



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

Welcome to a newly expanded Wildwood Connection citizens newsletter.

This issue coincides with the city's new fiscal year, new strategic plan, new budget, and the addition of a public engagement specialist, Linda Piotrowicz, who looks forward to being your city ambassador of sorts.

Many thanks to Marc Correnti, human resource generalist, for his outstanding prior work on the Wildwood Connection. He leaves big shoes to fill, but is getting a well-deserved break from the newsletter so he can get back to coordinating the city's growing team of professionals working to serve you--Wildwood's most important asset.

WILDWOOD WINDS DOWN AS IT CLEANS UP AFTER HURRICANE IAN

Hurricane Ian tracked farther south than first predicted and Wildwood was largely spared serious destruction, much to the relief of residents and city officials.

"We are all thankful that the worst-case scenario did not occur here, and we extend our thoughts and prayers to fellow Floridians who were less fortunate," City Manager Jason McHugh said on Friday following the storm.

After working all night during the storm, ensuring city streets remained open for first responders and other essential personnel, Wildwood's public works department refocused efforts on clean-up operations.

City crews began picking up residential vegetative storm debris on Monday, and will continue through Friday.

For collection details, please see www.wildwood-fl.gov > Community > [News Releases](#).

Wildwood public works crews clean up after the storm, below left



NEXT HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 5

Sumter County's next Household Electronics & Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection Amnesty Day is set for Saturday, November 5, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Lake Okahumpka Park, 6085 E SR 44, Wildwood.

Items accepted include automotive fluids and batteries, cleaners, fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, latex and oil-based paints, paint removers and thinners, pool chemicals, solvents, and more.

For complete details, please see www.sumtercountyfl.gov > Government Services > [Solid Waste](#).

DID YOU KNOW ?



The City of Wildwood mowed
744 miles of ROW and
1740 acres of property
during the past year.



WILDWOOD STREET SWEEPERS START OFF STRONG

The newly formed Wildwood Street Sweepers completed a successful first project on Friday, September 16, 2022.

A community initiative spearheaded by Wildwood's code compliance manager, Tara Tradd, volunteers undertake activities throughout the city to enhance aesthetics and improve quality of life.

After convening at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, participants broke into groups and picked up trash along portions of Huey Street, Clarke Street, Lemon Street, and CR 462.

By 11:30 a.m., the group had collected and removed more than 1,600 gallons of trash.

They reassembled at the community center to enjoy lunch together, celebrate the accomplishment, and socialize.

The group will meet again in October to discuss, prioritize, and begin planning future projects. Tradd says the group could become a Keep Florida Beautiful affiliate if interest and participation continue to grow.

For more information, including how to get involved, call 352-661-6067 or email ttradd@wildwood-fl.gov.



The Wildwood Street Sweepers at MLK Jr. Community Center



WHAT IS CODE COMPLIANCE?

Code compliance is prevention, detection, investigation, and enforcement of violations of city ordinances regulating public health, safety and welfare, public works, business activities, building standards, land-use, and/or municipal affairs.

Routine inspections throughout the city note the condition of residences and businesses. Common violations include the following:

- overgrown property
- junk and debris
- garbage cans left at street after pickup day
- derelict motor vehicles
- materials capable of holding water
- accumulation of trash and litter
- open and unsecured buildings
- unsafe structures
- prohibited signs
- noise violations
- construction in right-of-way
- operating businesses in improper zone

Citizen cooperation is key to community success. Working together, we maintain property values, improve our neighborhoods, and preserve Wildwood as a city we are all proud to call home.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT IMPROVES SEWER LINE ON JACKSON STREET

Wildwood's utilities team recently completed rehabilitation of .87 miles of eight-inch gravity sewer line on Jackson Street.

The pipe reconditioning was undertaken in advance of new pavement scheduled for the area in 2024.

Shown below, both left and right, are pictures of the team in action.



TREATMENT PLANT TOURS

Did you know Wildwood's wastewater treatment plant gives tours? Visitors are amazed at just how interesting this science really is.

Look at microbes through a microscope. Learn about conditions affecting their growth.

To arrange a tour for your group or your classroom, please call 352-330-1346.

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines stormwater as water that occurs after a rainfall event and flows over hardened or impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, and parking lots.

In developed areas, these surfaces prevent the water from naturally absorbing into the ground. As the water travels into the stormwater drainage system, it can collect oil, chemicals, bacteria, sediment, pet waste, trash, and other pollutants. It is important to know stormwater systems are not connected to sanitary sewer systems.

