

DINING FINDS

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Takeout

Red Fox Diner, Lighthouse Point

Address: 3640-1 N. Federal Highway, Lighthouse Point

Phone: 954-783-7714

Type of food: Diner

Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday (breakfast only)

Dining facilities: Homey full-service restaurant with some counter seating, take out and catering.

Service: Friendly and accommodating, like eating out in the old days. Regulars eat three squares a day here. On Saturdays and Sundays, you'll wait in line.

Delivery: To limited areas with a minimum \$100 order. Call for areas.

The Dish

They've been serving homemade food here for the past 41 years. That's how long they've been hand-packing one of my favorite reasons to come here - the half-pound burger made with fresh, never frozen, ground meat. In the decade or so that I've been chowing down on them, the Lighthouse Point burger (\$8.95) has always impressed me.

It includes a juicy, well-seasoned patty heaped with sauteed fresh mushrooms and onions, two strips of crisp lean bacon and plenty of melted cheddar on a big, fluffy cornmeal-dusted Kaiser roll.

Order it medium, like I do, and that's exactly how it comes. The burger is all the more pleasurable with a choice of sides. As much as I love french fries, I know the potato salad is great with big chunks of red skin potatoes in a creamy dressing that doesn't taste like mayonnaise overkill and is mildly sweet.

Portions are big and prices fair.

-- Judith Stocks