



WILDWOOD CONNECTION



Commissioner Flores at the city's 2025 golf tournament, a fundraising event for Christmas with a Cop.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER: MARCOS FLORES

As you look back on the past year, what do you see as the city's greatest accomplishments?

I'm very proud of the fact that Wildwood once again has the lowest property tax rate in the city's history and in the area. And that it has accomplished this while providing a high level of public service.

I feel this is one of the things that sets us apart from nearby municipalities and makes Wildwood such an attractive place to live.

What would you like to see happen before 2025 ends?

My past experience in law enforcement ingrained upon me the importance of public safety for all residents. We enjoy a very low violent crime rate here in Wildwood, and I want to ensure we keep it that way.

To that end, I would like to see our police department fully staffed with a zero-vacancy rate as soon as it is possible.

What are your highest three priorities for 2026?

My top three involve the issues previously mentioned in addition to our utility infrastructure.

First, I want to ensure we secure funding for our new water reclamation facility. This is an enormous project that is critical to providing continued high-level utility service to our customers. It comes with a high monetary cost, and we need to be diligent in finding funding opportunities that will lessen the load on our ratepayers. We have a wide diversity of residents in Wildwood, including those on limited fixed incomes, and we cannot underestimate the burden higher utility rates will place on them.

Second, I want to secure a location for our new police substation. As Wildwood grows geographically, it is important we keep our response times low when calls for help come in. By adding a substation in the southern portion of the city, we will be able to provide assistance faster and more efficiently, helping to keep the public safe.

Third, I want to make sure we keep our taxes down. Our low millage rate is one of the benefits of being a Wildwood resident.

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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER: MARCOS FLORES

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What goals do those priorities include in the coming year and how can the city achieve them?

Working with our skilled leadership team and consultants, we continue to research and apply for grants offered by state, federal, and non-governmental organizations, leaving no stone unturned. We also plan to issue bonds to cover a portion of the water reclamation facility cost. This will be a first for Wildwood and gives us a new level of credibility as a growing city.

As for our police department, finding a substation location involves working with realtors and landowners willing to sell suitable property at or even below fair market rates to help ensure a safe community for everyone in Wildwood.

I also want to be sure we continue to provide our law enforcement officers the best training, competitive pay, and exemplary culture. Employee retention is challenging in this field--we have to stand out as the best department in the region so the best officers want to work and stay here in Wildwood.

In terms of taxes, we need to continue to emphasize responsible spending. Wildwood is blessed with a very lean, efficient government, thanks to our city manager, his direct reports, and our employee culture. We must continue to evaluate, prioritize, analyze, and reprioritize to ensure we are spending wisely and only on what we really need to provide the best quality of life for residents.

Looking forward, where do you see Wildwood in five years? In ten?

Overall, as I look ahead, I see a safe, beautiful place to live, work, and play. More specifically, in five years, Millennium Park improvements are complete and enjoyed by kids playing sports, adults using the recreational trails and facilities, and families spending time together.

In ten years, Wildwood is a healthy, growing city that is a destination for anyone looking for a safe city where kids can play among beautiful scenery and enjoy many different opportunities.

We will get there through continued outstanding leadership in our city manager, department directors, and employees. Given the opportunity, I will continue to serve our residents and do everything I possibly can to make sure it happens.



HOLIDAY SEASON: THINK BEFORE YOU POUR (AND DON'T RUSH TO FLUSH)

With the holidays right around the corner, it's a great time to review proper cooking oil disposal techniques.

First and foremost, don't pour any type of grease or fat down the drain, even liquid forms. Oils solidify as they cool and/or react with other substances to form clogs and damage pipes. Save the headache and expense by keeping them out of your pipes.

Instead, reuse if feasible, or collect and dispose with other solid waste. Allow hot grease and oil to cool and then put in a leakproof, sealed container, such as a can, jar, or bottle, and put out with household trash. It can even be mixed with coffee grounds, cat litter, or paper towels to help it clump and solidify.

Think before you pour. Your pipes and your pocketbook will thank you!

WILDWOOD FLORIDA

QUIZ

QUESTION:

Which of these should never be poured down the drain?

- Bacon grease
- Cooking oil
- Melted butter
- Heavy cream
- Milk
- Skin oil
- Hot oil hair treatment

ANSWER:

All of the above.

Any type of liquid or solid fat can cause plumbing problems requiring expensive repairs.

THINK BEFORE YOU POUR!

What's your favorite tradition? Calling a plumber?

Holiday gatherings are a wonderful way to share quality time with family and friends. The last thing you need is a clog and backup in your guest bathroom.

It's easy to toss things into the toilet when rushing. One flush and it's out of sight and out of mind...or is it?

