



WILDWOOD CONNECTION



Officer Layne, named 2022 Officer of the Year, operates a handheld laser to determine vehicle speed, above. Some equipment is dashboard mounted and can be operated from inside the patrol vehicle.

Excessive, unsafe speeds are one of the more common traffic violations cited.



WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT RAMPS UP TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Speeding kills.

In 2021, speeding killed 12,330 people, more than 1,000 people than the year prior, and it has contributed to approximately one-third of all traffic fatalities during the past two decades. This data is from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Categorized as an aggressive driving behavior, speeding typically results from one or more of four predominant factors: traffic, running late, a sense of anonymity behind the wheel, and a disregard for others and the law, explains NHTSA on its website, www.nhtsa.gov.

While these factors may provide offenders a feeling of justification for breaking the law, the behavior is still very much illegal and puts not just the driver but others at significant risk, including passengers in the same vehicle, drivers and passengers of other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Additional NHTSA data revealed that local roads are no safer than highways. In fact, 87% of all speeding-related traffic fatalities occurred on non-interstate roads in 2020.

To protect the safety of Wildwood's residents and visitors, the city's police department has stepped up enforcement in areas demonstrating high rates of speeding and related aggressive driving.

"As the city grows, so, too, does local traffic," said Wildwood Police Chief Randy Parmer. "In response, we formed a traffic unit in 2022 specifically dedicated to protecting everyone who shares our roads. That unit has been effective since its creation and is growing. We added two more officers last year and will continue to expand to meet demand."

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WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT RAMPS UP TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

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That demand has been increasing in areas of The Villages® south of SR 44, which is within city limits and under the jurisdiction of the Wildwood Police Department.

"Speeding is the biggest complaint we receive," noted Parmer. "While we prefer an education-first approach, there are situations that warrant immediate citations, including excessive speed."

In December 2023, the traffic enforcement unit made 427 stops for what it deemed egregious violations that risked public safety. Of those, 74 percent resulted in uniform traffic citations.

"Safety is always our first priority," explained Parmer. "Contrary to a popular urban myth that some traffic officers have a 'gotcha' attitude or try to meet imaginary quotas, our team always focuses on the safety of our community. If they see something that seriously jeopardizes public safety and puts others at undue risk, they act. Wildwood is a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. It is our goal to keep it that way for everyone to enjoy."

Among other violations commonly encountered by the city's traffic enforcement unit are driving with an expired registration, driving with a suspended license, and failure to comply with Chapter 316, Section 126 of the Florida Statutes, which includes what is commonly known as the state's move-over law, expanded during last year's legislative session.

"I strongly encourage everyone on the road to not only take driving as the serious responsibility it is, but to contemplate the long-term, far-reaching consequences of their actions behind the wheel," urged Parmer. "Some reflection on this matter may well save their own life, as well as those of innocent others."

WILDWOOD OFFERS REWARD FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ILLEGAL SEWAGE DISCHARGE

The City of Wildwood is being dumped on, literally, and is asking for the public's help.

City officials have noticed sudden and sharp rises in the concentration of sanitary sewer flows coming into the wastewater treatment facility over the past three months.

The spike indicates unauthorized and illegal dumping into the system by sewage sludge trucks.

The sharp increase is putting the city's existing wastewater treatment facility under significant strain, resulting in additional treatment costs that are being paid by the city and its ratepayers.

At left is a picture of a typical sewage truck. Anyone who sees a truck of this type discharging into a sanitary sewer manhole in the City of Wildwood is urged to report it immediately to the Wildwood Police Department at 352-330-1355.

Information leading to an arrest is eligible for a reward of up to \$5,000.

REWARD



WILDWOOD PLEDGES TO PROTECT POLLINATORS IN 2024

Wildwood Mayor Ed Wolf has signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge for the second straight year. In doing so, he and city officials are committing to taking action to protect Monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Monarchs (*Danaus plexippus*) are the iconic black and orange butterflies that undergo long-distance migration in eastern North America from as far north as Canada to an overwintering site in central Mexico. Numbering in the hundreds of millions only a few decades ago, Monarch populations have declined drastically, due in large part to habitat loss.

