



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

Downtown Parking Garage GROUNDBREAKING



January 8, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Join city officials at the corner of US 301 and Oxford St. to help kick off construction of a new multistory garage expected to open in the fall of 2024. All are welcome.



DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN JANUARY

Construction of Wildwood's new parking garage at the corner of US 301/Main St. and Oxford St. is scheduled to begin in early January. The surface lot on that site will close as soon as Jan. 2, 2024.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Jan. 8 at 11:00 a.m. and is open to the public. All are invited.

The multistory structure will house approximately 125 vehicle spaces, providing much-needed parking for existing and future downtown businesses. Current construction schedules estimate a Fall 2024 opening, subject to change based on supply chain, weather, and other potential delays.

The first significant construction project of the city's downtown master plan, adopted in November 2021, the parking garage is one component of a public-private partnership between the City of Wildwood and G3 Development.

That partnership also includes construction of approximately 8,000 square feet of new, leasable commercial space expected to be filled by one or more dining and entertainment businesses. The commercial building, which will be built, owned, and operated by G3 Development, is expected to begin construction in mid-2024 and open in early 2025.

The downtown master planning process involved participation and input from both residents and local businesses through surveys, interviews, a workshop, virtual open house, and presentations.

During that process, participants were asked to identify and prioritize community needs and wants. Downtown redevelopment and revitalization quickly emerged as the top issue community members wanted the city to address.

"Nothing happens quickly in government" said City Manager Jason McHugh. "There are checks and balances built into every step of the process to ensure fair and judicial use of taxpayer resources, which is vital but takes time."

"Then the pandemic threw a big wrench into the mix," he added. "But we are now firmly on our way to implementing the vision laid out by our community, and Wildwood's future is brighter than it has ever been."



NEXT CHAT WITH A COMMISSIONER DEC 18

The next Community Chat with a Commissioner will be held Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at the Oxford Community Center, located at 4027 County Road 106.

Commissioner Pamala Harrison-Bivins will be on hand from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. to visit with members of the public.

"I do hope residents will stop by and say hello," Commissioner Bivins said in discussing the upcoming event.

"Even though I've lived in Wildwood most of my life," she continued, "there are still residents here I haven't met, especially those new to the area. Getting to know them and better understanding their concerns and specific needs definitely helps me make better decisions in my role as one of the city's elected officials."

The event is informal, with no specific agenda. There is no need to RSVP--reservations are not required or taken. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch or other refreshments. Residents can ask questions or just listen.

I-75 IMPROVEMENTS INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR DEC 11, 13, AND 14

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold three public meetings this month in conjunction with studies for improvement projects along I-75 in Sumter and Marion counties.

