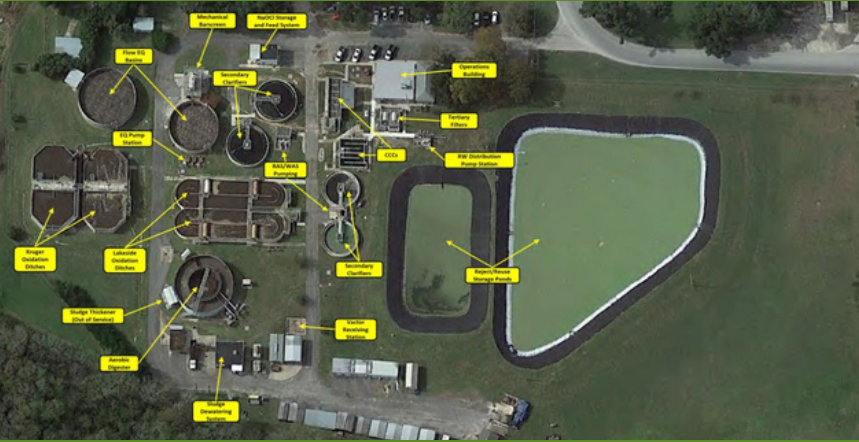




WILDWOOD CONNECTION



Above: Wildwood's existing wastewater treatment facility.

A recently discovered hydraulic bottleneck prevented the plant from operating at maximum efficiency. Correction of deficiencies now enables treatment of an additional 750,000 gallons/day.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PHASE 1A UPGRADES NEAR COMPLETION

Phase 1A improvements to Wildwood's wastewater treatment infrastructure are in the final stages.

The work has addressed hydraulic deficiencies in the city's existing plant, identified last year during a study and analysis of Wildwood's current capacity and predicted future demand for wastewater processing.

While the plant was designed and permitted to treat 3.55 million gallons per day (MGD), hydraulic issues were limiting actual capacity to a maximum of 2.8 MGD. The .75 MGD deficiency presented a significant and immediate need to increase capacity to meet the projected flows associated with new construction as the city grows.

Consulting engineering firm CPH presented its findings to the city commission in September 2022, and presented a conceptual plan two months later that addressed the deficiency at the existing plant while planning and designing a new, larger plant that would incorporate the latest technology and operate more efficiently.

The city hired PC Construction as the project's construction manager at risk (CMAR) and authorized its team to work with CPH. Correction of the hydraulic deficiency at the existing plant was prioritized as the first order of business in an all-out effort to bring the current facility to its permitted 3.55 MGD capacity.

That work has been substantially finished and the plant is operating as intended when it was designed decades ago.

At its October 9, 2023, meeting, the city commission voted to request proposals for CMAR services for the next phases of the project, which will complete additional upgrades to the existing facility to further enhance efficiencies and build a new treatment plant that will bring total capacity to an estimated 5.5 MGD using new technology and meeting the highest standards.

As materials and procurement times have continued to increase drastically, the city opted against building a larger, 6.0 MGD new plant and decommissioning and demolishing the existing plant. The success of the Phase 1A work has left officials optimistic that upgrades will extend the current facility's lifespan while also achieving a level of efficiency that exceeds initial estimates.

"We're able to take a deep breath at this point," said City Manager Jason McHugh. "I couldn't say that a year ago. The scale of a 6.0 MGD plant, even designed and built in phases, was daunting, to say the least. CPH has done an outstanding job providing ongoing analysis and additional options as we embarked down this road. I'm confident we are on the best path to providing rate payers the best bang for their buck."

MEET ERIC COFFIE, COLLECTIONS CREW TEAM LEADER

We recently sat down with Eric Coffie from the city's Department of Public Works to learn more about his current work in wastewater, as well as what led him here and how it informs his day-to-day decisions on the job.

How long have you worked for the City of Wildwood?

I've been here for about three years.

How long have you worked in utilities?

A long time (laughs). I worked in Leesburg for 20 years before I came here. I spent time in both wastewater and stormwater, learning a lot along the way.

What has changed in the industry since you began?

Growth, certainly. Leesburg was growing quickly while I was there, and now Wildwood is taking off. City limits have expanded drastically, and so has our infrastructure to serve everyone who is choosing to move here.

What about utilities interested you as a career?

After I was honorably discharged from the Army, I started working in stormwater, and enjoyed learning all I could about it. The department merged with wastewater, which afforded the opportunity to cross train and keep growing professionally.

I had gone to school for stormwater, attaining my C, B, and A certifications, and figured there was no sense stopping there. I went back to school for wastewater to get my C, B, and A certifications there, then earned my stormwater inspector certification.

What training and certifications have you completed?

In addition to the ones mentioned above, I'm also certified in CPR, completed FEMA IS-800 training, hold a CDL license, and worked as a CDL instructor.

