



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

Follow guidance from local authorities.



Prepare Your Pets for Disasters

ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1

Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1. Weather experts are predicting this year's season will be more active and severe than usual.

According to Brian Lada, AccuWeather meteorologist and staff writer, "A super-charged hurricane season could spawn a near-record number of storms in the Atlantic this year, and forecasters may even run out of names for storms amid a frenzy of tropical systems."

Rather than panic, emergency management personnel urge citizens to prepare and stay informed.

Practical steps residents can take now include the following (source: www.Ready.gov):

MAKE A PLAN

1: Start your plan by discussing the questions below with your family, friends, or household:

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?
- Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?

2: Consider specific needs in your household. Keep in mind these factors:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

3: Create a family emergency plan. A fillable form at <https://www.ready.gov/plan-form> can help.

4: Practice your plan with your family/household.

MAKE A KIT

Making a preparedness kit is another important step that should be done before an emergency is imminent.

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ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1

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Experts advise storing kit contents in airtight plastic bags, further assembled into one or two easy-to-carry/transport containers such as plastic bins. Consider including the following items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days)
- Food (non-perishable foods for several days or more)
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA weather radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First-aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes
- Prescription and non-prescription medications
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact-lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, and rash cream
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits and disposable cups, plates, towels, and utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children
- Don't forget pets! Go to <https://www.ready.gov/pets> for an animal-specific kit list.

UPDATE PROPERTY AND INSURANCE DOCUMENTATION

The time to update documentation and to understand and update insurance coverages is before hurricane season begins. Don't wait to review policies and take "before" pictures until it is too late.

Find a guide to help at www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/ready_document-and-insure-your-property.pdf.

TUNE INTO LOCAL RESOURCES

Sumter County's Department of Emergency Management coordinates local emergency services for Wildwood residents through a mutual interlocal service boundary agreement.

Sign up for emergency alerts, find shelter information (including an application for the county's special-needs shelter), and more at www.sumtercountyfl.gov/718/Emergency-Management.

COURTNEY KELLEM BEGINS AS WILDWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

Wildwood welcomed Courtney Kellem to its team in late March as she took the reins of the city's parks and recreation department.

A native Floridian with a passion for health, fitness, and public service, Kellem brings a diversity of education and experience that encompasses not only recreation and facilities management but also marketing and communications.

Her prior position as a recreation superintendent for Brevard County followed work in corporate marketing and both graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Central Florida.

As for her goals as Wildwood's new parks and recreation director, she says she is focused on continuous improvement as she builds upon a strong existing base of programming.

"Wildwood is my home now, too," she explained, referring to her recent move to live in the city. "I want to enhance the quality of life here for everyone. I am excited to be part of this diverse, growing community and look forward to serving everyone with professionalism and teamwork that shows residents just how much we care."





CITY HONORS WILDWOOD MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR TEAM

Wildwood’s city commission last month honored Wildwood Middle High School’s science fair team and science education program as it proclaimed Apr. 7-13, 2024, Wildwood Middle High School Science Celebration Week.

Mayor Wolf presented the official document to the WMHS Florida state science fair team and faculty, who competed last month at the state level, bringing home seven place awards. Among those recognized:

- Principal Rodney Rocker
- Science Chair/12th Grade Chair Emily Keeler
- Yousra Abumouilish, Grade 10
- Gerardo Cardoso, Grade 8
- Nadia Cardoso, Grade 12
- Jose Carvajal Beltran, Grade 11
- Andrea Fitzgerald, Grade 11
- Armand Grable, Grade 12
- Akiera Jackson, Grade 11
- Abigail Lacayo, Grade 9
- Riley Law, Grade 8
- Kadie Mariano, Grade 12
- Jacob Sokol, Grade 8
- Olivia Sokol, Grade 8

Students worked all year on their projects, conducting research in a wide variety of scientific disciplines and topics.

The following three WMHS students also received scholarship offers as a result of their work:

- Jose Carvajal Beltran: four-year tuition to Florida Institute of Technology, \$96,000
- Kadie Mariano: University of Florida, \$500
- Armand Grable: Florida Polytechnic University, \$20,000, and UCF, \$20,000

This month, Jose, Armand, Kadie, and Yousra will travel to California to compete against students from around the world at the prestigious Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE: MINIMIZE CONFLICT

Florida is renowned for its wildlife. Many residents and tourists alike enjoy the state’s abundant opportunities for wildlife observation, whether as part of a birding group, guided nature tour, or informal hike.