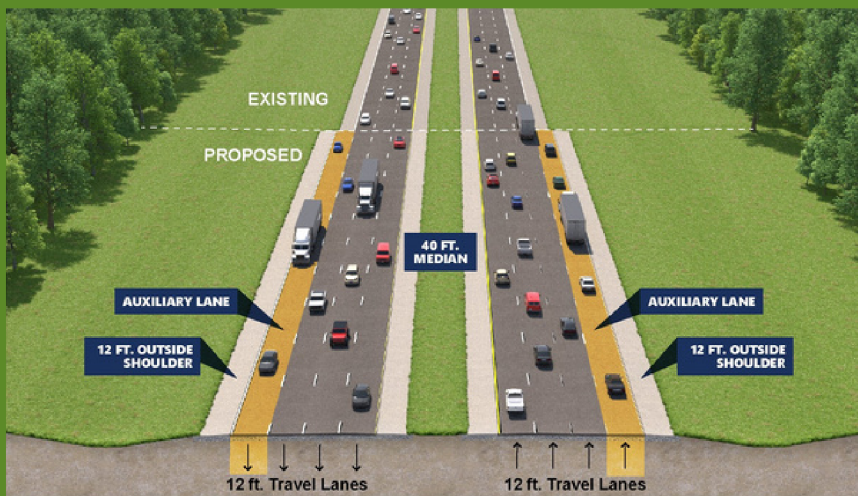
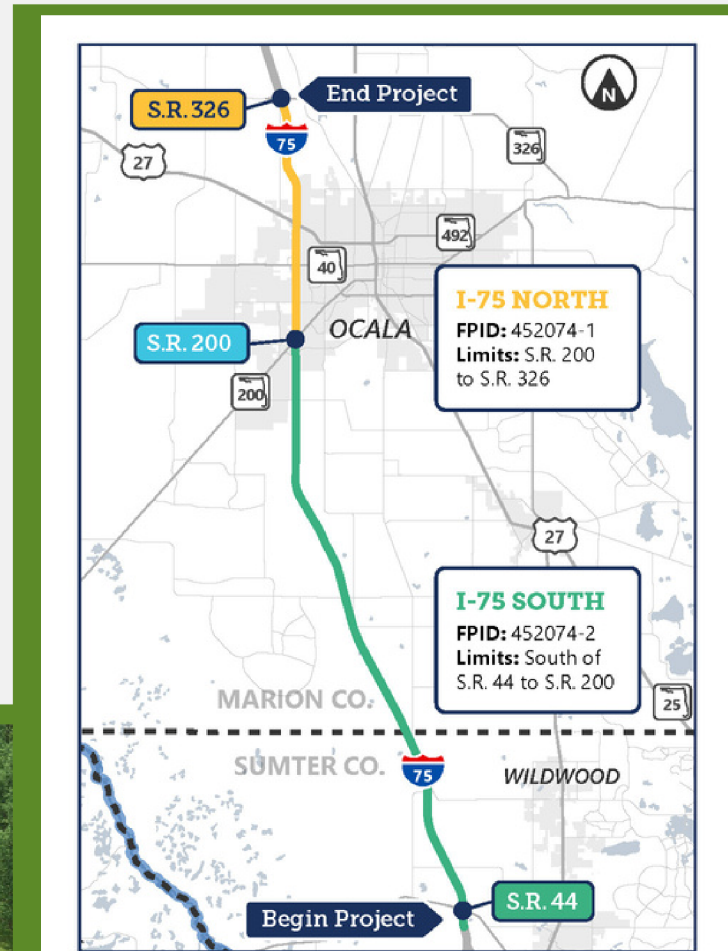
These studies are evaluating the addition of an auxiliary lane between interchanges, along with interchange improvements.

The Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative is allowing FDOT to advance the projects, with construction anticipated to begin in spring 2025.

In-person informational meetings are scheduled for Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Savannah Center, 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd in The Villages, and Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ocala Hilton, 3600 SW 36th Ave in Ocala.

A virtual informational meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023. Participants may participate via a GoToWebinar link or can listen in by phone.

For information about the projects and meetings, including how to register, go to <https://www.cflroads.com/project/452074-2>.



Project Status

Master Plan / PD&E Study:	Underway
Design:	FY 2024
Right of Way:	FY 2024
Construction:	FY 2025

*Subject to change

DEMYSTIFYING GROUND DEPRESSIONS: TYPES, CAUSES, AND TREATMENTS

The City of Wildwood has received numerous inquiries this year related to ground depressions, land subsidence, pavement collapses, potholes, and other surface and subsurface anomalies. Terminology can be confusing, and the causes of such occurrences vary widely.

Why is this important?

When the ground has appeared to sink or collapse, it is critical to determine the specific cause in order to take appropriate corrective action. Jumping to conclusions and treating a depression incorrectly could seriously jeopardize the safety of people and property.

For those seeking technical details, the U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, provides a plethora of scientific information on the subject through its Water Science School (www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school). Among the wealth of resources available are explanations as to the specific geologic factors involved in each type of depression.

The City of Wildwood contracts with geotechnical engineers specifically trained in geological science when a depression occurs on city property. Those engineers perform tests that may include standard penetration test borings, ground-penetrating radar surveys, and other evaluations.

Accurate interpretation of the results is essential to determining the best method to stabilize the area.

At right is an example of subsurface stratification classifications and analysis based on boring samples taken recently after a depression was reported in the city's right-of-way.

In this situation, the engineers determined the best course of action to stabilize the area was a series of concrete grout injections. When another depression was reported nearby, additional tests were conducted and analyzed, and a secondary series of injections was recommended, performed, evaluated, and monitored.

