



WILDWOOD CONNECTION



Above: Winterfest and Light Up Wildwood 2023.

SANTA IS COMING TO THE CITY OF WILDWOOD DURING DECEMBER

The holiday season is underway, and the City of Wildwood will celebrate in full color on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, with its annual Winterfest and Light Up Wildwood parade.

The parade starts at 6 p.m., setting off from Wildwood Middle High School, and follows the traditional route through the downtown/central area along Huey Street, Gamble Street, Barwick Street, and Warfield Avenue.

City Hall and its courtyard become a winter wonderland that evening with a snow slide, s'mores, toys, crafts, vendors, and more, including a tree-lighting ceremony at 7:30 p.m. and pictures with Santa following his official duties at the event. The family fun continues through 9 p.m.

Santa returns to Wildwood on Dec. 20, 2024, when he stops by the Wildwood Community Center at 6500 Powell Rd. from 6 to 8 p.m. to enjoy cookies and Christmas cheer with children of all ages. A sensory-friendly hour will start at 5 p.m.

The seasonal events continue on Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, with an early Happy New Year celebration at the Wildwood Community Center. Festivities get underway at 6 p.m. and feature live music, vendors, food trucks, and other activities. A professional fireworks display tops off the evening at 9 p.m.

The events are free and open to all. For more information, please contact Wildwood Parks and Recreation at 352-461-0134.

PARKS AND RECREATION SEEKS FEEDBACK FROM WILDWOOD RESIDENTS

Wildwood Parks and Recreation is seeking input from the community to enhance its programming. Take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5LMMY2S> or by scanning the QR code at right.

It consists of 16 questions, primarily multiple choice. A survey will be selected at random each week through Dec. 27, 2024, to win stylish Wildwood Parks and Recreation apparel and other promotional items.



TEMPORARY SIGN REMINDERS

Election season concluded last month, and city officials are reminding citizens about Wildwood’s sign regulations.

“It’s easy to forget about things like signs in the midst of celebration or disappointment,” said Code Compliance Manager Tara Tradd. “So much energy goes into running for elected office. We understand and appreciate that. But once the election is over, it’s important to close out the season with a thorough cleanup, and that includes signage.”

Signs are addressed in Chapter 1(F) of the city’s Design District Standards.

Temporary signs require a permit and are subject to specific rules, including time limits. For details, please refer to the city’s Land Development Regulations at www.wildwood-fl.gov under *Government > Development Services*.

Political and campaign signs are addressed specifically in Florida Statutes, Section 106.1435, *Usage and removal of Political campaign advertisements*.

Excerpts include the following:

(1) *Each candidate, whether for a federal, state, county, or district office, shall make a good faith effort to remove all of his or her political campaign advertisements within 30 days after:*

- (a) *Withdrawal of his or her candidacy;*
- (b) *Having been eliminated as a candidate; or*
- (c) *Being elected to office.*

(2) *If political campaign advertisements are not removed within the specified period, the political subdivision or governmental entity has the authority to remove such advertisements and may charge the candidate the actual cost for such removal. Funds collected for removing such advertisements shall be deposited to the general revenue of the political subdivision.*

Please review the entire [statute](#) for additional information.

For questions, more information, or a sign permit application, please call 352-661-6067 or email ttradd@wildwood-fl.gov.



WILDWOOD TO ADD POLICE SUBSTATION IN SOUTH END

The City of Wildwood has entered into negotiations with KP Studio Architect P.A. for design of a Wildwood Police Department substation in the southern portion of the city, following a unanimous vote by commissioners last month at a regularly scheduled meeting.

KP Studio’s proposal was one of four received in response to the city’s request for qualifications. Proposals were ranked based on the firm’s proven relevant experience, method of approach to project management, and the experience of key personnel. The top three firms were invited to provide presentations and KP Studio was selected as the best qualified.

The substation will be located near the intersection of Marsh Bend Trail and Central Parkway.



Anyone witnessing a sewage truck discharging into a manhole in the City of Wildwood is asked to call the city's police department at 352-330-1355.

A \$5,000 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of illegal offenders.



ANNUAL HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULED

Sumter County's fire department and its contractor are conducting annual fire hydrant maintenance in the City of Wildwood this fall and winter.

