real estate agent who owns a 3,640-square-foot unit on the 16th floor that's for sale for \$2.2-million.

345 Bayshore

Address: 345 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR Built: 1998, converted from apartments to condos in December 2002

Stories: 20

Units: 241, about 70 are rented and seven are vacant

WHAT THEY SELL for: \$275,000 to \$699,900

Amenities: Complimentary coffee every morning in the club room. Community billiards room, library with a fireplace, business center and wine cellar. Outside pool, spa, gas grill and dog walk. Units have views of the Hillsborough Bay or the downtown Tampa skyline.

WHO LIVES THERE: A pet-friendly environment with no size restriction on pets, the building counts plenty of Labrador retrievers, Dalmatians and Yorkshire terriers as residents. Many of the human occupants work at Tampa General Hospital, a short walk away.

Bayshore Royale

Address: 2109 Bayshore Blvd.

Year built: 1924

STORIES: 10

Units: 101, including Ceviche restaurant

What they sell for: \$90,000 to \$400,000

Amenities: Pool and spa

Who lives there: Mostly 50-somethings. About 15 percent of residents are renters.

OF NOTE: The building used to be a well-known hotel. The big front lawn is a popular spot for watching the Gasparilla parade and races.

Harbour House

ADDRESS: 2401 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1964

STORIES: 13

Units: 142

What THEY sell for: \$220,000 to 500,000

Amenities: 24-hour doorman, one covered parking space per unit.

Who lives there: 20- to 100-year-olds. About 30 percent are renters.

OF NOTE: Originally the first apartment building on Bayshore, it converted into condos about 1979.

The Atrium on the Bayshore

Address: 2413 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1982

STORIES: 23

units: 126

What they sell for: \$400,000s to \$525,000

Amenities: Two tennis courts atop a five-story garage, pool, hot tub, 24-hour guard service, entertainment room

Who lives there: A diverse mix of younger and older professionals and a few retirees. Most units are owner occupied.

OF NOTE: The atrium lobby extends to the top floor and is filled with lush landscaping. The building has interior glass elevators and large, curved balconies.

Howell Park

Address: 2401 S Ardson Place

YEAR BUILT: 1974

STORIES: Nine

units: 56

What they sell for: \$300,000 to \$500,000

Amenities: Pool, gazebo, maid service, gardens.

Who lives there: Former Circuit Judge John F. Germany, who was president of the Friends of the Library, which funded his namesake library downtown. Residents must be 55 or older. Only two units are leased.

Bayshore Diplomat

Address: 2611 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1974

Stories: 18

Number of units: 119

What they sell for: \$200,000s to \$500,000s, with three penthouses in the \$800,000s

Amenities: Doorman/concierge service, tennis courts, pool, sauna, social room with full kitchen

Who lives there: Mostly middle-aged and senior residents. Trophy king George Levy and his wife, Judy. Less than 10 percent of the units are leased.

OF NOTE: Concave building shape produces unique styling in rooms and waterfront views for almost all residents.

The Stovall

Address: 3203 Bayshore Blvd.

Stories: 19

YEAR BUILT: 2002

Number of units: 33

What they sell for: \$800,000 to more than \$1-million

Amenities: Pool, valet, 24-hour security guard, conference room, library

WHO LIVES THERE: Former chief executive of Walter Industries Don DeFosset and his wife, Janet. Mostly 30- to 50-year-olds, plus a few seniors. All are owner occupied, according to the property manager.

OF NOTE: A social committee plans various events throughout the year.

The Monte Carlo

Address: 3301 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1984

Stories: 24

Units: 204

WHAT THEY SELL FOR: \$400,000s

Amenities: 24-hour guard and concierge service, pool, two tennis courts, gym, atrium garden, party facility, guest suite, library

WHO LIVES THERE: Joy McCann Culverhouse, widow of former Bucs owner Hugh Culverhouse, lives in one of the penthouses, which is said to have a dining room designed to serve the entire team. H. Lee Moffitt owns a unit. About 5 percent of the condos are rentals.

