



WILDWOOD CONNECTION



From top: breaking ground in January, construction in progress, and the garage ready to open.

DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE SET TO OPEN: CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 13

The City of Wildwood will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new downtown parking garage on Friday, Sept 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. The garage is expected to open to the public for parking at the conclusion of the event, pending successful testing of the elevator system.

The four-level structure houses 126 spaces, including four served by two EV charging stations.

The first phase of a public-private partnership with G3 Development, the garage will be owned by the City of Wildwood and offer free parking to support the downtown business and municipal district.

"We have witnessed a shortage of parking in this area for some time," said City Manager Jason McHugh. "Wildwood has a multitude of small, independent businesses on Main Street, including retail and service-based companies, all of which stand to benefit immediately from the additional parking for their customers. As the downtown area continues to develop, the additional support infrastructure will be that much more critical."

The Railyard project is the next phase of the public-private partnership and will feature 8,000 square feet of commercial space for indoor/outdoor dining and entertainment. Construction is expected to begin in early 2025.

"It has been gratifying to see the vision behind Wildwood's Downtown Master Plan start to become reality," McHugh added. "I'm thrilled we are beginning to show our residents a return on their investment of time, ideas, thoughtful insight, and feedback during our planning process."

That process encompassed both in-person and online opportunities for the public to participate in brainstorming, surveys, placemaking exercises, interviews, and discussion to provide input on what Wildwood's downtown area most needed to better serve its growing population.

The plan envisions traffic calming through a variety of strategies, green space, and inviting gathering areas to encourage and benefit pedestrian activity in the area. Design of the state's Complete Streets Study for Main Street/US 301 is included in the Florida Department of Transportation's Five-Year Work Program and the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization's List of Priority Projects.

More information about the Downtown Master Plan, garage, and Railyard is available at wildwooddowntown.com.

TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT SIGN REMINDERS

With the election season well underway, September is a good time to review regulations and ordinances regarding signage in the City of Wildwood.

Signs are addressed in Chapter 1(F) of the city's Design District Standards. Those standards provide an overview:

(9) Signage

The City has established regulations for the fabrication, erection, and use of signs and outdoor City of Wildwood 1-21 Design District Standards advertising displays within the City's Design Districts. The purpose of sign regulation is to promote the overall economic wellbeing of the businesses in the City and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its citizens by reducing the adverse effects of signs and displays on highway safety, building safety, property value, and the enjoyment of the scenic beauty of the City.

All signage is to be designed and constructed in a professional manner with quality workmanship and materials. Signs are to be compatible with the surrounding development and compliment the architectural styles in use.

In no event shall any signs be erected or relocated within the City of Wildwood Design Districts except in conformance with this section. All signage shall be required to adhere to the City of Wildwood Land Development Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 3.24.

The city's Land Development Regulations provide the detailed standards in the chapter pertaining to zoning and include exemptions, a list of 39 types of prohibited signs, general requirements, permitting, and more. Temporary signs require a permit and are subject to specific rules, including time limits. Please refer to the Land Development Regulations for specifics.

Florida state law addresses political/campaign signs in Section 106.1435, Florida Statutes, Usage and removal of political campaign advertisements.

Of particular note is the removal deadline. Please review the statute for details.

In summary, signs are governed by multiple jurisdictions and documents. Anyone who is considering erecting a sign, whether permanent or temporary, should review these regulations carefully to ensure compliance with all state and local laws.

For more information, a sign permit application, or questions, please contact the city's code compliance manager at 352-661-6067.

HUEY STREET PROJECT CONTINUES

As utility, drainage system, and roadway improvements continue on Huey St., lane closures are expected until early November.

The entire road is not expected to be closed while school is in session, but construction delays may occur and motorists should allow extra time to travel through the area.

KEEP WILDWOOD BEAUTIFUL NEXT CLEAN-UP EVENT TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 7

The City of Wildwood has expanded its Street Sweepers community group to achieve affiliation status with Keep America Beautiful.

The group's next community clean-up event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024. All are welcome to meet at City Hall, 100 N. Main St., to pick up supplies, team up, and sweep nearby streets for litter.

Participants will regroup at 11:00 a.m. to socialize and enjoy a free lunch together.

For more information, please call 352-661-6067 or email streetsweepers@wildwood-fl.gov.

CITY OF WILDWOOD
COMMUNITY CLEANUP!

Join us to make the City of Wildwood the cleanest town in Sumter County with a clean-up event!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7th

Meet at Wildwood City Hall, 100 N Main Street at 8:30a
 Trash pick up at 9:00a
 Lunch at 11:00a

WILDWOOD STREET SWEEPERS!

