



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

WELCOME TO WILDWOOD DEBUTS APRIL 19

The City of Wildwood will host a new event on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Welcome to Wildwood will include informational sessions inside City Hall, providing an overview of city government and services, while local businesses and organizations will exhibit outside in the City Hall courtyard.

Inside, attendees will learn more about Wildwood's operations and management, its relationships with The Villages® and Sumter County, its taxes and budget, and the services it provides.

"As the city continues to grow, we recognized a need to help residents navigate our growing menu of public services," said City Manager Jason McHugh. "We strove to create a program that appeals not only to new residents but those who have been here longer. Growth inevitably brings change, and one of our priorities is enhanced public engagement to improve both transparency and residents' understanding of everything we do."

The indoor informational sessions will be held from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. and repeat from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Department heads will explain what their teams do--as well as what they do not do--helping eliminate confusion and save residents time by ensuring they start in the right place when seeking help.

Outside from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., local businesses and organizations will be set up in the courtyard, enabling attendees of both indoor sessions to interact with representatives and learn more about their products and services.

"We are inviting the entire community," added Linda Piotrowicz, the city's public engagement specialist. "This isn't just about government. It's about meeting neighbors, learning more about one another, and bringing people together. Wildwood is full of diversity and is rich in cultural, historical, and entrepreneurial resources. It has so much to offer."

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided during the indoor informational sessions by popular downtown eatery Miz Kathi's Cotillion Southern Café.

An RSVP is requested to help plan accordingly, and exhibitor space is still available. Please email Linda Piotrowicz at lp Piotrowicz@wildwood-fl.gov or call 352-330-1330, ext. 110, by April 7, 2023.

DO I LIVE IN WILDWOOD?

Zip codes, postal addresses, and municipal boundaries can be different.

You can find the City of Wildwood's boundary map on the city's website at <https://tinyurl.com/WWCityMap>. This map will show whether your property falls within city limits.

Additional land-use maps can be found at <https://www.wildwood-fl.gov/building/page/city-maps>. For assistance with any of these maps, call 352-330-1334 to speak with a Development Services representative.

Welcome to Wildwood

Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Wildwood City Hall
100 N. Main Street

Learn about the City of Wildwood

Inside City Hall

1:00 - 3:30 p.m. & 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

info sessions on

city government
city services

attend for free

In the Courtyard

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

info booths by

local businesses
non-profit organizations

exhibit for free

register by 4/7/23

LPiotrowicz@wildwood-fl.gov
352-330-1330, ext. 110



WILDWOOD
FLORIDA

PLANS & RENDERINGS

The Garage



THE GARAGE WILL PROVIDE PARKING FOR EXISTING BUSINESSES AS WELL AS THE NEW COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.



WILDWOOD COMMISSION APPROVES DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT CONTRACT

Project Design to Begin Immediately; Demolition to Follow

Wildwood commissioners in March unanimously approved contract documents with GC Development of Lake County Inc., dba G3 Development, to redevelop city-owned property along Main Street/US 301 into new commercial space and a parking garage.

The project is the first component of Wildwood’s Downtown Master Plan, adopted by the city commission in November 2021. That plan provides the framework to transform the city’s core into a thriving, pedestrian-friendly hub connecting diverse neighborhoods and offering a multitude of shopping, dining, entertainment, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

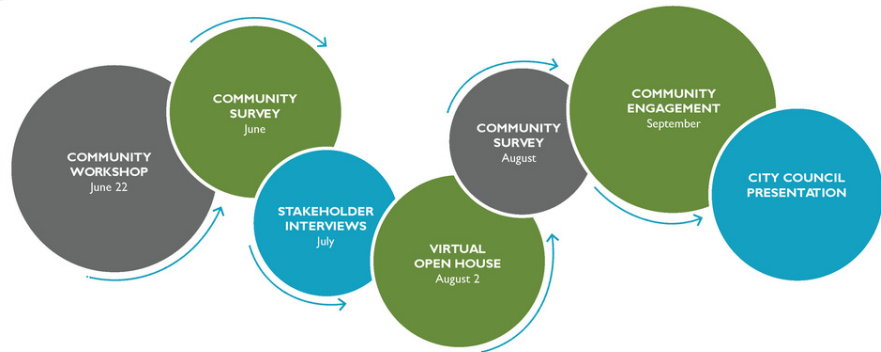
“These documents are the launchpad to propel our community’s vision into action,” explained City Manager Jason McHugh. “Citizens spoke loud and clear during engagement activities when we created this master plan, and they overwhelmingly identified redevelopment of the city’s downtown as their top priority. These documents provide an orderly, comprehensive approach to this project that will ensure the best outcome for the city and all involved.”

