

FRITSCH EDWARD J  
Form 4  
February 27, 2012

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
FRITSCH EDWARD J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES INC  
[HIW]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)  
 Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
President & CEO

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES, INC., 3100 SMOKETREE COURT, SUITE 600

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/23/2012

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

RALEIGH, NC 27604

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount or Price		
Common Stock	02/23/2012	02/23/2012	M		7,122 A \$ 26.27	366,749	D
Common Stock	02/23/2012	02/23/2012	S		7,122 (1) D \$ 32.5	359,627	D
Common Stock	02/24/2012	02/24/2012	M		13,831 A \$ 26.27	373,458	D
Common Stock	02/24/2012	02/24/2012	S		13,831 (1) D \$ 32.5	359,627	D
						70	I

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Common  
Stock

By  
Children

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.27	02/23/2012	02/23/2012	M	7,122	<u>(2)</u>	02/28/2012	Common Stock	7,122
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.27	02/24/2012	02/24/2012	M	13,831	<u>(2)</u>	02/28/2012	Common Stock	13,831

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
FRITSCH EDWARD J C/O HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES, INC. 3100 SMOKETREE COURT, SUITE 600 RALEIGH, NC 27604	X		President & CEO	

## Signatures

/s/ Willis B. Howard Attorney-in-fact for Edward J. Fritsch

02/27/2012

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Options scheduled to expire in less than two days if not exercised.

(2) Options vested ratably over 4 years on March 1st of each year after the grant date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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