Think twice before you toss. Even those "flushable" wipes can clog your system. Don't take the chance. The last thing a host wants is to mop up a toilet overflow and search for an after-hours plumber who can get there before someone else has to go.

Keep all foreign matter out of your plumbing system, including "flushable" wipes. Save yourself a potential problem at the worst possible moment.

Don't rush to flush. Your pipes and your pocketbook will thank you.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The City of Wildwood is seeking public input on the development of a bicycle and pedestrian master plan.

"This is an important project for our city and we want to make sure we get it right," said Parks and Recreation Director Courtney Kellem. "As Wildwood grows and traffic increases, it is essential we offer transit alternatives. This plan will provide critical access to schools, local businesses, healthcare providers, and public facilities, as well as options for exercise and recreation."

Source: Canva

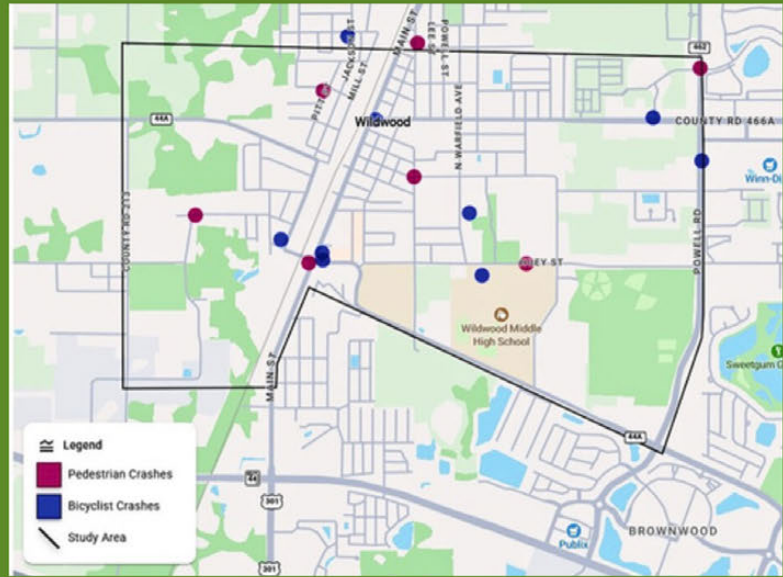


The city's consulting engineers, Kimley-Horn, have developed a project website, interactive project map, and online survey. Representatives also are attending community events to help increase awareness and solicit input.

The project website and map can be found at engage.publiccoordinate.com/en/project/wildwood-bike-ped-plan.

The survey, consisting of about a dozen questions, can be taken at forms.office.com/r/bHrNK9xAm7.

More information can be found on the project website or by visiting the Wildwood Community Center at 6500 Powell Rd. The public also may call 352-461-0134 to speak with a parks and recreation staff member.



WILDWOOD OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE SIGNATURE DRIVE IMPROVEMENT WORK

Wildwood last month began construction on Signature Drive to improve safety, traffic flow, signalization, signage, utility infrastructure, and stormwater management.

Temporary overnight lane closures and short detours between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. are expected to continue through early November. These include the southbound right-turn lane onto State Road 44, northbound left-turn lane onto State Road 44, and through lane on Powell Road. Access to businesses will be maintained throughout the project.

Message boards and advance warning signs have been placed to alert motorists. Drivers should expect reduced speeds and brief delays while work is in progress.

The project will realign and expand Signature Drive, adding dedicated left-turn, through, and right-turn lanes in the northbound direction and a single southbound lane.

"While Signature Drive is not a residential neighborhood, it supports a heavy and increasing load of commercial traffic, including trucks, equipment, customers, and employees," said Public Works Director Jeremy Hockenbury. "This work will greatly enhance safety and efficiency in the area. We are eager to bring these improvements to our community."

The city awarded the contract to Tallahassee based C.W. Roberts Contracting after a competitive bidding process. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2026 at a cost of about \$428,500.

ANNUAL HYDRANT MAINTENANCE TO BEGIN

Sumter County's fire department has scheduled its annual fire hydrant maintenance. Work is expected to begin during November in Webster and Center Hill. Crews will work northward to and through Wildwood.

While this maintenance is taking place, lower-than-normal water pressure and/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.



Source: Canva

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AND INTERCHANGE UPGRADES

U.S. 301 (S.R. 35) from Industrial Park Drive to C.R. 468

Sumter County

Financial Project Identification (FPID) No.:
430132-4

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is excited to begin a series of improvements to U.S. 301 (State Road (S.R.) 35) in Sumter County through the state's Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative (www.fdot.gov/movingfloridaforward). These three projects will provide additional capacity, improve traffic operations, and enhance safety for all users along this vital corridor, and realign a portion of U.S. 301 around the City of Coleman.