I'm currently going through the water certification series here in Wildwood.

I love school and believe you can never have too much knowledge. It all gives me a bigger base to draw from. The more you know, the smarter you work and the better you are at problem-solving.

Are there others you'd like to pursue?

Once I complete the water series, I want go on to backflow.

What is your favorite part of your job?

The fact that I learn something new every day. I also love talking with residents when we are working in their neighborhoods, especially when we are cleaning lines or repairing water main breaks.

I really enjoy running the vacuum truck, and look forward to the city's acquisition of a larger one that lets us stay out longer, accomplish more in a day, and work more efficiently.

I also value and appreciate my crew and department immensely. I have a fantastic team and couldn't do any of this without them. We are very much a family.

(continued on Page 3)



Above: Eric and two of the many certifications he has attained during his utilities career. Currently he is working through the C, B, and A certification series in water.

ERIC COFFIE (continued)

What are some of the challenges you experience?

Locating force mains and repairing force main breaks. You can't turn them off, so you have to fix them live. It can be really challenging, but it's also fun. We get in and get it done!

What do you like to do when you're not working?

Yard work—it's something I really enjoy. And, of course, I love this time of year because it's football season (chuckles).

What's something about you that most people don't know or wouldn't guess?

People might know my nickname is Chocolate Chip, but probably don't know where or how I got it.

Long ago, all I used to eat for lunch was a candy bar and a bag of potato chips. My boss at the time declared me "Chocolate Chip" because of it.

I have since adopted a healthier diet (smiles), but the name has stuck.



ANNUAL HYDRANT FLUSHING WORK SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MID-NOVEMBER

Sumter County's fire department will be conducting annual fire hydrant maintenance in the City of Wildwood this fall. Work is expected to begin in mid-November.

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.

BROKEN OAK DRIVE DETOUR: UTILITY WORK UNDERWAY

Utility work on Broken Oak Drive began in late October.

Daytime closures of Broken Oak Drive will occur, with traffic redirected along Powell Rd., Huey St., and St. Clair St.

Please see detour map at right and plan accordingly.

The project initially contemplated additional work to improve the road itself. Resident feedback was collected and considered during and following a community meeting.

The majority of residents did not support the proposed roadwork, and the project was scaled back to include just the utility infrastructure upgrades.

If you have any questions, please contact Wildwood's Department of Public Works, 352-330-1343.





NEXT CHAT WITH A COMMISSIONER NOV 20

The next Community Chat with a Commissioner will be held Monday, November 20, 2023, at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 101 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.

Commissioner Julian Green will be on hand from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. to visit with members of the public. Residents can ask questions, socialize, and/or just listen.

Reservations are not required or taken. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch or refreshments.

WILDWOOD BEGINS ADDITIONAL STABILIZATION WORK OF SCARDINO STREET

City of Wildwood officials are implementing engineering recommendations to further stabilize the public right-of-way on Scardino Street.

An estimated 400 to 500 cubic yards of concrete will be injected at 21 additional sites, adding to the 351.3 cubic yards injected at the initial 21 sites during September.

After reports in August of a surface depression on a city-maintained road in The Villages® section of Wildwood and an area of a driveway on private property, the city issued an emergency authorization to begin geotechnical testing to determine the exact location and extent of the collapse.

The test report recommended a series of subsurface grout injections in the right-of-way. Following completion of those injections, another depression was identified north of the grouted area, adjacent to a stormwater structure in the road. City officials immediately authorized a secondary geophysical investigation of the entire public right-of-way.

The city's consulting geotechnical engineers analyzed the secondary test results and recommended the 21 additional grouting locations. Tests indicated the depressions resulted from one or more uncontrollable natural events. Neither the stormwater structure nor any other public utility infrastructure was determined to have caused the anomalies.

The additional grouting began Oct. 25 and is expected to take two weeks to complete and cure. Inspection of utility infrastructure will follow to determine any necessary repairs.

CITY DISCOVERS CALCULATION ERROR

New Budget Hearing Scheduled for November 6

Wildwood officials have discovered an error in the tax calculation for Fiscal Year 2024. A new budget hearing will be held Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

The millage rate is the ad valorem tax assessed for each \$1,000 of value. State law requires each taxing authority to determine the rolled-back rate, often called the rollback rate, as part of the budgeting process.

According to the Florida Department of Revenue, the rolled-back millage rate is generally the amount of property taxes the property owner would owe if there were no change to the taxing authority's budget.

The 2.8287 millage rate adopted by the city commission on September 25, 2023—the lowest in the city's history—was incorrectly presented as the rolled-back rate due to the calculation error. The actual rolled-back rate is 2.8051, a difference of 0.0236.