Sign up to join our group today!
 (352) 661-6067
 or email
streetsweepers@wildwood-fl.gov

PUBLIC INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN BUDGET HEARINGS THIS MONTH

The City of Wildwood’s proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget will be the topic of two public hearings this month.

The first will occur on Sept. 9, with the second hearing and commission vote scheduled for Sept. 23, 2024. Both are scheduled for 7 p.m.

Residents are invited to attend one or both hearings and provide input before the commission votes.

All commission workshops, meetings, and hearings are held at Wildwood City Hall, 100 N. Main St., and are open to the public.

The public may participate during any public hearing shown on a meeting agenda as well as during the general public forum session of commission meetings. Each participant is provided four minutes to speak during each hearing and public forum session.

Agendas and item exhibits can be found at wildwood-fl.gov no less than 72 hours before the commission convenes.

DISASTER PREP TAX HOLIDAY UNDERWAY

The Florida Department of Revenue’s second Disaster Preparedness Tax Holiday continues through Sept. 6, 2024. Many emergency items can be purchased free of sales tax.

Residents are encouraged to prepare for the remainder of Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs through Nov. 30, 2024.

For details, visit floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep.

WILDWOOD HOSTS CITIZEN SCIENCE EVENT AND CONTRIBUTES TO POLLINATOR CENSUS

The City of Wildwood, in partnership with UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County, hosted a pollinator census event on Aug. 23, 2024, attracting approximately 25 participants. Each observed a flowering plant for 15 minutes and recorded the number of pollinators they saw visit the plant during that time.

Six 15-minute sessions were conducted, with a total of 85 pollinators counted, with Extension personnel providing information and demonstrations between sessions on topics ranging from rain barrels, bluebird house construction and placement, and Florida Friendly plant selection and care.

Attendees moved indoors at noon and enjoyed an informative presentation by Alycyn Culbertson from The Villages Butterfly Garden Club on butterfly gardening

Data collected were reported to the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, a citizen science project of the University of Georgia and will help researchers learn more about pollinators.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, three-fourths of the world’s flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world’s food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce, resulting in one out of every three bites of food being dependent upon pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles, and other insects.

“We are expanding our programming to encompass new events and activities,” said Wildwood Parks and Recreation Director Courtney Kellem. “Our partnership with UF/IFAS Extension is helping to fuel that expansion through access to experts in many areas including the natural sciences, and is enabling us to provide exciting new offerings for our diverse and growing community.”

For more information about UF/IFAS Extension, visit <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/>. To learn more about the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, go to <https://gsepc.org/>.



Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

\$10 or less

- Wet dog or cat food if sold individually or the equivalent if sold in a box or case

\$15 or less

- Manual can openers
- Collapsible or travel-sized food or water bowls for pets
- Cat litter pans
- Pet waste disposal bags
- Hamster or rabbit substrate

\$20 or less

- Reusable ice
- Leashes, collars, and muzzles for pets
- Pet pads

\$25 or less

- Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds

\$40 or less

- Portable self-powered light sources
- Pet beds

\$50 or less

- Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, or weather-band radios
- Gas or diesel fuel tanks
- Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:
 - AA-cell
 - AAA-cell
 - C-cell
 - D-cell
 - 6-volt
 - 9-volt

\$60 or less

- Nonelectric food storage coolers
- Portable power banks

\$70 or less

- Smoke detectors or smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers
- Carbon monoxide detectors

\$100 or less

- Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting
- Ground anchor systems
- Portable pet kennels or pet carriers
- Dry dog or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds
- Over-the-counter pet medications

\$3,000 or less

- Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage

June 1-14, 2024
 August 24-September 6, 2024
 Visit floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep





TRAFFIC UNIT RECEIVES TEAM IMPACT AWARD

Wildwood Police Chief Randy Parmer presented the department's quarterly Team Impact Award to members of the city's three-person traffic unit on Aug. 12, 2024, at the city commission's regular meeting.

Shown above, from left to right, are Sgt. Garth Layne, Officer Todd Peck, and Officer Michael Cosseboom.

Chief Parmer praised the unit for achieving an ideal balance of education and enforcement as it works to improve the safety of the city's roads, explaining that approximately half of the unit's stops result in citations.

Commander Sam Bass of the American Legion Tri-City Post 18 followed by presenting the award recipients with Certificates of Commendation.

The
WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT
&
THE IRON VILLAGE GYM
WILL RECOGNIZE
PATRIOT DAY 2024

on
SEPTEMBER 11TH
Event will begin at
8:30 a.m.