Crews began last month in Center Hill and have been working northward. They expect to reach the southern limits of Wildwood in mid-December and will continue working northward through the city.

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.

Any resident receiving Wildwood utility service who experiences water issues that do not resolve quickly—during hydrant flushing or otherwise—is asked to call 352-330-1336. A water technician will be dispatched to the area to address the concern.

CITY OF WILDWOOD ASKS CITIZENS TO REPORT OBSERVATIONS OF ILLEGAL DUMPING

Wildwood officials have observed sporadic, sharp increases in the concentration of sanitary sewer flows entering the city's wastewater treatment facility. These spikes are not consistent with normal rainfall and seasonal fluctuations, suggesting unauthorized dumping by sewage sludge trucks.

"Not only do these sharp increases put our existing treatment facility under significant strain, they result in additional costs to the city and its ratepayers to treat sewage not generated within our service area," said Deputy Director Jason Martin. "This dumping is illegal and places an unfair burden on our residents. We are asking the community to help us identify these criminals so we can hold them accountable."

Anyone who sees a sewage truck 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.

COMMISSION APPROVES DIRECT PURCHASE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT

As part of Wildwood's wastewater treatment project, the city will direct-purchase all major equipment through the contractor.

"This approach streamlines the process and we anticipate it will save the city its ratepayers half a million dollars in sales tax," said City Manager Jason McHugh.

Equipment to be direct-purchased includes submersible pumps, clarifiers, influent drum screens, large-diameter pipe, one disc filter, and a Davco plant to add 1,000,000 gallons of temporary capacity to the city's wastewater system.

Last month, City of Wildwood staff and the CMAR (construction manager at risk) for the project reviewed the bid analysis and recommended to the commission approval for \$8,110,812 for equipment to be broken down as follows:

- Xylem Water Solutions / Flygt \$456,661
- TSC Jacobs / Ovivo \$1,519,500
- MTS Environmental / Parkson \$765,456
- Ferguson Waterworks \$1,049,395
- Kruger / Hydrotech \$569,8000
- Davco \$3,750,000

Commissioners will consider the recommendation at a special called meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024.

All commission meetings are open to the public. Agendas can be found at www.wildwood-fl.gov.

JACKSON STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE: CONTRACT AWARDED

On Nov. 25, 2024, Wildwood commissioners unanimously approved award of a \$1,533,916 contract for engineering services for the Jackson Street Improvements project to DB Civil Construction.

"We are eager to get this much-needed project underway," said Public Works Director Jeremy Hockenbury. "Residents in the Jackson Street neighborhood have voiced their concerns for some time and we are happy to have all the pieces in place now to provide them with significantly enhanced infrastructure that will serve them well for many years to come."

Identified as a capital project in the Fiscal Year 25 budget, the project consists of the rehabilitation of Jackson Street from Kilgore Street to West Clark Street via full depth reclamation, along with utility improvements including installation of approximately 3,500 linear feet of eight-inch PVC water main, reconnection of existing services and water meters, and abandonment of 3,500 linear feet of two-inch water main. Also included are lighting improvements in coordination with Duke Energy. The Community Development Agency (CRA) will fund \$500,000 of the project cost.

A request for qualified contractors (ITB 2024-31) was posted on Sept. 12, 2024. City officials worked with consulting engineers at Kimley-Horn to release four addenda to provide clarification and updates to the specifications.

Six bids were received and publicly opened on Oct. 24, 2024. All bids were reviewed by city staff and engineering consultants to ensure accuracy and compliance with the bid specifications. DB Civil Construction was identified as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

The project is expected to begin construction in mid-2025.

LAKE DEATON PARK REOPENS

Wildwood city officials have reopened Lake Deaton Park after a sustained closure resulting from flooding.

"We are thrilled to get this park open again for our community," said Parks and Recreation Director Courtney Kellem. "It now features a completely reconstructed public boat ramp along with a new and improved fishing pier, parking area, and sidewalks as part of a project completed this spring. With the floodwaters having receded at last, we can safely offer these upgraded amenities to residents."

The City of Wildwood was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the project. The Florida Recreation Development Assistant Program funding, administered by FDEP, will provide reimbursement toward expenses incurred for the new pier, boat ramp, landscaping, and picnic facilities at the park.