Included in the contract are a milestone-specific master core agreement linking a new parking garage to 8,000 square feet or more of new, leasable commercial space, a revitalization agreement outlining the process for the parking garage development, and a purchase-and-sale agreement for the vacant city-owned commercial buildings stipulating restrictions and standards G3 will be required to meet.

“This is an exciting time for Wildwood,” said Mayor Ed Wolf. “We are growing at an incredible rate and have an opportunity to vastly improve the quality of life for our citizens with this project. We listened carefully to what they’ve told us, and are now able to deliver on their requests for a better downtown district.”

The design-build strategy approved by commissioners is expected to save an estimated \$500,000 to \$750,000 in project costs. Project design will begin upon contract execution, with demolition of the vacant buildings to occur no more than 90 days later, pending issue of the demolition permit by Sumter County.

THE PROCESS



PARKING IN WILDWOOD

Did you know Wildwood has a parking ordinance?

Approved and enacted on February 24, 2020, O2020-13 updated Chapter 12 of the city's Code of Ordinances to provide consistency with Sumter County and The Villages® parking regulations.

In addition to restricting parking in specific locations such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and railroad tracks, the ordinance prohibits parking "in or on any city road, street, or right-of-way within the boundaries of the City of Wildwood, Florida."

"On-street parking poses challenges related to traffic flow, visibility, and safety, particularly in densely populated areas," explained City Manager Jason McHugh. "The city commission deliberated at length over this issue as members contemplated what was in the public's highest interests. Ultimately, they decided it was best to adopt a policy mirroring what was already in place in The Villages® neighborhoods and Sumter County."

Since the ordinance was implemented three years ago, Wildwood has focused on an educational approach to enforcement.

"We always seek compliance through an informed, cooperative community," said Police Chief Randy Parmer. "It can get complicated, though, when a lack of compliance manifests in repeated occurrences, complaints, and safety hazards. Our officers weigh a multitude of factors as they patrol our streets to ensure residents enjoy the safe environment and quality of life they have come to expect."

The entire text of O2020-13 can be found on the city's website, www.wildwood-fl.gov, under Government > Code Enforcement > Code of Ordinances and Land Development Regulations.

Parking Information



Did you know Wildwood has a parking ordinance?

Wildwood's O2020-13 was approved and enacted in February 2020 to provide consistency with Sumter County and The Villages® parking regulations.

In addition to restricting parking in specific locations such as sidewalks, crosswalks, railroad tracks, etc., the ordinance **prohibits parking "in or on any city road, street, or right-of-way within the boundaries of the City of Wildwood, Florida."**

Find the ordinance at <https://tinyurl.com/WWOrdinances>

BROKEN OAK DRIVE PROJECT MEETING

A community meeting will be held at City Hall from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023, to discuss planned improvements to Broken Oak Drive. The city's consulting engineers will be on hand to present specifics and answer questions from attendees.

This project is expected to affect neighborhood traffic patterns. Residents of Broken Oak Drive and Woodlane Meadows are encouraged to attend.



Questions?
Contact Lt. Kinder at
352-330-1355



PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Wildwood takes a proactive approach to managing and maintaining the 100-plus miles of asphalt streets under the responsibility of its Department of Public Works.

Using sophisticated, data-driven analysis, pavement is evaluated and categorized using a condition index rating, and then scheduled for appropriate preventative maintenance to ensure surfaces attain the best, most cost-effective conditions throughout extended lifespans. This approach saves millions of dollars in taxpayer costs while providing better-quality roads.

Among the streets identified to receive maintenance in 2023 are Arnold Court, Fifth Street, Fourth Street, Gray Avenue, Lee Street, Meadow Street, Mill Street, Mission Drive, Oak Street, Old 44A, Osceola Avenue, Pine Court, Pitt Street, Roy Street, Steward Street, Stone Street, Walker Road/CR 213, Wildwood Avenue, Wilson Street, and Woodlane Avenue.

Additional schedules and information on upcoming preventative and restorative roadwork will be published in a future issue of the Wildwood Connection.

AUTISM AWARENESS FUN RUN APRIL 22

Wildwood’s Police Department is hosting a fun run at Millennium Park on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in support of autism awareness.

Adults can participate in a non-timed 5K walk or run in the park along a non-paved trail, while children can participate in their own non-timed event on the same course.