Once the water enters the stormwater drainage system, these pollutants or illicit discharges can contaminate Florida's natural resources such as ponds, lakes, wetlands, oceans, and our drinking water.

Pollutants or illicit discharges that enter into the city's stormwater drainage system are in violation of Stormwater Ordinance 2022-59.

For more information about stormwater and how to prevent pollution, see www.wildwood-fl.gov/publicworks/stormwater.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE PAGE FOR STORMWATER!



WWW.WILDWOOD-FL.GOV/PUBLICWORKS/PAGE/STORMWATER

LEARN ABOUT SOME HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEAN WATER!



NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGINS OCTOBER 1

The City of Wildwood began a new fiscal year October 1, 2022 (FY 2023). It will run through September 30, 2023.

The budget for FY 2023 was adopted by city commissioners at their September 26, 2022, meeting. The vote followed discussion and public hearings that evening and on September 12, 2022, as well as presentations and discussions during workshops in July and August.

Produced in accordance with the Florida Statutes and in support of city-wide goals, the budget incorporates a millage rate of 3.0000 mills, 7.6% less than the FY 2022 millage rate of 3.2478.

The city's strategic plan for FY 2023 through FY 2027 was adopted concurrently with the FY 2023 budget. This five-year framework for future initiatives includes launch of the downtown master plan implementation.

In addition to supporting downtown redevelopment, the adopted FY 2023 budget provides financial resources to kickstart five additional goals in the strategic plan:

- community engagement
- transportation
- affordable housing
- infrastructure
- employee recruitment and retainment

Public input was gathered on a draft strategic plan during August and September, considered at length, and incorporated wherever feasible. A final plan was then presented with the final budget at the commission's September 26 meeting.

The adopted budget, including a copy of the approved strategic plan, is available on the city's website. Go to www.wildwood-fl.gov > Government > Departments > Finance.

Wildwood Strategic Plan Goals

Community Engagement
Enhance public trust, encourage civic pride, and build cross-community partnerships that enhance the quality of life for Wildwood residents

Transportation
Invest in road and sidewalk infrastructure to provide for connections and future growth

Affordable Housing
Positively impact availability of affordable housing through partnerships and policy development/implementation

Downtown Redevelopment
Revitalize the City's core downtown area to spur investment and redevelopment

Infrastructure
Assess, construct, and maintain the City's municipal infrastructure systems, focusing on water, wastewater, and stormwater systems

Employee Recruitment and Retainment
Provide residents with superior service through the recruitment and retainment of talented and dedicated employees

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Expenditures by Function - City Wide

Function	Budgeted Amount
Physical Environment	\$9,250.00
Debt Service	\$2,001,345.00
Economic Environment	\$344,745.00
General Government Services	\$4,440,130.00
Culture & Recreation	\$6,856,285.00
Other Financing Sources	\$8,207,730.00
Public Safety	\$8,462,510.00
Transportation	\$9,055,695.00
Utilities	\$24,611,105.00

Expenditures

Expenditure Overview

In FY23, total budgeted expenditures, exclusive of fund transfers and fund balances, are budgeted at \$46.984 million, which is 28% more than FY21. Included in the budgeted expenditures are \$3.61 million in capital equipment and significant non-recurring expenditures as well as \$22.36 million in capital project expenses.

General Fund Expenditures

General Government Services (Budgeted)	4,440,130.00
Culture & Recreation (Budgeted)	6,856,285.00
Transportation (Budgeted)	9,055,695.00
Public Safety (Budgeted)	8,462,510.00
Other Financing Sources (Budgeted)	8,207,730.00
Economic Environment (Budgeted)	344,745.00
Debt Service (Budgeted)	2,001,345.00

FY23 Utility Fund Expenditures

Physical Environment (Budgeted)	9,250.00
Utilities (Budgeted)	24,611,105.00
Other Financing Sources (Budgeted)	8,207,730.00
Debt Service (Budgeted)	2,001,345.00

Values

WILDWOOD POLICE DONATE \$4,000 IN SCHOOL SUPPLIES

On August 10, 2022, Wildwood's police department held its annual Pack a Cruiser event at Walmart.

The team raised more than \$4,000 worth of school supplies, which were donated to students in need.

Special thanks to all community members who came out and donated supplies and money to support the cause. Many students are benefiting from your generosity.