The three projects will widen U.S. 301 from two to four lanes between Florida's Turnpike and County Road (C.R.) 470. The first project will realign U.S. 301 by adding a new two-mile section from Industrial Park Drive to C.R. 468 (Warm Springs Avenue). In addition, improvements to the Florida's Turnpike interchange are underway to help reduce congestion.

Construction will be done in two phases:

Phase One: Beginning in fall 2025, one through lane will be added in each direction under the Florida's Turnpike bridge, and southbound turn lane capacity will be increased. Anticipated phase completion is spring 2026.

Phase One Start Date:
Fall 2025

CONTRACTOR
Southland Construction, Inc.

PROJECT COST
\$39.9 million

PROJECT START
Fall 2025

ESTIMATED COMPLETION
Late 2027

FOR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR PROJECT UPDATES
Send a request to:
Joe Callahan
Community Outreach Specialist
352-629-3020
joe.callahan@dot.state.fl.us

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR PHASE 2 INFORMATION

For more information, scan the QR code above or visit the project website at www.cflroads.com/project/430132-4

KEY
Project Area

FDOT

MOVING FLORIDA FORWARD

Follow us on social media

CFLroads.com [Facebook.com/MyFDOTCFL](https://www.facebook.com/MyFDOTCFL) [@MyFDOT_CFL](https://www.instagram.com/MyFDOT_CFL) [@MyFDOT_CFL](https://www.youtube.com/MyFDOT_CFL)

FDOT U.S. 301 PROJECT UPDATES

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has begun a series of improvements to U.S. 301 in Sumter County through the state's Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative (www.fdot.gov/movingfloridaforward).

This first project (430132-4) includes construction of a new two-mile section of U.S. 301 from C.R. 525E (Industrial Park Drive) to C.R. 468 (Warm Springs Avenue), as well as interim improvements at the Florida's Turnpike interchange to help reduce congestion.

Phase One began last month. It will add one through lane in each direction under the Florida's Turnpike bridge and increase the southbound turn lane capacity. The anticipated completion date for this phase is Spring 2026.

Overnight lane closures associated with the project can be expected between 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Please use caution and allow additional time when traveling through this area.

FDOT recently held a project open house that included a looping presentation and project displays. Those materials are available and will remain on the website throughout the project. The public is asked to provide comments or questions by Nov. 10, 2025, to have the comments included in the open house record.

Check out the project website at www.cflroads.com/project/430132-4 to learn more.

CODE COMPLIANCE COORDINATION:
ADDRESSING LANDLORD-TENANT CONCERNS

The City of Wildwood does not conduct interior inspections of buildings or residences. Complaints dealing with the interior are addressed by Sumter County's code enforcement or building services department.

Landlord-tenant issues can be filed with the Florida Department of Agriculture. The agency's website, www.fdacs.gov/, provides resources regarding landlord and tenant responsibilities and rights.

When the City of Wildwood receives an exterior complaint, it conducts a visual inspection from the right-of-way. Visual inspections consider factors such as the overall condition of the exterior, integrity of the windows and doors, condition of the fascia and soffit, height of vegetation, failing paint, excessive mildew/mold on exterior surfaces, junk and debris, derelict vehicles, and condition of a fence.

Wildwood code officials will not look over a fence or enter the residential property without permission other than to knock on a door to speak with the occupant or when serving a notice.

Links and resources can be found on the Code Compliance page of the City of Wildwood's website. Go to www.wildwood-fl.gov/code-enforcement to learn more. Anyone with questions may contact Stuart Ellington at 352-446-3492.

