



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we begin another year, I am in awe of how far we have come and excited about where we are going as a city.

It's no exaggeration to say I remember when Wildwood had a stop sign at the corner of US 301 and SR 44. We were a small, rural community built around and by the railroad. Every family in town was connected to Seaboard Airline Rail in one way or another.

Today, we are a rapidly growing, diversified community rich with the history and heritage of those who have lived their entire lives here, and the expansion of retirees and others who are coming in droves for good reason. Wildwood offers a multitude of housing options; great dining and entertainment; and excellent access to airports, beaches, theme parks, and major metropolitan areas.

As we continue to diversify and expand, it is critical we do not lose sight of our humble beginnings. We must embrace our roots as we branch out and blossom. I'm grateful we have such a passionate, dedicated, and talented team of city employees working every day to ensure our path forward is forged with careful thought, consideration, and common sense.

It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your mayor. Every day I speak with citizens and, more importantly, listen to them.

I encourage you to get involved in our community, whether you've lived here for decades or have just moved in.

Attend our city commission meetings. Take advantage of our parks, other facilities, and events. Participate in our outreach initiatives. Your voice matters. We are stronger and smarter when we work together.

- Mayor Ed Wolf

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT MOVES FORWARD

On October 31, 2022, Wildwood’s city commission gave management approval to finalize legal documents with G3 Development on a public-private partnership initiative that is expected to transform Main Street and the city’s downtown district.

Dubbed “The Railyard” in a presentation made to commissioners, the conceptual plan includes 126 new parking spaces in a garage on Main Street/US 301 to be designed and constructed concurrently with approximately 8,000 square feet of new commercial space.

“This project is huge,” said Mayor Ed Wolf. “It’s a big investment, and we’re taking on some risk, but I believe it will reward us exponentially and pay dividends for decades to come.”

The project prioritizes enhanced pedestrian access and integration of the city’s heritage as a railroad town. It supports existing businesses, many of them long established along Main Street, while creating new commercial development to fuel a vibrant and thriving downtown. The plan incorporates flexible outdoor space that can be used for musical performances, al fresco dining, and more.

At that meeting, the commission also supported a complementary linear park project along the west side of Main Street to further enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to the downtown area.

Contractual negotiations are underway, with planning and design expected to move forward on both projects this spring.



Page 8 of 154



TANGIBLE BENEFITS

- 1 Preservation of historic building details and integrated new architecture.
- 2 8,000 square feet of new commercial space.
- 3 126 new parking spaces for convenient access to Downtown amenities.
- 4 The addition of pedestrian-friendly landscaped walkways.
- 5 Large outdoor entertaining space suitable for events.
- 6 Connection to other Downtown businesses and amenities.



Page 7 of 154

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE PROVIDES HOLIDAY MEALS TO MORE THAN 80 FAMILIES

In November 2022, the Wildwood Police Department launched a food drive to assist local families who could use some extra help over Thanksgiving.

Area businesses and residents demonstrated great generosity and donated enough turkeys, hams, and sides to assemble and distribute more than 80 holiday meal baskets to at-need families in our community.

Officer Crystal Acevedo and Crime Scene Investigator Jessica Farley, who spearheaded the initiative and coordinated every detail, were recognized at the city commission's December 12, 2022, meeting for their efforts.

Police Chief Randall Parmer presented them with the quarterly Team Impact Award, and Commander Sam Bass of American Legion Tri-City Post 18 presented the two with certificates of appreciation for "Outstanding Public Service Benefiting Our Community, State, and Nation."



SHOP WITH A COP

On December 17, 2022, a total of 60 local children had the opportunity to walk the aisles of Walmart with a Wildwood police officer and select \$300 in toys and other gifts to buy with a gift card.

The popular program is a collaboration with Sumter County Youth Center, which recommends children to participate.

Since Wildwood launched Shop with a Cop in 2017, it has grown significantly, thanks to generous support from local businesses and people who attend fundraising events during the year. These include an annual golf tournament and a special night out at Cody's Original Roadhouse at Brownwood.



PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT

The City of Wildwood regularly evaluates and updates its pavement management program to protect the long-term investment of tax dollars made in roadways. By taking a proactive maintenance approach, the Public Works Department programs preventive maintenance treatments at proper times to extend the service life of the roads to maximize the return on the investment.

At left, a Wildwood public works team repairs a 20' x 100' section of pavement on Mill Street that was in poor condition. After milling the existing asphalt, the team spread, rolled, and finished 21 tons of new asphalt to create a virtually seamless section of new road.

Below left are Bobby Cook, Supervisor Steve Laign, Caleb Allen, Paul Brown, and Josh Martin finishing up the project after hours of careful work.

To report a pothole or other issue on a city-maintained street, please use our online form at <https://tinyurl.com/WildwoodReportIssue> or call 352-330-1343.

HURRICANE SEASON ENDS: WILDWOOD SPARED SEVERE DAMAGE

The City of Wildwood escaped serious damage during this last hurricane season, despite unpredictable storms that challenged the best forecasting tools and technology.

Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole posed serious threats, and city departments prepared for worst-case scenarios to ensure the safety of citizens. Police, public works, utilities, and fleet crews worked throughout the storms to keep first responders ready, streets open, water flowing, and emergency vehicles and equipment operating. Staff coordinated with Sumter County's emergency operations center continuously and responded to calls for service and assistance whenever and however needed.

Below, public works staff clear a large tree that fell and blocked Ross Street during Tropical Storm Nicole.