Even when surface depressions are the result of natural occurrences, as in the example above, infrastructure in the same area can be significantly damaged when the ground collapses.

Without a thorough investigation and analysis of the soil and subsurface to determine cause, infrastructure failure might incorrectly be attributed as the cause upon the discovery of damaged pipes, basins, and other water, stormwater, and wastewater structures.

Erroneously faulting infrastructure instead of identifying the true cause of the collapse would put lives and property at risk, since simply repairing the structures instead of addressing the underlying problem creates a situation in which another collapse in the same area would be possible.

Performing the proper tests and accurately analyzing the data takes time and can be costly. It is, however, the only way to adequately address the cause and take appropriate corrective action to provide the safest path forward.

The City of Wildwood prioritizes public safety at all times when a depression is reported. It takes action based on scientific data and best engineering practices provided by experts in their field. Staff recognizes that assumptions in the absence of geotechnical testing and analysis can endanger citizens and always seeks out qualified specialists to provide the most qualified recommendations.

The following strata were identified in the borings:

STRATUM NO.	DESCRIPTION	USCS GROUP
1	Light Grayish Brown to Grayish Brown Fine Sand	(SP)
2	Grayish Brown to Light Grayish Brown to Gray to Light Gray Clayey Sand	(SC)
3	Grayish Brown to Gray to Light Gray Sand Clay	(CL)
4	Greenish Gray Clay	(CH)
5	Weathered Limestone	---

Refer to **Figure 4** for the approximate depth and thickness of each encountered stratum.

The N-values for the SPT borings indicate the number of blows of a 140-pound hammer falling 30 inches required to drive a split-spoon sampler 12 inches. Split spoon sampling was conducted continuously in the upper 10 feet and at 5-foot intervals thereafter, except for SPT-1 at which split spoon sampling was conducted through the first 16 feet. In addition, first 6 feet of each SPT boring was hand auger due to the utility and service lines surrounding area of the roadway surface collapse. Upon completion of drilling, the SPT boreholes were grouted. Based on the SPT-N values obtained from the borings, the clayey soils strata 2 encountered exist in very loose to medium dense conditions. The clays (strata 3 and 4) have a consistency ranging from soft to medium. Weight-of-hammer (WH) conditions were encountered in two of the borings. Weight-of-hammer (WH) is a condition where the split spoon falls under the static weight of the drilling rod and hammer, indicating very little or no resistance through this depth interval. A small amount of WH conditions at or near the top of the limestone interface is fairly common and does not represent any significant subsurface issues. However, larger amounts, as recorded in boring SPT-1, pose an elevated potential for future excessive settlement of the ground surface (or even collapse) that can affect overlying structures. Refer to **Figure 4** for the depth and interval of the WH conditions. Loss of drilling fluid circulation occurred in borings SPT-1 and SPT-2, which is potentially another indicator of raveled type conditions that may be associated with sinkhole type activity. General correlations of the SPT N-values with relative density of sands, unconfined compressive strength of clay and consistency of clay are provided in the following table:

Sand		Clay		
Penetration Resistance N (blows/ft)	Relative Density of Sand	Penetration Resistance N (blows/ft)	Unconfined Compressive Strength of Clay (tons/ft ²)	Consistency of Clay
0-4	Very Loose	<2	<0.25	Very Soft
4-10	Loose	2-4	0.25-0.50	Soft
10-30	Medium-Dense	4-8	0.50-1.00	Medium
30-50	Dense	8-15	1.00-2.00	Stiff
>50	Very Dense	15-30	2.00-4.00	Very Stiff
---	---	>30	>4.00	Hard



WILDWOOD HONORS VETERANS

Wildwood honored local veterans last month with a display inside City Hall recognizing the names of men and women who have served, along with a golf cart parade ending at the American Legion Tri-City Post 18, where a ceremony and lunch followed.

The city is looking to connect with additional veterans of all generations to improve future outreach, programs, and events. Please email lpotrowicz@wildwood-fl.gov to be included.

SCARDINO STREET UPDATE

Additional stabilization of the public right-of-way on Scardino Street in The Villages® section of Wildwood was completed in November, adding to a series of initial concrete grout injections in September.