Thanks also to the department's Ms. Wrightam, Lt. Harrie, Officer Mejias, Reserve Sgt. Everett, CSI Farley, and wonderful C.O.P. volunteers, Jerry and Angelo, for helping our community outreach unit run a successful event.





MEET TYLER JACKSON: A.J. JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

Tyler Jackson was selected from more than 50 applicants as the recipient of the Anthony Johnson Memorial Police Scholarship. The scholarship honors Wildwood police officer A.J. Johnson, who tragically passed away in December of 2021.

Tyler is pictured at left standing between Chief Randall Parmer (right) and Steve Munz, owner of Galaxy Home Solutions, whose generous donation made the scholarship possible.

Tyler took time to share more about himself and his thoughts on attending the academy and joining the Wildwood team.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Milford, Connecticut. When I turned 18, I packed up and moved in with my older cousin in Port St. Lucie. Later, I moved to Inverness and discovered I really like the Lake-Sumter County area.

What's something most people don't know about you?

I've been into auto racing since I was seven. It was a family thing I grew up around, and for a while it became more than just a hobby. I raced cars at tracks all around Connecticut. Now I do it for fun, racing go-carts in Fruitland Park, Ocala, Tampa, and anywhere else I find a good place and a good race.

What motivated or inspired you to train to become a police officer?

It's something I've always wanted to do but never had the chance. As a kid, I wanted to be police officer, but I went to work right after high school and have always had to work to support myself and my family. When I saw this scholarship opportunity, I thought it was the best opportunity there could be to realize that dream for me and for my four-year-old son. He is big into Paw Patrol and it is exciting to explain I'm going to be like his favorite character Chase.

What do you think will be the most challenging aspects of the police academy?

Retaining a lot of knowledge in a short period of time, understanding it's knowledge I'll need and will need to know how to use for the rest of my career. This scholarship is affording me the opportunity to attend without having to work another job at the same time, so that will help me manage the workload at the academy and let me process and absorb it all more thoroughly.

What attracted you to the Wildwood police department?

The new police facility is gorgeous. It seems like the city is doing a lot for the department and working hard to improve. Everyone there has been really helpful and welcoming, making me feel more and more comfortable all the time about where I'm going.

Is there an area of law enforcement you would like to specialize in as you grow your career?

I haven't really thought too much in that direction as I start out. I've always believed that if I work hard, I'll end up where I am needed and supposed to be...but down the road, I wouldn't mind becoming a detective. I'm just very grateful to get my foot in the door and take things one step at a time to start.

Describe one of the most important and/or memorable days you have experienced.

The day my son was born was definitely the most exciting day I've ever had. And it completely changed things and how I live my life. People tell you it does, but you can't understand it until you actually experience it.

If you could meet one person, living or not, who would it be and what would you ask them?

Jimmie Johnson, seven-time NASCAR champion. I'd love to hang out with him. He's successful on many fronts, including racing, business, and being a good father. It would be great to spend time with him and learn.

Is there anything else you want the Wildwood community to know?

Just that I'm thankful for this opportunity and that I know what it means, being in honor of Officer Johnson. I'm grateful to everyone who has made it possible.

WILDWOOD PARKS & RECREATION

FLAG FOOTBALL




REGISTRATION: \$50/PLAYER
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 7TH
AGES 5-15

WE NEED COACHES!
 COACHES KIDS PLAY FREE!

PRACTICES START WEEK OF OCTOBER 17
 GAMES START OCTOBER 29TH

QUESTIONS? CALL 352-461-0134

WSP
 CITY OF WILDWOOD
 PARKS & RECREATION

FRIDAY NIGHT Fall Ball!



6:00P - 9:00P **\$5** **AGES 5-12**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2022
MILLENNIUM PARK BALL FIELDS
1300 HUEY STREET, WILDWOOD, FL 34785

MORE INFORMATION (352) 461-0134
 WWW.WILDWOOD-FL.GOV

PARKS AND RECREATION HAPPENINGS

Follow us on Facebook to get up-to-the-minute information about all of our events--including sports, classes, movies, senior activities, special programs, and so much more.



Historic Baker House
 Circa 1890

For more information on Public and Private Tours/Special Events Please call

352-461-0134




City of Wildwood

**HOMECOMING
 AT THE
 BAKER HOUSE**

Celebrating 10 years of the Baker House in Wildwood!

Meet one of the original Bakers who lived in the home, enjoy costume displays and dancing from the 1890's, historical tours, fresh Florida orange juice, and more

Tickets must be bought in advance at the Wildwood Community Center at 6500 Powell Road.
 Call 352-461-0134 for questions!