The Iron Village Gym
4059 Thomas Street
Oxford, FL 34484

To sign up for your 5-minute stair climb, email:
communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov

WILDWOOD TEAMS UP WITH THE VILLAGES SQUARES TO OFFER SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

As part of its ongoing expansion and diversification of programming for a growing community, the City of Wildwood has teamed up with The Villages Squares to bring square dance lessons to the Wildwood Community Center this fall.

Lessons are being offered for both beginner and experienced dancers, as well as for persons with disabilities under the age of 18.

A trial class will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, 2024, at Warfield Auditorium. The trial class is free but space is limited and reservations are required.

Five class sessions for beginners will be offered, with the first starting Oct. 22, 2024. Experienced dancers can choose from three sessions, with the first beginning Sept. 9, 2024. Each session is \$35.

Persons with disabilities who are 18 years or younger can participate in two sessions with a guardian or caretaker. The first starts Sept. 22, 2024, and the cost is \$21.

All classes, including the free trial, require registration. Sign up at wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec.

For more information, please call 352-461-0134.

Square Dance Lessons

EST. 1877
WILDWOOD
FLORIDA
PARKS & RECREATION

Taught by
The Villages
Squares

People with Disabilities

Children 18 Years Old or Younger with Special Needs
Must be Accompanied by a Guardian or Caretaker

Session Dates
Sundays 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Session 1: Sept. 22, 2024 - Oct. 6, 2024
Session 2: Oct. 27, 2024 - Nov. 10, 2024

Cost: \$21.00 per session

Warfield Auditorium
98 S. Warfield Ave.

Please register at
www.wildwood-fl.gov
352-461-0134




JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER

FREE

WITH UF / IFAS EXTENSION SUMTER COUNTY

Elementary school kids can interact and bond with nature, learn how to conserve our natural resources, and enjoy hands-on group and individual learning through this FREE international youth gardening program! Advance registration required.

SATURDAYS, 10:30 AM - 12:00 NOON

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

SESSION 1
Wildlife Gardener
August 3 - August 31, 2024

SESSION 2
Literature in the Garden
September 7 - October 5, 2024



REGISTER:
352-461-0134
www.wildwood-fl.gov



WILDWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION

'50s SOCK HOP

\$10.00 ADMISSION
PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE:
WWW.WILDWOOD-FL.GOV
352-461-0134

Saturday, SEPT 7, 2024

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
WARFIELD AUDITORIUM
98 S. WARFIELD AVENUE



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

PRESENTED BY: WILDWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

WILDWOOD COMEDY CLUB
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 P.M.; SHOW STARTS AT 6:30 P.M.




STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT

FEATURING

DR. VIEN
Warfield Auditorium
98 S. Warfield Avenue
Wildwood, FL 34785

THE COMEDIAN COMPANY

\$15 Entry Ticket (Ages 21+)
Purchase tickets in advance:
www.wildwood-fl.gov 352-461-0134
Dinner and drinks for sale.

Wildwood Police Department,
United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties
and
Charter Research
are presenting the topic of

"Understanding Memory Loss"

This is a **FREE**
Lunch 'n Learn Event at:

Wildwood Police Headquarters
3939 County Road 462 East, Wildwood, FL 34785

Wednesday, September 25, 2024
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Everyone must RSVP by email:
communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov

BBQ served.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

September 3, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

September 3, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

September 3, 2024
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

September 9, 2024
7:00 p.m.

September 23, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

September 10, 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, www.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.



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

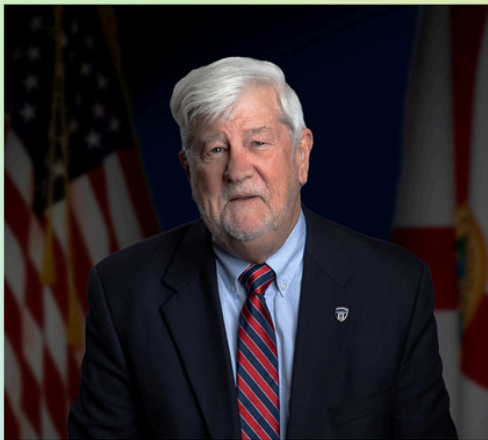
This photo shows a section of Main Street. There is a handwritten note on the back: *Haley Watch Shop/Repair Realtor - Dowell Kelly*
The date and photographer are unknown.

CHAT WITH A COMMISSIONER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

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

Everglades Recreation Center
5497 Marsh Bend Trail, Wildwood, FL 34785



Commissioner Elliott 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.



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