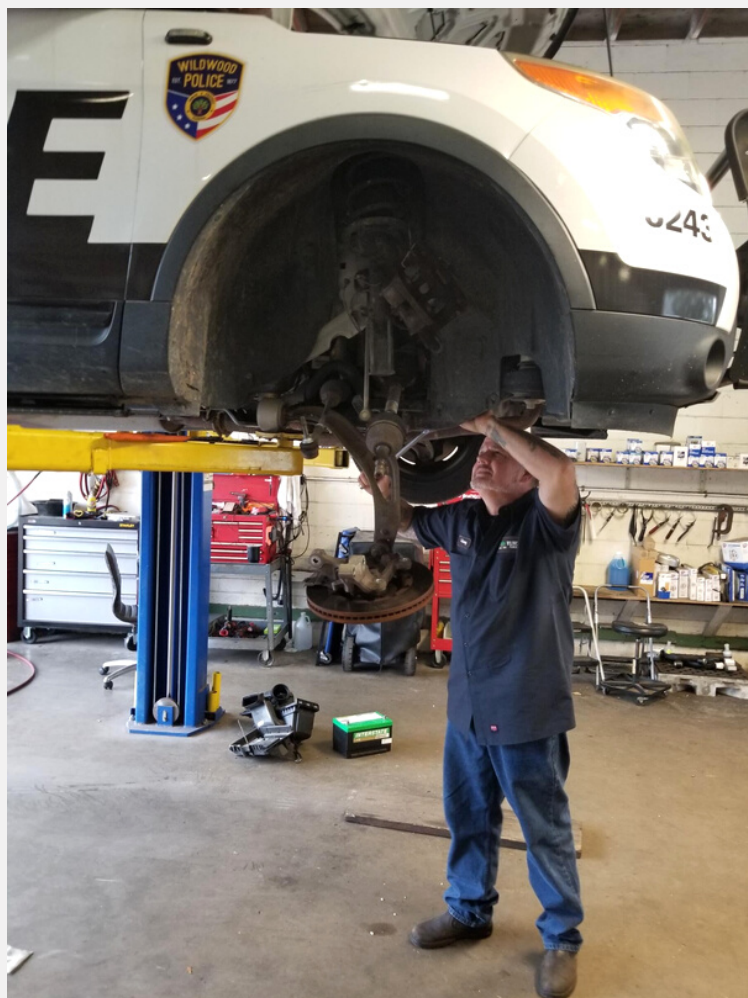


UTILITIES AT WORK

Wildwood's utilities team is committed to keeping municipal water flowing dependably day in and day out.

Below, a crew repairs a damaged two-inch water main near the intersection of Old Wire Road and Hall Street. After three hours of hard work, the repair was completed without any homes suffering a loss of service.

Should you ever have questions or concerns about your utilities, our customer service staff at 352-330-1336 is happy to assist you.



FASTIGIOUS FLEET

Wildwood's fleet of vehicles and equipment is maintained by a skilled team of technicians who work tirelessly to ensure everything is safe and in good working order for whatever job arises.

Above is a look at a day in a bay of the fleet team.

PARKS AND RECREATION HAPPENINGS

Wildwood's Parks and Recreation Department organized and hosted a plethora of events and activities during 2022, and is poised to bring you even more in 2023.

Shown from top to bottom at left, resident David Bauer remembers and honors his late friend, Daniel McCoy, U.S. Army veteran, at the Veterans Day Exhibit in City Hall; members of the Ocala Jeep Club perform a stunt for judges at the Christmas Parade; and volunteers Tanya and Nathalie lead holiday tours of the historic Baker House.

Below, Mark from The Villages Astronomy Club displays a telescope at Spooktacular. The club will be back at Millennium Park in February with clubs from Fruitland Park and Embry Riddle for the city's first-ever Astronomy Night.



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



UPCOMING MEETINGS

City Commission

January 9, 2023
7:00 p.m.

January 23, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

January 10, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Code Compliance

January 10, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

January 10, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

January 10, 2023
2:15 p.m.

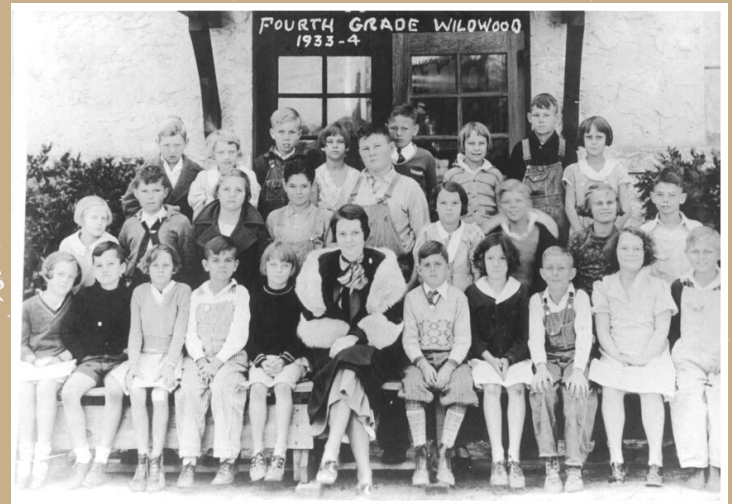
General Information

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.



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows Wildwood's fourth grade class in 1933-1934. The photographer is unknown.

GROW WITH US: CITY CAREERS

The City of Wildwood's culture is always evolving, but our core values and teamwork-centric purpose remain the same.

We want innovators that will help our city achieve a standard of quality and excellence. Our passion and commitment to our community stakeholders is the driving force behind our exponential growth that helps shape our diverse community.

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.

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>

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