

# Naples Daily News

Life

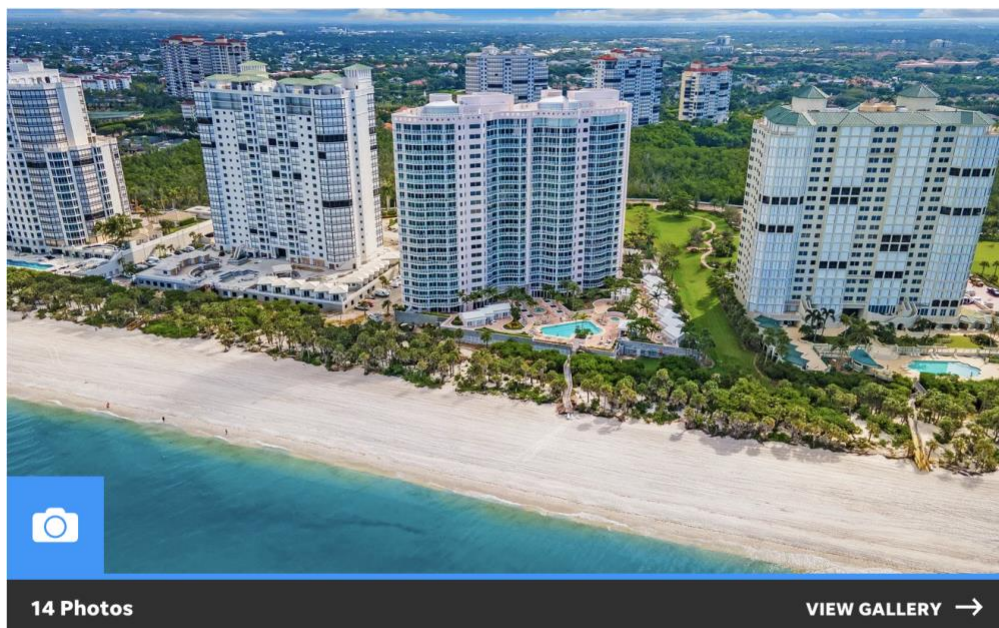
## From the Archives: Historic highs – And the tallest buildings in Southwest Florida



**B.D. Green**

Naples Daily News

Aug. 3, 2025, 5:06 a.m. ET



14 Photos

[VIEW GALLERY](#) →

### Penthouse sells for \$12.5 million in Bay Colony, a record for the Brighton

A penthouse at the Brighton in Bay Colony sold for \$12.5 million, a record for the high-rise building.

Looking back through [time](#), the world's tallest man-made structure was the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. It held that position over 3,800 years, until the Lincoln Cathedral was built in 1311. France's Strasbourg Cathedral, completed in 1439, was the world's tallest building until 1874.

The world's first "skyscraper" was built in 1885 in Chicago. All told, 11 American buildings have held the title of tallest building in the world, mostly in New York City and the borough of Manhattan.

Today the world's tallest building is located in Dubai. The Burj Khalifa was built in 2009 and is 2,717 ft. tall.

The tallest building in the U.S. since 2013 is NYC's One World Trade Center. Prior to the attacks, the twin towers of the first World Trade Center occupied the second and third positions on the list for the world.

## Florida's tallest

The state has 45 buildings that are 550 feet or higher. The majority are located in Miami. The rest are in Tampa and Jacksonville. Surprisingly, none of them are in Orlando.

The title of tallest belongs to Panorama Tower (826 ft.) in Miami.

The tallest building on the West Coast of Florida soars above St. Petersburg's skyline – The Residences at 400 Central at 515 feet.



The roof of High Point Place in downtown Fort Myers is being replaced after it was damaged by Hurricane Irma in 2017. The tallest of five buildings stand at 32 stories high and are the tallest buildings between Miami and Tampa. The roof on all the buildings are being replaced by Crowther Roofing. *Andrew West, The News-Press*

## Fort Myers tallest

The tallest structure in Fort Myers and all of Lee County is High Point I. The 33-story residential condominium building reaches a height of 341



feet, according to the council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. Construction started in 2004 and was completed in 2007. It is located at 2104 West First Street.



Bonair Towers in Fort Myers; date unknown. *Provided By Lee County*



The 1965 construction of Bonair Towers in Fort Myers. *News-Press Archives*

Before that, the 11-story “Fort Myers Housing Authority edifice at 1915 Halgrim served as the tallest structure in the city when it debuted in 1965,” according to a April 8, 2024, News-Press article written by Phil Fernandez. Known as Bonair Towers, it “cost of \$1.1 million” and “its pilings had a total combined length of nearly three miles.”



The towers at Kalea Bay, North Naples. *Provided By Kalea Bay*

## Naples tallest

The tallest structure in Naples is Kalea Bay Tower 1, at 246 feet, according to the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

Before that, the Iberia Bank building, on the corner of Goodlette-Frank Road and Golden Gate Parkway, and the Fifth Third Center on U.S. 41 and Vanderbilt Beach Road, were said to be the tallest, according to a Sept. 22, 2016, filing in the *Naples Daily News*.



The Fifth Third Center, near the corner of U.S. 41 and Vanderbilt Beach Road, can be seen from another high rise just south Wednesday, September 21, 2016 in Naples. The structure, along with the Iberia Bank building on the corner of Goodlette-Frank Road and Golden Gate Parkway, is the tallest in Naples. *Luke Franke/Naples Daily News*



The Iberia Bank building, on the corner of Goodlette-Frank Road and Golden Gate Parkway, can be seen from the ground Wednesday, September 21, 2016 in Naples. The building, along with the Fifth Third Center on U.S. 41 and Vanderbilt Beach Road, is the tallest in Naples. *Luke Franke/Naples Daily News*