Organizers will have rest/recharge stations along the route with water, bananas, and chairs for anyone who needs a break.

“Over the years, many of us on patrol have responded to situations in which autism presented special challenges,” said Officer Crystal Acevedo, who helped spearhead the event. “It’s always hard for us to see children, in particular, who need support beyond what we can provide on the scene. Even when we can offer information on outside resources, we want to do more. So we came up with this event to help raise community awareness and support a local organization that provides some of the things we can’t.”

Registration costs \$30 with proceeds going to the Jack and Allie nonprofit organization to assist families in need of autism support services.

Early registration closes April 1 and includes an event t-shirt. Late registration is available but will not provide a participation shirt.

For more information or to sign up, contact Officer Acevedo at cacevedo@wildwood-fl.gov or 352-330-1355.

2023
Wildwood Police Department
Autism Awareness
5K Trail Fun Run
 Note: This is not a timed run.
Saturday, April 22, 2023
Check-in 7:00 a.m. Run begins 8:00 a.m.
 Millennium Park, 6500 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL 34785

Registration Fee: \$30 per person*
 *includes t-shirt + Top 5 Runner Medals
 Fun Run to benefit Jack & Allie, a non-profit through Abels Learning Academy for Autism.

To register, email: Officer Acevedo
cacevedo@wildwood-fl.gov
 Register now through April 1st by emailing your name & number. We will contact you for further info.

Wildwood Police Department,
 3939 E. County Road 462, Wildwood, FL 34785
 (352) 330-1355



BLOOD DRIVE AT CITY HALL APRIL 12

The City of Wildwood will host a mobile blood drive on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. OneBlood’s Big Red Bus will be parked outside City Hall and appointments can be scheduled in advance at <https://donorportal.oneblood.org>.

According to OneBlood’s website, whole blood donation takes about 10-15 minutes. Each whole blood donation has the potential to save up to three lives. Donors must be in good health, 16 years old (16-year-olds need a Parental Consent Form) or older, and weigh a minimum of 110 lbs.

Donors receive a free \$20 gift card to Walmart and may receive other thank-you gifts depending on the current promotional campaign.



City of Wildwood's Annual

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Egg Hunt & Spring Event

9a - 1p

APRIL 8TH

2023

Free to attend!

EGG HUNTS, PRIZES, BOUNCE HOUSES, PETTING ZOO, AND MORE!
MILLENNIUM PARK BASEBALL FIELDS
1300 HUEY STREET

For questions, call (352) 461-0134 or email parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov



PARKS AND RECREATION SPECIAL EVENTS

For more programs, activities, and events, visit wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec and click on Recreation Programs.

YOUTH BASKETBALL



Registration opens April 1st

Cost: \$50/player

Ages: 5-15

Deadline: May 12th

Practices start: Last week of May

Games: Tuesdays and Thursdays



HAPPY ARBOR DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2023
10AM - 11AM

JOIN US BEHIND CITY HALL AS WE PLANT NEW TREES IN HONOR OF ARBOR DAY!
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED.



CALL 352-461-0134 OR
EMAIL parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov FOR QUESTIONS



SPLASH PAD

GRAND
OPENING

THIS APRIL!

FREE GIVEAWAYS, FOOD TRUCKS,
WATER DAY FUN, DJ, AND MORE!

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK
600 WALKER ROAD

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

April 4, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

April 4, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

April 4, 2023
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

April 10, 2023
9:00 a.m.
April 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

April 11, 2023
10:00 a.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.

GROW WITH US: CITY CAREERS

Working for Wildwood is more than just a job. The city offers long-term career opportunities along with a great benefits package.

Leadership regularly reviews compensation plans to ensure they remain competitive and recognize strong performance.

Employees work hard and have fun doing it, in an environment that focuses on superior, friendly service with a strong sense of community.

See current openings and submit a streamlined application at www.wildwood-fl.gov/hr.

STAY UP TO DATE ON CITY HAPPENINGS

You can keep up with Wildwood news and happenings in a variety of ways:

1. Check wildwood-fl.gov for general information.
2. Sign up for **notifications** at wildwood-fl.gov to have news delivered directly to your inbox.
3. Follow us on **Facebook** and get news in your feed:
 - City of Wildwood page:
<https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida>
 - Parks and Recreation Special Events page:
<https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodParksRecEvents>
 - Police Department page:
<https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodPoliceFL>



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows the Seaboard Rail Station on Main Street. The year and photographer are unknown.

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](https://www.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