In their larval form, striking black-, white-, and yellow-striped caterpillars, monarchs feed only on milkweed, which provides natural protection from substances in the plants that are toxic to predators but not to the caterpillars. These caterpillars need plenty of milkweed to grow and mature into butterflies. Adult butterflies also need plenty of nectar sources from their favorite flowers to remain healthy and strong enough to complete their long migration.

Butterflies are one of the most visible types of pollinators, but many other insects serve in this critical role as well. According to the Xerces Society, pollinators are essential to our environment: the ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The United States alone grows more than 100 crops that either need or benefit from pollinators, and the economic value of these native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S.

In signing the pledge this year, Mayor Wolf and the City of Wildwood have committed to the following action items:

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed/native nectar plant planting programs.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Initiate or support community science or citizen science efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in community gardens.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

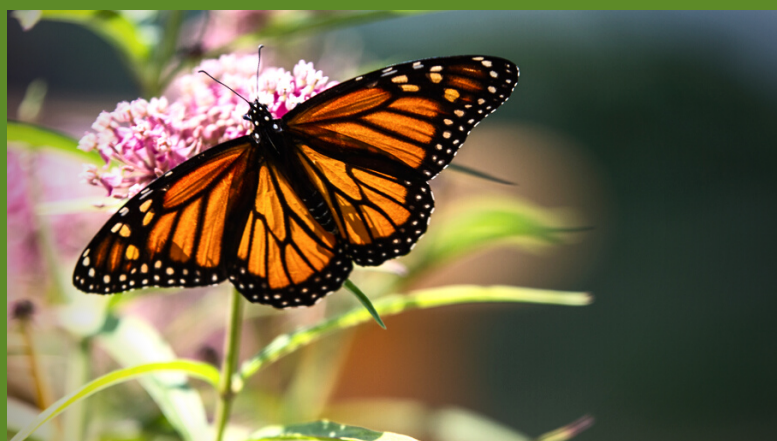
"As the City of Wildwood grows, it is important to identify, conserve, and enhance habitat for other species upon which ours depends," said Mayor Wolf. "We must remember that all ecosystems are a delicate balance—something I taught my students as an agricultural educator, and something I keep in mind today while we continue developing as a city."

LAKE DEATON PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN

Wildwood's commissioners have approved infrastructure upgrades at Lake Deaton Park, scheduled to begin this spring.

The project includes significant strengthening of and improvements to the facility's heavily used boat ramp, fishing pier, pavement, and signage.

"Lake Deaton Park remains an important asset for fishing and boating," commented Mayor Wolf. "We want to preserve this oasis and its wealth of natural resources, and be sure it remains dedicated to these types of activities."



COMMUNITY MEETING

C 466A Corridor Study from US 301 to C 462

The Sumter County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Community Meeting to receive input on potential improvements to C 466A. The project limits are from US 301 to C 462. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at the Wildwood Intermediate School, located at 200 Cleveland Avenue in Wildwood, Florida.

Meeting Location:
Wildwood Intermediate School
200 Cleveland Avenue
Wildwood, FL 34785

This Community Meeting is being conducted to afford interested persons an opportunity to discuss with project representatives the proposed improvements and provide feedback on the project alternatives.

The Community Meeting will be conducted as an open house with maps, drawings and other pertinent information for public review from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Representatives from Sumter County and the project team will be available during the meeting to discuss the project and answer questions.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Sumter County at 352-689-4400 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

If you have questions about the project or the scheduled Neighborhood Meeting, please contact Deborah Snyder, Sumter County Public Works Director via email at Deborah.Snyder@sumtercountyfl.gov or by calling 352-689-4400.

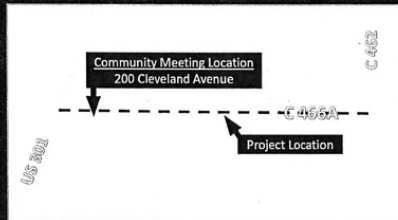
COMMUNITY MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location:

Wildwood Intermediate School
200 Cleveland Avenue
Wildwood, FL 34785



SUMTER COUNTY TO HOLD MEETING FEB. 8 ON C 466A CORRIDOR STUDY

Sumter County has scheduled a community meeting to provide information on proposed improvements and project alternatives for C 466A from US 301 to C 462.

The meeting will be an open house with maps, drawings, and other materials, and will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at Wildwood Intermediate School, 200 Cleveland Ave.