As Wildwood and The Villages® continue to grow, drawing people from all over the country, human-wildlife interactions are an inevitable part of daily life in this area.

Among the numerous and diverse non-human species calling Florida home is the iconic alligator.

Spring is mating season, which means animals are more active. Awareness and understanding of behavior are key to peaceful cohabitation.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida.

Learn more about these and other native animals at <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/>.

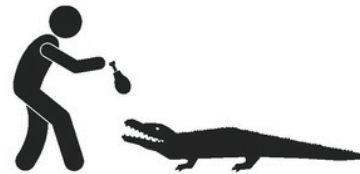
LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS



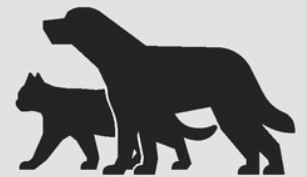
These amazing animals are important to Florida’s natural areas and found throughout the state.

A few simple rules to co-exist with alligators:

NEVER feed an alligator



Keep pets away from water’s edge



Swim during the day and only in designated areas



if you see an alligator

Call FWC’s toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286) if you’re concerned about an alligator.

DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE PROGRESS

Construction of the new downtown parking garage across from City Hall is progressing quickly.

The garage is expected to open in late summer or early fall. The free-of-charge parking will support existing and future downtown businesses.

Photos from top: Apr. 11, Apr. 16, and Apr. 25, 2024.



APRIL IN WILDWOOD

Above, Wildwood police department's second annual 5K for autism awareness on Apr. 20 attracted 130 competitors as it raised more than \$11,000 for autism programming and services.

Below, the city's parks and recreation staff planted trees on Arbor Day at the Municipal Service Complex, while vocalists from the Oxford Assembly of God performed at the event. It is the 34th year Wildwood has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA.



CHAT WITH A COMMISSIONER

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

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

Warfield Auditorium, 98 S. Warfield Ave.



Commissioner Green will 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 POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MEMORIAL DAY Community Event

2nd Annual

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. FREE Lunch
12:00 p.m. Patriotic Ceremony & Guest Speaker

OUR EVENT HAS MOVED INDOORS TO:
Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Rd, Wildwood, FL 34785
Questions or interested in being a vendor, please email: communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
WWII Staff Sgt. Veteran Irving Locker (Age 99) will share his story. You can watch his Youtube video Irving Locker My Story at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy_bmrVCO1M

Don't forget to bring out American flags to donate.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

JUNK IN THE TRUNK



TRUNK

\$10

per 10x10 space

9:00am - 12 noon

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Wildwood Community Center

6500 Powell Road

To register, call 352-461-0134 or visit www.wildwood-fl.gov

CITY OF WILDWOOD

'80S ADULT PROM

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024

21+ \$10 PER PERSON CASH BAR

WARFIELD AUDITORIUM
98 S. WARFIELD AVE.
WILDWOOD, FL 34785
7PM - 10PM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS
352.461.0134
WWW.WILDWOOD-FL.GOV

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

May 7, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

May 7, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

May 7, 2024
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

May 13, 2024
9:00 a.m.

May 20, 2024
9:00 a.m.

May 27, 2024
CANCELED (holiday)

Project Review Committee

May 14, 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.

NEW WATER 101 WEBSITE AND RESOURCES

Did you know that the City of Wildwood and all of Sumter County are under the jurisdiction of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, or SWFWMD?

SWFWMD administers regulatory programs that include management of the consumptive use of water, aquifer recharge, well construction, and surface water management.

Its newly launched Water 101 initiative provides an abundance of resources for both homeowners and community managers/HOAs.

The Fix it For Less page offers residents tips, videos, and other information on ways to save money on water and wastewater bills.

Go to www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/residents/water-101 to learn more.

STAY UP TO DATE ON CITY HAPPENINGS

1. Check www.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



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows Major Oil Company on Main St. According to a longtime Wildwood resident, it later became the Shamrock station before burning down. 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

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