The injections were made at the recommendation of geotechnical engineers who performed specialized tests and carefully analyzed results after ground depressions occurred.

Rehabilitation of the roadway, including repair of utility infrastructure damaged during the collapse, began after Thanksgiving weekend and will continue through this month.

"We have maintained two-way communication with residents throughout this process, and taken their concerns to heart," said Public Works Director Jeremy Hockenbury. "We look forward to expediting the road and utility work to the greatest extent possible while making sure it also meets the highest safety, quality, and engineering standards."

ANNUAL HYDRANT FLUSHING WORK TO CONTINUE IN DECEMBER

Sumter County's fire department is conducting annual fire hydrant maintenance. Work will continue during December.

If you experience water issues that do not resolve quickly, during hydrant flushing or otherwise, please call 352-330-1336 and a water technician will be dispatched to your area.

WILDWOOD POLICE EST. 1877
FLORIDA

SAFETY FIRST

FREE Community Event Includes lunch

Reserve your seat today!

The Wildwood Police Department Jurisdiction

SAFETY COALITION
—MEETING—
Lunch 'n Learn series

Tuesday, December 12, 2023
10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Meeting will be held at:
First Baptist Church, Wildwood
402 Oxford Street
Wildwood, FL 34785
December Speaker: Mike McCormick, FL Poison Control

To reserve your seat please email:
communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov

This will be an ongoing Lunch 'n Learn series held bi-monthly at different locations and will include a different speaker and FREE Lunch.

Wildwood Police Department, 3939 County 462 East, Wildwood, FL 34785
(352) 330-1355

CITY OF WILDWOOD PRESENTS

**TWO EVENTS:
WINTERFEST
LIGHT UP WILDWOOD
CHRISTMAS PARADE!**

1ST DEC | 6:00PM - PARADE STARTS
7:00PM - TREE LIGHTING

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY - LIGHT UP PARADE - SNOW SLIDE - CRAFTS - PICTURES WITH SANTA - AND MORE!

Wildwood City Hall, 100 N. Main Street

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

Christmas at the
BAKER HOUSE

DECEMBER DATES: \$10.00/PERSON

*Private tours are also available!
\$100 (minimum of 10 people) - must be paid in advance*

SATURDAYS, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23
FROM 5:00P - 7:00P

SUNDAYS, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17
FROM 1:00P - 3:00P

TUESDAYS, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26
FROM 5:00P - 7:00P

THURSDAYS, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28
FROM 10:00A - 2:00P

*Call for tickets and availability: 352-461-0134
or visit the Community Center - 6500 Powell Road*

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Find more activities and events on the city's community calendar at www.wildwood-fl.gov/calendar

City of Wildwood

cookies with santa

Friday, December 15th
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Wildwood Community Center
6500 Powell Road

Free!

Please call 352-461-0134 or email parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov for questions!

CITY OF WILDWOOD PRESENTS

FRIDAY
29TH
DECEMBER

2024

NEW YEAR
Party

FIREWORKS SHOW

6:00P - 9:00P

**FOOD TRUCKS
MUSIC
FAMILY FUN**

Drinks for purchase for ages 21+, vendors, and more!

Wildwood Community Center - 6500 Powell Road

For questions, please call 354-461-0134

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

December 5, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

December 5, 2023
MEETING CANCELED

Planning and Zoning

December 5, 2023
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

December 11, 2023
9:00 a.m.
December 25, 2023
MEETING CANCELED

Project Review Committee

December 12, 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 speak during Public Forum should submit a comment card before the meeting begins.



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows demolition and construction in downtown Wildwood during the widening of US 301/Main Street, believed to be in 1964.

The photographer and exact date are unknown.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

City offices will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, and remain closed through Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, in observance of Christmas.

City offices also will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, and remain closed through Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, in observance of the New Year's holidays.

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.

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

STAY UP TO DATE ON CITY HAPPENINGS

1. Check wildwood-fl.gov for general information.
2. Sign up for **notifications** at wildwood-fl.gov.
3. Follow us on **Facebook**:
 - facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida
 - facebook.com/WildwoodParksRecEvents
 - 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

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