"We went into this budget process with every intention of adopting the rolled-back rate," said Mayor Ed Wolf. "We are acutely aware of how the economy and post-pandemic market disruptions have squeezed residents and their families, and are doing everything we can to mitigate the negative effects of those forces."

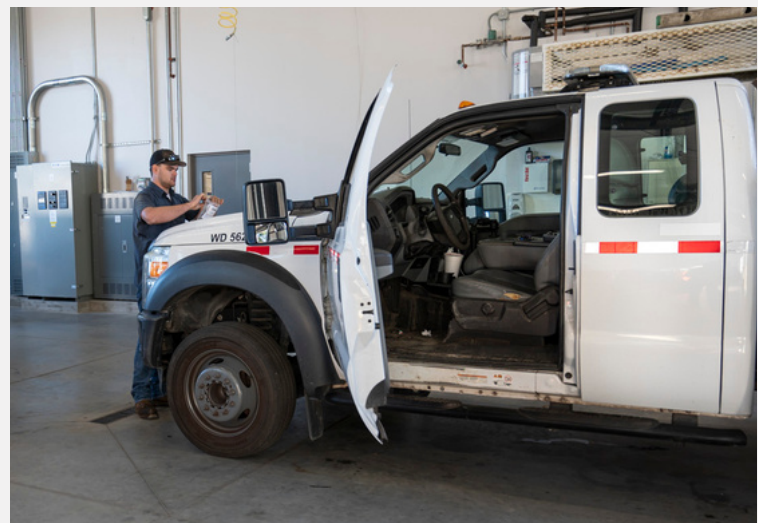
State law requires the city to re-advertise and hold a new public hearing on the proposed millage rate, during which the rolled-back rate will be correctly identified as 2.8051.

City officials sought approval from the state to adopt the corrected rolled-back rate but were unsuccessful. The difference amounts to \$2.36 in annual ad valorem taxes for each \$100,000 in assessed property value.

NEW VEHICLE LEAD TIMES DRAG OUT FOR YEARS

With current procurement lead times for new vehicles of up to two years, it is more critical than ever that Wildwood's fleet technicians—and other employees—keep the city's existing vehicles in the best condition possible.

Below, Nate Archambeault works on a water service truck.



Wildwood Police Department & American Legion Post 18
will be
HONORING OUR VETERANS
at a
VETERANS DAY

Patriotic Golf Cart Parade, Ceremony & Free Lunch!

FRIDAY
10 NOVEMBER, 2023
 Line-up by: 10:00 a.m.

Wildwood Community Center
 6500 Powell Rd, Wildwood, FL 34785

Parade starts 10:15 a.m. and will travel through the beautiful City of Wildwood past City Hall for Golf Cart judging and end at

American Legion Post 18
 401 East Gulf Atlantic Highway, Wildwood, FL 34785

Each golf cart must obtain a free 1-Day Exemption Pass by emailing: communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov

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

Wildwood Police EST. 1877
 American Legion Tri-City Post 18
 Wildwood Parks & Recreation

If you don't have a golf cart, please meet at the American Legion by 11:00 a.m. to participate. Check our website for updates! www.wildwoodpolice-fl.gov

Most Patriotic Golf Cart wins!

CITY OF WILDWOOD
TOUCH -A- TRUCK!

NOV. 4, 2023 10 AM - 1 PM
 DR. MLK JR. PARK, 600 WALKER ROAD

Wildwood Florida

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Christmas with a COP Fundraiser Night!

Thursday, November 16, 2023

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Come out and support Wildwood Police Department's Fundraiser Night to raise funds for the 4th Annual Christmas with a Cop Shopping Event where Officers take local children shopping for Christmas gifts.

Cody's Original Roadhouse
 3731 Meggison Road, The Villages, FL 32163
 including Joe Carter Entertainment

Held by Wildwood Police Department
 3939 County Road 462 East, Wildwood, FL 34785
 Questions, call: (352) 330-1355

18th Nov. GARAGE Sale 9a - 2p

CITY OF WILDWOOD

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
 Do some fall cleaning at home and bring your gently used items to sell to your neighbors in the community! Attend to sell or to buy!

WILDWOOD CITY HALL
 100 N. Main St.

COST PER SPACE \$10

To register, call 352-461-0134 or email parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

November 7, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

November 7, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

November 7, 2023
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

November 6, 2023 (budget)
5:30 p.m.

November 13, 2023
9:00 a.m.

November 27, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

November 14, 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.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY NOV 4 AT LAKE OKAHUMPKA PARK

Sumter County's next Household Electronics & Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection Amnesty Day will take place November 4, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Lake Okahumpka Park, 6085 E SR 44 in Wildwood.

To learn more, call Sumter County at 352-689-4400.

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



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows Royal Palm Ice Company on Ice Plant Road, now known as West Clarke Street. The photographer and year 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