All are welcome to attend and provide feedback. For more information, please call Sumter County at 352-689-4400.

CHAT WITH A COMMISSIONER RETURNS FEB. 19

Wildwood’s Community Chat with a Commissioner series resumes this month on Feb. 19, 2024, at Warfield Auditorium.

Mayor Ed Wolf, a member of the city commission for nearly five decades, will be available to meet with residents, answer questions, and share lunch hour in a relaxed, informal setting.

All are invited. There is no agenda, and reservations are not required or taken. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch or refreshments, and can simply listen, relax, and enjoy meeting their mayor and neighbors.

IRRIGATION RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Wildwood officials are reminding residents that irrigation restrictions remain active in accordance with with the Southwest Florida Water Management District’s Declaration of a Modified Phase I Water Shortage.

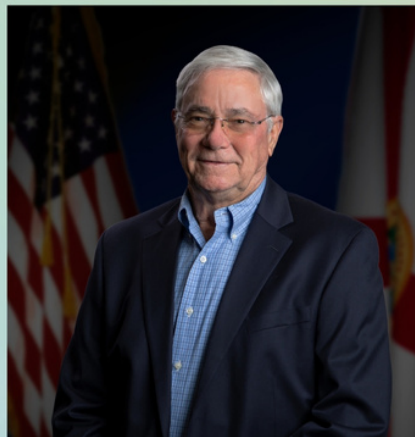
Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/swfwmd-water-restrictions>.

CHAT WITH A COMMISSIONER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Warfield Auditorium
98 S. Warfield Ave.



Mayor Ed Wolf will be on hand to visit with members of the public. Ask questions, socialize, and/or just listen.

Reservations are not required or taken.

Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch or refreshments.



WILDWOOD
FLORIDA

Lawn Irrigation Restrictions:

Even-numbered addresses

may water only on

Thursdays before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

Sundays before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

Odd-numbered addresses

may water only on

Wednesdays before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

Saturdays before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.



Certain exceptions apply. Go to

<https://tinyurl.com/swfwmd-water-restrictions> for more information.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

**FEB. 3, 2024
6:00PM**

\$10.00 PER PERSON

WARFIELD AUDITORIUM
98 S. WARFIELD AVE.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT
WWW.WILDWOOD-FL.GOV
OR CALL 352-461-0134

DINNER, DJ, DANCING, AND
CARICATURE ARTISTS!

WILDWOOD FLORIDA PARKS & RECREATION

WILDWOOD POLICE
EST. 1877

FREE Community Event includes lunch

Reserve your seat today!

The Wildwood Police Department Jurisdiction

SAFETY COALITION MEETING

— MEETING —
Lunch 'n Learn series

Our next event is
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Held this month at:
Wildwood Police Department
3939 County Road 462 East,
Wildwood, FL 34785

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

This is an ongoing Lunch 'n Learn series held bi-monthly at different locations and will include a different speaker and FREE Lunch. Come listen to a speaker!

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

WILDWOOD FLORIDA PARKS & RECREATION

17 FEBRUARY 2024 @ 6:30PM

\$10 PER TICKET 21+ ONLY

Wildwood COMEDY SHOW

COMEDY | FOOD TRUCKS | CASH BAR

WARFIELD AUDITORIUM
98 S. WARFIELD AVE., WILDWOOD, FL 34785

352.461.0134
parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov

Art in the Park

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024
9AM TO 12NOON

City Hall
100 N. Main Street
352.461.0134
parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov

\$20 ARTIST REGISTRATION

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

February 6, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

February 6, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

February 6, 2024
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

February 12, 2024
9:00 a.m.
February 26, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

February 13, 2024
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.

ANNUAL HYDRANT FLUSHING WORK TO CONTINUE IN FEBRUARY

Sumter County's fire department is expected to continue its annual fire hydrant maintenance during February.

While this maintenance is taking place, lower-than-normal water pressure and/or rusty or discolored water may occur. These issues should clear up within a few hours.

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.

Sumter County's fire department is expected to continue its annual fire hydrant maintenance during January.

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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida)
- [facebook.com/WildwoodParksRecEvents](https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodParksRecEvents)
- [facebook.com/WildwoodPoliceFL](https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodPoliceFL)



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

Pageant queens from Wildwood are shown in this photo from the Zip Stearns collection.

The date is 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