Saturday, October 15th
10:00a - 2:00p

Tickets: \$5.00/person

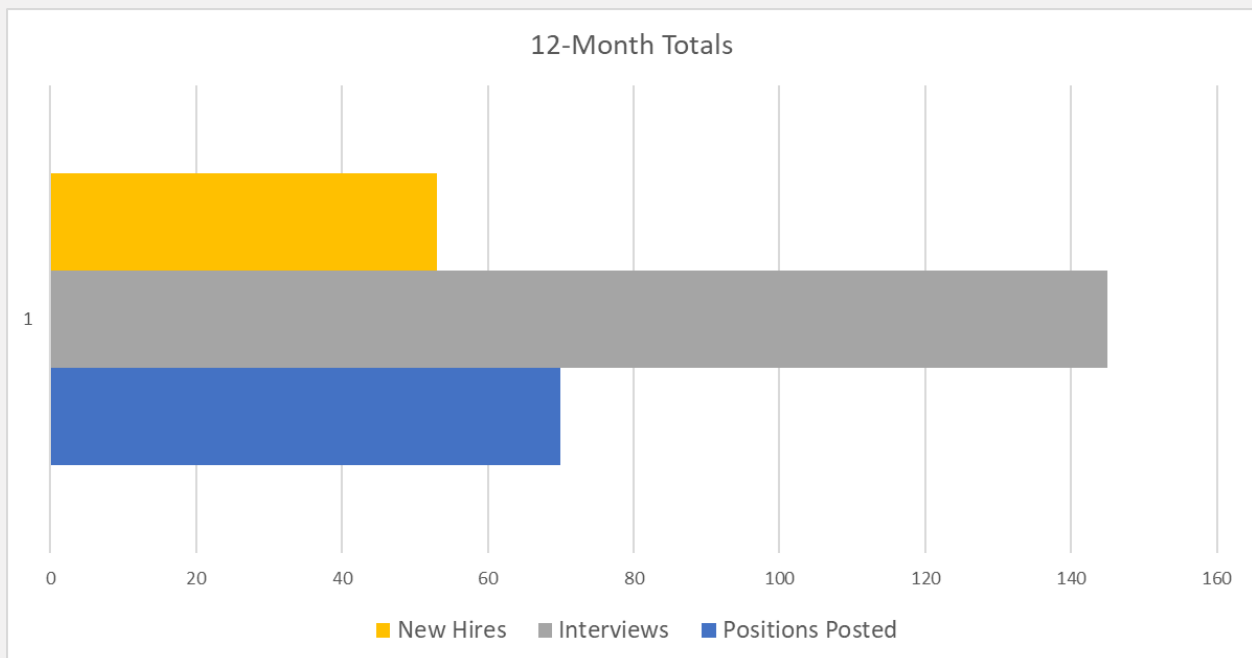
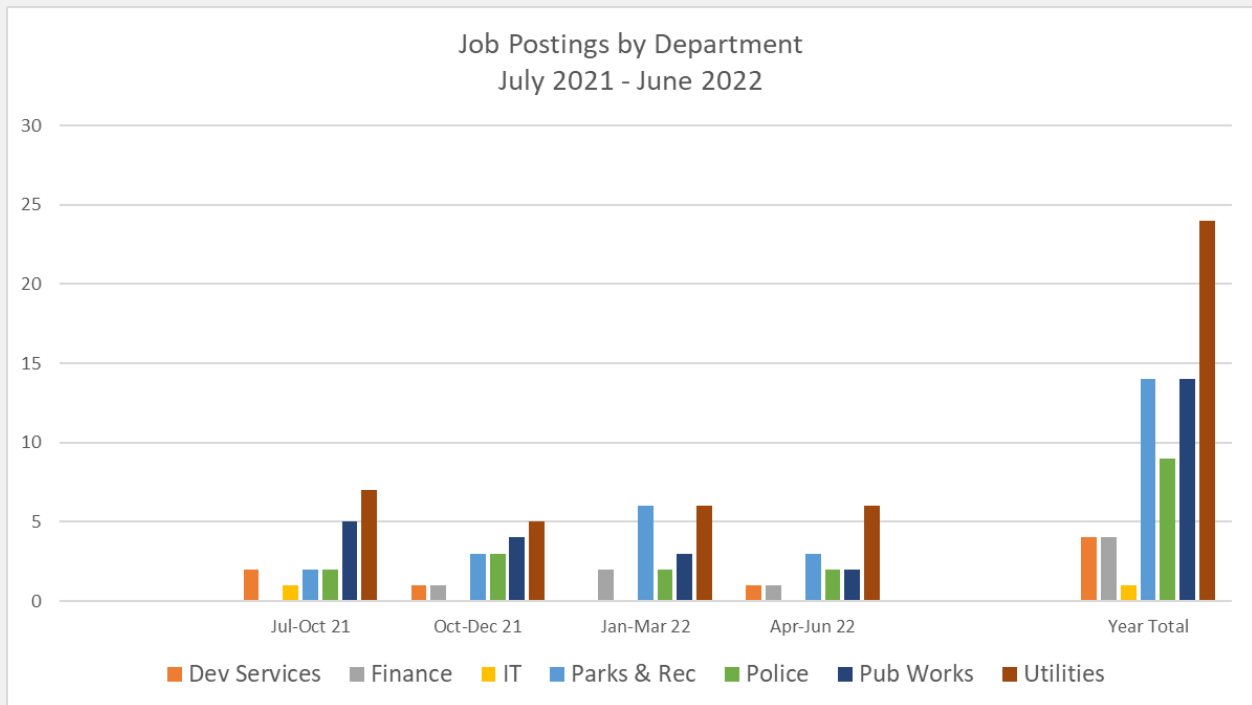
JOIN OUR TEAM