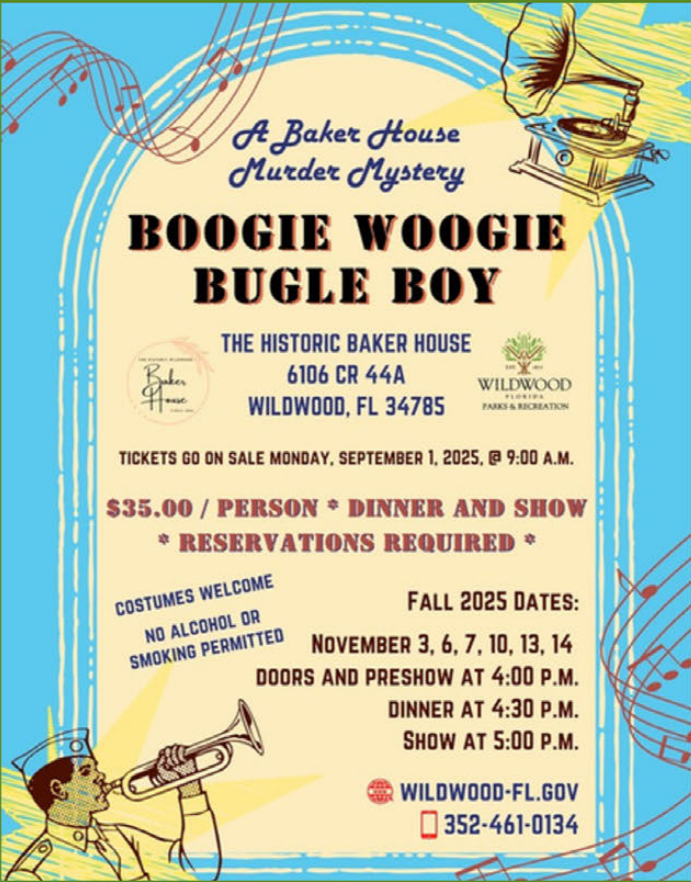
VOLUNTEERS HELP KEEP WILDWOOD BEAUTIFUL

Last month, a group of volunteers joined Wildwood's code compliance team and the Street Sweepers to tidy up the right-of-way along local roads.

After a couple hours of work on a beautiful morning, the group had collected 480 pounds of litter and reconvened to enjoy lunch generously provided by Winn-Dixie.

The Wildwood Street Sweepers group is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Additional volunteers are always welcome. Please email ttradd@wildwood-fl.gov or call 352-661-6067 for more information.





A Baker House Murder Mystery

BOOGIE WOOGIE BUGLE BOY

THE HISTORIC BAKER HOUSE
6106 CR 44A
WILDWOOD, FL 34785

TICKETS GO ON SALE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, @ 9:00 A.M.

\$35.00 / PERSON * DINNER AND SHOW
*** RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ***

COSTUMES WELCOME
NO ALCOHOL OR SMOKING PERMITTED

FALL 2025 DATES:
NOVEMBER 3, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14
DOORS AND PRESHOW AT 4:00 P.M.
DINNER AT 4:30 P.M.
SHOW AT 5:00 P.M.

WILDWOOD-FL.GOV
352-461-0134



WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT
&
AMERICAN LEGION TRI-CITY POST 18

invite you to attend the

3rd Annual VETERANS DAY

Ceremony & Lunch

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH at 11:00 A.M.

Note: There will be no Golf Cart Parade this year due to construction at the Wildwood Community Center. Please meet directly at:

American Legion Tri-City Post 18
401 E. Gulf Atlantic Hwy, Wildwood, FL 34785.

Questions, email: communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov

Honoring All Who Served

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
Find more on the city's community calendar at www.wildwood-fl.gov/calendar.



WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
Fundraiser Night
Cody's Brownwood

THURSDAY,
November 20, 2025
5 - 7 pm

Cody's Original Roadhouse-Brownwood
3731 Meggison Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Grab the family and come support WPD and the kids for Christmas!

Questions, call:
352-931-0357



KIDS' NIGHT OUT

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 22, 2025
6:00 PM-10:00 PM

COST \$10/CHILD
Ages 5-12
Dinner provided
Crafts, glow-in-the-dark games, and more

Leave the kids with us for a fun-filled evening while you enjoy a well-deserved break!

Financial assistance is available to residents of the City of Wildwood who qualify.

98 S. Warfield Ave.
Wildwood, FL 34785

Register:
352-461-0134
6500 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL 34785

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

November 4, 2025
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

November 4, 2025
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

November 4, 2025
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

November 3, 2025 (workshop)
9:00 a.m.

November 10, 2025
9:00 a.m.

November 24, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

TBA
(check website for updates)

General Information

Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are held at Wildwood City Hall, 100 N. Main St.

Agendas and minutes are posted on the city's website, wildwood-fl.gov. Click on the [Agenda](#) icon to view or download.

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.



Left to Right: Irish Cason, Co-Captain, Barbara Easton, Jimmie Ann Seckinger, Myra Lowry, Terri Roop, Sally Reynolds, Amelia Windham, Jean Coleman, Co-Captain.

A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

Wildwood High School varsity cheerleaders from a copy of the Class of 1964 yearbook.

MONDAYS WITH THE MANAGER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Oxford Community Center
4027 Sumter County Rd. 106, Oxford, FL 34484



Questions? Suggestions? Need help with a local issue?
Stop by and chat with Wildwood City Manager Jason McHugh.

No appointment needed.



WILDWOOD
FLORIDA

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
Media Inquiries: 352-913-5538

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