Bayshore Regency Condominium

Address: 3435 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1988

Stories: 21

Number of Units: 33

WHAT THEY SELL FOR: \$700,000

Amenities: Pool, clubhouse, 24-hour security, library, undercover parking, tennis courts, exercise room, large lobby and valet parking

WHO LIVES THERE: Former Mayor Sandy Freedman and Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center donors Hinks and Elaine Shimberg. Mostly retirees and working professionals. Nearly all are owner occupied.

OF NOTE: One of the penthouses has a \$20,000 bathtub; another has remote-controlled drapes. The original buyers had the option of designing their own floor plans.

Canterbury Tower

Address: 3501 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1978

Stories: 15

Units: 125

WHAT THEY SELL FOR: Each resident negotiates and pays a fee to live there for the rest of his or her life.

Amenities: A hospital wing for long-term care, weekly housekeeping and linens. Swimming pool, beauty parlor, gym, library.

WHO LIVES THERE: Former Democratic U.S. Rep. Sam Gibbons and his wife, Betty Culbreath Gibbons, widow of former Tampa Electric Co. chief H.L. Culbreath. Minimum age is 62.

OF NOTE: "In the funny jargon of Canterbury, the residents refer to themselves as 'the inmates,' recognizing that once in, they will probably never leave," Dudley Clendinen wrote in a 2002 New York Times article.

Clendinen spent time there visiting his mother. He met residents ages 70 to 108, most of them women, who outnumbered men 3-1. "There are teetotalers, drinkers and big gamblers, husbands and wives who have grown old and sweet together, like candies in a box, and couples who just tolerate each other," he wrote. Most say they have outlived their own expectations.

The Alagon on Bayshore

Address: 3507 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 2006

STORIES: 23

units: 47 in the Mediterranean-style tower, three city homes on the ground level

WHAT THEY SELL FOR: \$1-million to \$3.9-million

Amenities: Stone and hardwood floors offered as upgrades, granite counters in kitchens and bathrooms, Roman tubs in bathrooms, 9-foot ceilings, sound insulated floors, fitness center, theater room, billiards room, card room with poker and bridge tables, social room with bar and catering kitchen, heated pool and spa, and two visitor guest suites

Who lives there: 30- to 60-year-olds. Average resident is in his 40s.

Bayshore Towers

ADDRESS: 4015 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1962, converted from apartments to condos in 1980.

STORIES: 17

UNits: 85, plus one beauty parlor

What they sell for: One-bedroom condos go for about \$200,000; two bedrooms average \$350,000.

Amenities: Pool, bike shed, laundry facilities, small exercise room overlooking bay

Who lives there: Yuppies who recognize a bargain; retirees, including some of the original renters; medical students; Air Force personnel; and a few families, which have combined two units. About 30 percent are renters.

OF NOTE: The units are small, but the brick building is solid. It may have been used as a civil defense shelter for its first 10 years.

The Bellamy on Bayshore

Address: 4201 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 2006

STORIES: 21

units: 61

WHAT THEY SELL FOR: Low \$800,000s to \$2.8-million

Amenities: Private elevator entry to each unit, two guest suites, poolside gardens with outdoor fireplace and grills, waterfront fitness center, billiards area, wine cellar with private storage lockers, theater, library and conference center

OF NOTE: The building was named after Francis Bellamy, the author of the Pledge of Allegiance, who used to live nearby on Wallcraft Avenue.

The Pinnacle

Address: 4141 Bayshore Blvd.

YEAR BUILT: 1975

Stories: 22

units: 93

What they sell for: \$200,000 to \$600,000

Amenities: Upper- and lower-level recreation rooms, card room and billiards room with a kitchen on the lower level, pool, his and hers gyms, three guest suites

WHO LIVES THERE: A lot of younger people, who replaced older people who left. The building is not as expensive as others along Bayshore and remains in relatively good shape and contemporary.

OF NOTE: It was one of the first condos on Bayshore to offer guest suites. It won an architectural award the year it was built.

- Compiled by Alexandra Zayas, Rick Gershman, Elisabeth Dyer, Erika Vidal, Jonathan Milton and Amy Scherzer.