CITY CAREERS

The City of Wildwood is growing and needs to grow its enthusiastic, dedicated team to continue providing the level of service that residents, businesses, and visitors have come to enjoy.

Working for Wildwood is more than just a job. Career-oriented opportunities abound along with an attractive array of benefits.

To learn more and view current job openings, go to www.wildwood-fl.gov/hr.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

City Commission

October 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.

October 24, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Code Compliance

November 1, 2022
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

November 1, 2022
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

November 1, 2022
2:15 p.m.

General Information

Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are held at City Hall, 100 N. Main St.

Agendas and minutes are posted on the city's website. Go to www.wildwood-fl.gov and click on Agenda.

Meetings are open to the public. Attend in person or remotely by going to the city website and clicking on Government > Attend a Meeting Virtually.

Anyone wishing to be heard must be sworn in and speak at the designated time.

NEED SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

Wildwood's parks and properties feature amenities to suit all interests.

Are you looking for athletic fields and courts? You can also find arts, performance, and event spaces; fitness and wellness opportunities; boat ramp and waterfront areas; dog park and open areas; playgrounds and picnic shelters; and much more.

Options at the Baker House, Clarke Park, Huey Street tennis courts, Lake Deaton Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Millennium Park, Oxford Community Center, and Wildwood Community Center are all available to rent.

Choose from meeting rooms and other indoor spaces, basketball courts, tennis courts, football fields, softball fields, multipurpose fields, pavilions, and even the entire Baker House and grounds, perfect for weddings and events.

To learn more about availability and rates, visit www.wildwood-fl.gov and click on Rent.

You can also call the friendly and knowledgeable parks and recreation staff, who are happy to answer your questions and assist you in choosing just the right facility for your next function.

COMMUNITY UNITY 5K FUN RUN & THANKSGIVING PICNIC



RUN, WALK, EAT, & GIVE THANKS!

WILDWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

NOV. 19, 2022

9AM - 1PM

Join the City of Wildwood in our first annual Fun Run and Thanksgiving Picnic. The City has joined together to bring you this FREE event! Bring your favorite picnic blanket! Music, games, and giving thanks!

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL 352-461-0134

CITY INFORMATION

Commission

Ed Wolf
Mayor
ewolf@wildwood-fl.gov

Pamala Harrison-Bivins
Mayor Pro Tem
pbivins@wildwood-fl.gov

Joe Elliott
Commissioner
jelliott@wildwood-fl.gov

Marcos Flores
Commissioner
mflores@wildwood-fl.gov

Julian Green
Commissioner
jgreen@wildwood-fl.gov

City Hall

100 N. Main St.
Wildwood, FL 34785
352-330-1330
www.wildwood-fl.gov
facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida

Directory

City Manager
Jason McHugh
352-330-1332
jmchugh@wildwood-fl.gov

Development Services
352-330-1334

Human Resources
352-330-1340

Parks and Recreation
352-461-0134

Police (Non-Emergency)
352-330-1355

Police (Emergency)
911

Public Works
352-330-1343

Utilities
352-330-1336