Lake Deaton Park is located at 5300 County Rd. 155 in Wildwood and is open daily from dawn to dusk.

For more information about the park, visit wildwood-fl.gov or call 352-461-0134.

EXPLORE A CAREER WITH WILDWOOD

Are you looking for a change? Starting a career?

The City of Wildwood offers an unparalleled team environment, competitive salaries, paid training, and opportunities for advancement as the city continues to grow.

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring employment with one of the fastest-growing communities in the country, follow this link, check the job categories you would like to learn more about, and subscribe to alerts to receive direct notifications about current and future openings:

<https://tinyurl.com/WildwoodCareerInterest>

2024 EMPLOYEE PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST RAISES THE BAR ON CREATIVITY

As part of its ongoing programming to sustain high morale, encourage teamwork, and foster creativity, Wildwood's human resources department held its annual employee pumpkin decorating contest in October.

One pumpkin was provided to each department to decorate with the only restriction that it could not be carved. Staff took their orange globes home and unleashed their artistic abilities to return on deadline day with some of the most impressive creations to date.

The public was invited to vote when visiting City Hall, where the pumpkins were displayed for one week.

"We take fun very seriously here," said HR Director Melissa Tuck. "Wildwood employees are a special group. They work very hard and take great pride in serving our community. They also treat one another like family and have a great time together."

This year's top vote-getter was ET, submitted by the utility billing team, with Steampunk Mr. Peanut by public works staff coming in as a close runner-up.

Congratulations to all employees who participated and to everyone who voted in this eagerly anticipated annual event.

(Photos by Joanna Mann)



CITY OF WILDWOOD PRESENTS
Two Events In One - A MAGICAL EVENING
WINTERFEST & LIGHT UP WILDWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE
DEC. 6, 2024, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 6:00 P.M. - PARADE STARTS
 7:30 P.M. - TREE LIGHTING

WILDWOOD FLORIDA PARKS & RECREATION

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
 LIGHT UP PARADE - SNOW SLIDE
 CRAFTS - PICTURES WITH SANTA
 VENDORS - TOYS - S'MORES
FREE ADMISSION

Wildwood City Hall, 100 N. Main St.
 352-461-0134 parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov

WILDWOOD'S HISTORIC
BAKER HOUSE
Christmas
 2024 TOURS

DECEMBER DATES: \$10.00/PERSON

TUESDAYS: 12/10, 12/17
 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
 THURSDAYS: 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26
 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
 SATURDAYS: 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28
 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
 SUNDAYS: 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29
 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

PRIVATE TOURS - TUESDAYS, 3:00 P.M.
 MINIMUM OF 10 PEOPLE

BAKER HOUSE
 6106 CR 44A

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
 352-461-0134
 WWW.WILDWOOD-FL.GOV

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

COOKIES WITH SANTA
DECEMBER 20, 2024
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wildwood Community Center
 6500 Powell Road
 352-461-0134
 www.wildwood-fl.gov

WILDWOOD FLORIDA PARKS & RECREATION

Happy New Year
2025
FREE ADMISSION
FOOD TRUCKS - CASH BAR
LIVE MUSIC - VENDORS - FAMILY FUN
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
FIREWORKS SHOW
AT 9:00 P.M.

Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Road
 352-461-0134
 www.wildwood-fl.gov

WILDWOOD FLORIDA PARKS & RECREATION

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

December 3, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

December 3, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

December 3, 2024
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

December 2, 2024 (Special)
9:00 a.m.

December 9, 2024
9:00 a.m.

December 23, 2024
NO MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY

Project Review Committee

December 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 from The State Archives of Florida shows a group of Wildwood teachers and students in 1910.

Back row (L-R): 4. Mr. G.H. Tompkins, principal; 6. John Bradford. Front row (L-R): 2. Mary Vining, 4. Fannie Stewart, 5. Loulie L. Fleece, 6. Henrietta Vining, 7. Will Beardon, 8. Miss Maude Norwood, assistant principal.

MONDAYS WITH THE MANAGER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

City Hall, Room 124
100 N. Main St., Wildwood, FL 34785



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

No appointment needed.



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